

From: Nicklas Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 6:56 PM
To: General Plan <generalplan@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: The integrity of this process

I have serious concerns about the integrity of the entire process in which the City is engaged to update the General Plan.

For example, you've placed a survey on the open Internet, which anyone in the WORLD can respond to, in a time when we know that outside actors have been deliberately manipulating our democratic processes in the United States for their own ends.

You have no integrity checks to ensure that someone responds only once.

You have no integrity checks to ensure that someone responding is a resident of the City of San Mateo.

On your Facebook page, you told me that you're relying on community members' "good judgment"? Could you seriously be that naive?

If I were a developer intent upon manipulating San Mateo's general plan to favor development, all I'd need to do is pay off a few hundred people to submit the answers I wanted. Similarly, if I were a NIMBY who wanted to halt all development in town, I could do the same thing. You'd have no way of knowing, no way of cross-checking, no way of verifying credentials.

You haven't even asked for a street address for the person responding.

That isn't how you take a credible, scientific survey, and you should know that.

How do you intend to prevent developers from outside the city hiring people to attend community meetings, posing as citizens of San Mateo to inject the opinions they find most advantageous into those sessions?

If your answer is, "we don't have a plan" then I don't think you are taking your responsibility seriously, and you don't value honesty in this process... because again, any adult ought to know better than to just trust whoever shows up to be who and what they claim to be.

I seriously hope you plan to do a little better. So far this attempt is shamefully poor.

Nick

--

"Courage isn't just a matter of not being frightened, you know. It's being afraid and doing what you have to do anyway."

-- Doctor Who - Planet of the Daleks

This message has been brought to you by Nick Johnson 2.3b1 and the number 6.