

*The other side of the story...*

# Quality of life matters

If you are like most people in town, you are probably mystified as to why we keep approving gigantic hotels and other big-growth developments. Why, when we have such overcrowding issues already? Our streets and highways are already clogged with traffic. There are hundreds of low-paying jobs with no one to work them because of a tight housing market. We have crime, pollution, and a deteriorating quality of life — we have it all, the envy of any big city.

Politicians catch the “Bigger and Grander” disease once in office; they want more, always more. They don’t run on a big growth platform, but once elected its quickly adopted.

Then there’s “planning fever.” When developers come forth with their grand schemes, politicians are either unable or unwilling to deny these or scale them back.

They think they know better than the people that elected them. They fill the ballot with big growth initiatives funded with tax increases, while simultaneously granting big commercial development entitlements. They boost residential density in quiet town neighborhoods, and then use your tax money to advocate for them.

It’s a form of manipulation: Here’s one example of the blind eye and deaf ear your government too often exhibits. Earlier this month a survey was conducted by the town in support of a revision of LDRs for Districts 3-6.

It was a long and tedious survey that many locals found confusing. Here are two write-in comments from respondents that thought it was a manipulative survey:

*I care very much about the character of our town neighborhoods, but these questions didn’t really make sense to me.*

*How in the hell do you add residential units without increasing overall community buildout??? This is so BS. Why run a phony survey so we think we have a say?*

Others were frustrated at the survey’s focus on unending minutia while key issues of character and growth were minimized.

*Higher density is not desirable in any downtown neighborhood in the town of Jackson.*

*There is horrific density already. We are completely built out in Jackson. We are over our capacity limit.*

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*Voters keep saying no  
to growth.  
Is anyone listening?*

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The big-growth agenda was clearly evident in this question: “Should the town strive to add approximately 1,800 additional dwelling units transferred from rural areas of the county into town? [These units would be in addition to what is allowed by current zoning.] If no areas for additional density can be identified, the community will discuss adding the residential potential in northern South Park.”

It’s obvious politicians have an unspoken agenda: There will be massive growth.

They’ve rigged the game with a box checking survey that coaches you into preferred answers. The only reliable part of the survey is the write-in comments. Voters keep saying no to growth. Why aren’t our electeds listening?