

Tinti, Elisa

From: JEAN JACOBS <sweetshope@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Cc: Jean Jacobs
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] PUBLIC HEARING

Good Evening:

The Laws & Rules Committee will be holding a Public Hearing will to take place IN PERSON ONLY in Common Council Chambers

For the record my name is Jean Jacobs, life long resident born and raised here. I reside at 139 Wall Street.

I am writing as a Concerned Citizen

as it relates to municipal government engaging with their public, which should be of highest priority.

It is my understanding over a year or more ago, the goal and intention of the Common Council was to provide enhanced communication, with the public, to improve the audio and provide online and in person attendance at the same time, for a cost of \$90,000. To date this has not been completed, in its entirety.

Therefore I must say to learn that the meeting already was scheduled for the convenience of the developer of the Golden Hill project, prior to the Public Hearing defeats the purpose of recognizing your constituents who had the confidence in your leadership, when they voted for you. I witnessed the first public hearing, and I absolutely could not believe what I was witnessing on camera.

A brief statement below to support my public comment:

Department of State's Guide: Conducting Public Meetings and Public Hearings.

CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING The following is a list of steps and suggestions to help in preparing for a public hearing.
1. Determine Hearing and Notice Requirements — The board should consult with its attorney in order to determine what hearing and notice requirements must be satisfied, as well as the possible necessity of sending special notices to specific individuals, other municipalities, boards or other levels of government affected by the proposed action.
CONCLUSION Actions taken at meetings at which the Open Meetings Law is not complied with are at serious risk of being overturned in court. Fortunately, the goal of most local governments is service to the community, not the mere avoidance of legal hassles. For this reason, municipal officials should regard open meeting procedures as serving more than just the State's objective of keeping local government business open to the public. These procedures give the public the full opportunity to observe and to participate in its own governance, and they help confirm the local government's accountability to its constituents. In addition, fairness in applying hearing procedures results in proper accord for the rights of all parties, a better airing of public opinion on community issues, and ultimately greater public confidence in the decisional process."

I feel by hosting this public hearing tonight, IN PERSON ONLY defeats everything you were trying to accomplish, by improving communication, and giving your constituents a VOICE IN THE PROCESS. All of you as a LEADERS IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, work for the people in the City of Kingston, and the residents in the Golden Hill Project deserve answers, regarding their concerns.