

**From:** [Eric Fraser](#)  
**To:** [\\_CityCouncilListPublic](#); [CA Office](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 3.1 Open Government Task Force  
**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2021 10:56:56 PM

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**Dear Mayor Rogers, City Council Members and City Attorney,**

Thanks for implementing the new procedures. It is interesting to see the impacts of this implementation, intended and not.

Here are some items that we have brought forward before. We see on occasion the City making changes to procedures to act on our advice and bring operations up to standard. We see other jurisdictions utilize the following information better than the City does so far, so as you strive to set high standards of transparency and efficiency, please continue to implement the following:

**Transparency Focus** – The City should only deal in facts. Projections, estimations, and opinions should be labelled as such.

a. All City reports (even by contractors) need to be dated and signed by a party responsible for the content (under penalty of perjury).

b. Information contained in any report or uttered during public meetings by staff, elected and appointed officials if contested by a member of the public and is found to be false, partially true, or misleading can be corrected or amended in the public record. Reports must carry the corrected or amended information if/when furnished in the future. Consider a “peer review” process for reports by third parties, or substantial research by staff. Information must have citations for verification of facts.

c. If information is contested and can be verified as factual then the party providing the new information has legal recourse against the author if the information is not corrected or amended.

d. Authors must endeavor to provide complete information.

**Other –**

Compliance with SB272 – See the County’s example:  
<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Services/SB272/>

Thank you very much for your time,

Eric Fraser

Ombuds

Greater Cherry Street Neighborhood Association