

**From:** [Jennifer Verive](#)  
**To:** [Hope Sullivan](#)  
**Cc:** [Heather Ferris](#); [Christie Overlay](#); [Lori Bagwell](#); [Lisa Schuette](#); [Stan Jones](#); [Maurice White](#); [Stacey Giomi](#); [Bob Buttner](#); [Todd Reese](#)  
**Subject:** Request for direct access to our Planning Commissioners  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:36:07 AM

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Hello Ms. Sullivan:

I am writing to make a request of you. As you know, I am very concerned about the proposed slaughterhouse that was discussed at the 9/29/21 Planning Commission meeting and that will once again be on the Planning Commission Agenda for the 12/15/21 meeting.

I would like to email the Planning Commissioners directly. My neighbor, Bob Buttner, called Planning to request direct emails for the Commissioners. He was denied this information because it is not "standard practice". I am writing to ask you to use your discretion as the Community Development Director to alter "standard practice" and provide me with direct access to my appointed representatives.

1) That the Commissioners are appointed does not make them immune from accountability to those whom they represent. Whether they are paid staff or volunteers, they still have real decision making authority in this case, which is going to impact a lot of people's lives.

2) Bob was told by Christie Overlay that we could indicate in an email that it be forwarded to a particular Commissioner, and that this would be done in real time. First, although Ms. Overlay has been responsive to our communications, this places an undue burden on a single staff member to forward emails. Second, the generic email response that we receive back when we do this does not indicate that the intended Commissioner will receive the email nor that it will be shared in real time. The message reads: "*Thank you for your public comment, this will be shared with our commissioners.*"

3) It is our duty to inform and our right to engage with our decision-makers. Standard practice is constraining our duty and denying us our rights.

As citizens, we have a right to communicate with decision makers who act on our behalf -- City Staff, appointed commissioners, and our elected executives. This right is not superseded by the malleable policies and procedures that happen to be in place at the moment. Therefore, I respectfully request that "standard practice" be altered and direct, legitimate emails for our Planning Commissioners be provided to us in time to inform their decision-making at the 12/15/21 meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wishing you and your staff a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Jennifer

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\*she/her/hers