

Jan 27, 2014 email, Hartman to Horanburg, copy Councilor Harris, commenting on Horanburg's email, not to FHVHA but forwarded to FHVHA, and referenceing Hartman to Harris email, Jan 23, 2014

Roger Hartman <nmpops@gmail.com>

12:24 PM (3 hours ago) ☆ ↶

to Michael, Don, Bill, Dick, Gary, Geneva, James, Joe, John, Karen, Rita, Roger, Selva, Stuart, bcc: Don

Michael,

I read your January 24 email with considerable interest. I wrote to Councilor Harris on January 23 with my continuing concerns, one of which was the lack of public comment on this expenditure of public funds and a request for a commitment from Councilor Harris that in the future, this will not happen. I copied you on that email. I haven't received any response. This was forwarded to me and it's helpful.

I would like to ask you to clarify this remark in your email: "Councilor Harris would have liked to see more public involvement in the procurement process, especially since this development has received City funding." There was basically no public involvement in this. Correct me if I'm wrong, please, but I believe this first came to light as a floor amendment at Council, then was on the agenda for the January 6 Council meeting, but only as about affordable housing. There was no advertised notice of the location of the project prior to the City Council voting to spend \$1.8 million on it. The appearance is of intentionally hiding this from full public notice, minimally complying with the letter but certainly not the intent of the Open Meetings Act (ref my Jan 23 email). I know that part of the rush on this was so that the developer could apply for NM state funding. That's not a reason to avoid public comment.

I don't understand what "more public involvement" means when the starting point for this discussion is basically none. Could you please advise on specifically Councilor Harris means by "more public involvement" in the future?

Understand, please, that my only issue on this is spending public monies without involving the taxpayers in the process. I understood Councilor Harris' remarks at our annual meeting that the City cannot interfere with a legal transaction between private parties, and I said that in my Jan 23 email. That's not the issue here.

Sincerely,

Roger Hartman  
President, Four Hills Village Homeowners' Association

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Horanburg, Michael" <[mhoranburg@cabq.gov](mailto:mhoranburg@cabq.gov)>  
**Date:** January 24, 2014 at 11:54:52 AM MST  
**To:** <[jason\\_fejer@yahoo.com](mailto:jason_fejer@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** Follow Up - Councilor Don Harris

Jason,

Thank you for your note to Councilor Harris and I am in regular communication with Mr. Smith and know the issues of the area well. It is unfortunate that so many crime related issues are popping up all over the city, but we are working with our new Foothills Area Commander to combat some of the most troubling trends. As for your questions, I have answered them below and I welcome any questions or suggestions that you have for the future of the area.

Councilor Harris is attempting to do all that he can to ensure this entire area – Four Hills, Hidden Valley, Signing Arrow, East Central, Volterra, Juan Tabo Hills, Willow Wood, Miravista, Mirabella, Manzano Mesa, and the Sandia Science and Tech Park are being maintained and kept safe. This of course is only about 25% of the total district 9 that he represents, but we are seeing the most involved community leaders in these areas because of the rapid increase in negative situations.

Your Questions:

1. What are your plans for the future? What vision do you have moving forward? What are Mayor Berry's opinion of the decline of the area surrounding our neighborhood?
  - a. Mayor Berry and Councilor Harris both live in the Four Hills area and travel through East Central daily. There are many concerns along this stretch of historic Route 66. Mayor Berry is working on his ABQ the Plan that will help implement new aesthetic and tourist related improvements along East Central and we are waiting on those details.
  - b. Councilor Don Harris, since elected, has put East Central at the forefront of his agenda. That being said, since then, Councilor Harris has introduced one of the most comprehensive Sector Development plans in the City of Albuquerque. With this SDP, new zoning opportunities allow for construction of different projects and great flexibility to new development. That being said, these developments have to adhere to a strict code for placement of buildings, beatification, and more – but these restrictions and guidelines are to make sure any development along E. Central are what the community wants, not just pockets of random

buildings and less than tasteful outcomes. Along with the Sector Development Plan, the Councilor, myself, planners in the CABQ Planning Department, ABQ Economic Development, and more are working with business property owners along E. Central to implement a Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA). Through this MRA, which will be passed later this year, Councilor Harris has secured in \$3.8 million in funds for projects to help spur economic growth along this corridor. This money will be spent in collaboration of private interest and investments to ensure long-term solutions are found.

c. We have met with the property owners and potential new owners and all are very eager to start different projects along this corridor and we are doing all we can to help them. The Juan Tabo and Central property, Franklin Plaza, is one of the most interesting accomplishments to date. The center will be updated and remodeled and in January of 2015, a new store will be opening in the 45,000 SQFT anchor on the south end of the plaza.

d. As for the crime in the area, you are right in your assessment of the Albuquerque Police Department. It is severely understaffed and that is why Councilor Harris along with Councilor Lewis appropriated an estimated \$2.5 M in late last year to help spur growth in the department. We are also working with State of New Mexico and local legislators to change the rules on public retirement, to keep officers on longer than their twenty year commitments, a change that is very favorable to officers and will help keep them on the force longer. Councilor Harris is concerned about the department and is doing what he can to make sure the academies for new officers build in size over time and eventually return our police to force to 1,100 officers or more.

e. Open Space is another project that we are working on. The Tijeras Arroyo, that borders Hidden Valley, FH, Volterra, and Singing Arrow is a mixture of public and private lands and Councilor Harris would like to change that. We are working on a plan right now that would allow the City Open Space division to purchase or swap land for the property within the flood zone of the Tijeras Arroyo and turn that into a city maintained biozone sanctuary for the residents of the city to use for open space purposes. This will be a long process, but worth it in the end.

2. As I understand you were the only councilor to vote against the new low income housing project for east Central. Should we be concerned?

a. Councilor Harris was the only no vote to a low income housing project along Central and that is because the residents who voiced concern over the property and proposed development were overwhelmingly against it. Councilor Harris would have liked to see more public involvement in the procurement process, especially since this development has received City funding. Councilor Harris is not opposed to well built, well maintained, well managed mixed use developments along E. Central, but it will take better community outreach from the developer to receive his support. Since the funding has been approved, and please know only a small fraction of their total funding is coming from the City, we are going to work on the next step and making sure the management of the development holds true to their word and that APD is aware of all the happenings at the facility if it is built. That is still some time out though, assuming all of their funding comes in. To the best of my knowledge, most of their funding is coming from private funds and not government. The construction projects also adhere to the East Gateway Sector Development plan's guidelines.

Please let me know if there is anything else we can help with,

Michael G. Horanburg

Policy Analyst - Albuquerque City Council

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