



Transparency: Why we care--Episode 1

Vineyard only gives residents a 24-hour notice before making big, important decisions.

The law requires cities to post a written agenda at least 24 hours before a City Council meeting. Most important issues which impact citizens are deliberated and decided in these meetings.

Vineyard observes this minimum requirement. But is that enough?

Many times there are more than a hundred pages of documentation attached to these agendas. Is 24 hours enough for people with families, jobs, and other concerns to read, research, and discuss that material with experts? Would you feel prepared to comment, or advise your city representatives on the best solutions in that time?

A government by the people requires informed residents.

We could post all items that we know will go onto the city council agenda at some point to a page on the city's web site. That page would be open for all to see. City staff could update that page with progress on the item, keeping us all informed as it is prepared for a council vote. Then about a week before city council meeting, all items that are ready could be moved to the agenda and published. This way everyone, staff, city council, sponsors, AND the public, could meaningfully participate in the decisions that affect them.

Our culture of last-minute notification must end. This is a big part of the reason so many have been upset and frustrated by council actions.

I am running for City Council to make that change--to open up the agenda process for all to see. Let's have true transparency, not just the legal minimum.

Please vote David Lauret for Vineyard City Council