

Mayor/Council Meeting, Sept. 20, 2016 Call-to-Audience

Ruth Beeker, representing the Board of Directors of Tucson Residents for Responsive Government, TRRG. I come to praise, protest and propose.

First, **Praise** for the progress being made in improving Code Enforcement. This has been a TRRG priority for almost 2 years. We look forward to continuing to work with you for positive change.

Second, **Protest** for the procedures used during the sign code revision process thus far. They have violated all 5 of TRRG's **Essentials of Good Government**.

The public first saw the revised document last week. It's called a draft, but written language has a permanence that oral discussion does not. It is totally unrealistic to expect that there will now be citizen **Collaboration** on content or resident input on desirable streetscape and signage reflecting **Sensitivity to Quality of Life**.

So who has had input? At last Thursday's Sign Code Committee, Jim Mazzacco named Metro Chamber, sign industry reps, staff, and a "good conversation with Mark Mayer last March." TRRG believes that the earlier the public is involved, the more relevant the public input and the greater the public trust. **Transparency** and **Accountability** took a big hit here.

We recognize that the Supreme Court *Reed* decision must be addressed. When extending revisions beyond that, it appears to be a contrived opportunity to cater to special interests. So much for **Integrity**!

So, third, **the Proposal**. We know that the sign code has a long contentious history—all the more reason to get the public process right when revising it. Let's just make changes now to make it *Reed* compliant and put a total review on the "to-do" list for the new PDSD director.

As a community, we are now making progress on better code enforcement practices—we can't do everything at once; but TRRG believes that, at a future time, we can and should do a comprehensive, inclusive review of the sign code, one which meets TRRG's **Essentials of Good Government**.

The Board has requested that I leave copies of this statement for you.