

The Rio Rancho Tea Party

Volume 4

August 2014



Gluttonous Government Needs to Lighten Up

If you give a mouse a cookie, he's gonna want a glass of milk. So goes with rules created by government, which have gluttonously increased over the years, and lack common sense in their execution. Our Governing Body is considering lightening the burden created by overbearing and confusing area plans which govern esthetics and land use in different areas of the city. You might think that these area plans only affect big developers, but a recent zone change request proved otherwise.

At the July 9th Governing Body meeting, an individual requested to change his modest 1/3 acre lot from transitional zoning to R-4 medium density residential. Most Area Plans prohibit rezoning anything below contiguous 2.5-5 acre parcels. City staff initially offered to waive the rules in this instance, however, there is another individual who has been attempting to rezone one acre from residential to commercial, and city staff has refused to approve his request. Should it be up to city staff members to pick and choose who has to follow

the rules?

With such senseless rules in place, it is easy to see why the Development Services Department finds it hard to adhere to them. Another example of the idiocy in these area plans is evident in the Broadmoor Area Plan's requirement for an individual to obtain a legal shared-access agreement from both adjacent property owners before the City will grant him a building permit. Are we now responsible for our neighbors? When this rule was put to the test with legal action, city staff relented and allowed the individual to build without this reciprocal agreement.

In a bad example of Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First" routine, people choosing to build have to sort through the Comprehensive Plan, then the city-wide Zoning Ordinance, on to the Specific Area Plans, then to Master Plans, and add any neighborhood covenants. Many of the area plans are in direct conflict with the city-wide Zoning Ordinance, which trumps them, leaving them moot.

If the legality of these area plans is disputable, do they simply serve as a security blanket? To date, most people go along with them to get their project through, but area plans also dictate the minutia of a building's appearance, adding thousands to even the most modest project budget. Since the City is not footing the bill for the construction, it's nice that they tell us to "throw in the extras".

Whether an individual or a bigger business is building here, Chapter 154 of the Zoning Ordinance has enough rules to satisfy the City, while keeping it simpler and less expensive for the builder. Pertinent sections of the area plans, such as "proposed land use", can be incorporated into Chapter 154.

There will always be those who want to impose unnecessary rules on others, but they should be careful what they ask for – They might find gluttonous government taking a bite out of them someday.

WE WILL ASSIMILATE YOU...

Group-think. Go-along-to-get-along. Whatever your personal favorite, it is a weak rationalization for not rocking the boat.

Now we hear new City Councilors saying the Governing Body needs unity, and see the City Manager set up a Governing

Body "retreat" to impose it. Funny that these same Councilors never cried for Governing Body unity when the old regime was

August 5th, 2014 Meeting

- Red Light Camera Debate!

Raffle Item:

\$50 Chili's Gift Card

September 2nd, 2014 Meeting

- Sandoval County Sheriff Candidates Showdown

◇ Doug Wood

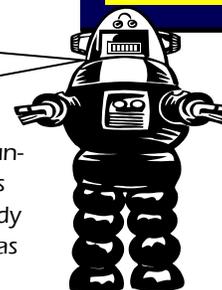
◇ Jesse James Casaus

Raffle Item:

\$100 Gift Certificate donated by Rio Rancho Armory

**Subject to change*

Resistance is Futile



Continued on page 2

Come see us at the Mayor's
Annual

Sunday is Funday Event

Be a sport ! Put your Rio Rancho Trivia knowledge to the test and get entered into a raffle for our RRTP Gift Pack. Kids can win a cool tattoo at our ring toss.

August 17th
Noon — 4pm
301 Loma Colorado



WE WILL ASSIMILATE YOU... (Continued)

at the helm.

Politicians often make campaign promises they find hard to keep, once they get elected. Lack of experience and indecision can lead to pointless, poorly executed legislation in an effort to appear active, with no meaningful results. Navigating the minefield of information, misinformation and manipulation can seem endless. Once an elected official becomes exhausted, it's easier to just go along with bureaucratic recommendations. It's easier that is, unless other members of the Governing Body are asking questions, making logical arguments, asking everyone to think.

Boldness and authenticity are becoming lost virtues. This drive for unity reveals a scarcity of real leaders, who say what they mean and mean what they say. Those who have the knowledge and ability to stand up, also have the responsibility to do so. Each mem-

ber of the Governing Body has a voice and a duty to individually represent his or her district. They were not elected as a team or unit.

The past two years have proven that a Governing Body can debate vigorously and still accomplish significant change. Legislation with merit will hold up under scrutiny. The real question is whether the new members of this particular Governing Body have the courage and stamina for it, or if they are going to take the easier path, using group-think to devise ways to control individuals.



CORE VALUES

Our commitment to seeking truth and accountability is the hallmark of the Rio Rancho Tea Party.

We are dedicated to constitutional freedoms, free markets, limited government and fiscal responsibility.

RRTP Executive Board

The RRTP is non-partisan & takes no official stand on social issues. We unite on our core values.

Red Light Camera DEBATE



City Councilor **Chuck Wilkins** VS City Councilor **Shelby Smith**
Tuesday, August 5th 7pm

Rio Rancho Church of Christ - 1006 22nd St SE, Rio Rancho
Turn South at Dairy Queen on Southern Blvd

You've got questions — We've got answers!
Sponsored by the Rio Rancho Tea Party

Free Markets

Limited Government

Constitutional Freedoms

Fiscal Responsibility