

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

PH-16-019

6/14/2016

For the record, I support this consideration, but I totally abhor that the council was left wanting of key and specific information regarding the Department of Public Safety intent to operate only one facility in Killeen. Our community cannot go, altogether, without the services that the office provides. Not telling me all the information served to widen the wedge of distrust between those who are elected to make decisions and those who provide the information in order to make the decision. I have sat here the previous four years and have primed, pumped, and pulled information in order to make well-reasoned decisions that may be relayed cogently. I am beyond irritation in these tasks. It should not be this way. There should not be a stone unturned in the deliberative process because we are stuck with the consequence of our decisions. There seems to be an endemic to blame the free press for reporting what we do not adequately articulate. What we have here, is a failure to communicate accurately. In order to tell the story, we need to tell the whole story. If we tell the whole story there will be not story but the story we tell.

I hope that the balm of intellectual honesty (that is honesty in the acquisition, analysis, and transmission of ideas) is released so that intellectual honesty will become more frequent in our course of public discourse. If not, I will through the office of the City Manager, work to affect that reality, to root out and rid the organization of the causes that precipitate misdirection, miscommunication, on non-communication. "There are disincentives to intellectual honesty. Academics may find themselves pressured to argue for the stances of their benefactors, including governments and private entities that fund grants (in fact, this is trained into them in education, as the same pressures are exerted by teachers and professors upon their students). Judges may face political pressure to render a judicial opinion endorsing a legal argument that they know to be flawed. Auditors may issue a favorable opinion of a company's financial statements, despite having serious misgivings about their adherence to generally accepted accounting principles, in order to continue receiving business from that company. (In general, perverse incentives and conflicts of interest provide highly fertile ground for intellectual dishonesty.)

The more complicated the issue and the murkier the facts, the easier it may be for an intellectual to get away with presenting a plausible but flawed argument. In a world where people, including intellectuals, often pursue incentives more eagerly than they seek after high ideals, it is important that ways be found to make the interests of intellectuals coexist with the interests of those whose well-being depends on their intellectual honesty, if intellectual dishonesty is to be consistently avoided." ([http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Intellectual\\_honesty](http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Intellectual_honesty)).

Jonathan L. Okray



COK, Concilmember at-Large