

Dear City Manager:

At your first Budget Workshop, you unveiled a plan to market Palacios for growth and development, which is a great idea, but yet you continue to enforce tough development rules for our city, why?

Good question. According to the FEMA article [5 Reasons Building Codes Should Matter to You](https://www.fema.gov/blog/5-reasons-building-codes-should-matter-you) (<https://www.fema.gov/blog/5-reasons-building-codes-should-matter-you>) "Building codes are the minimum design and construction requirements to ensure safe and resilient structures. These codes reduce casualties, costs, and damage by creating stronger buildings designed to withstand disasters."

The City appreciates creativity, the want to develop, build, and improve our city. If you attended the workshop last week you would have heard me, say that the one sentence that makes my blood boil is "It's always been that way in Palacios." If we keep that mentality, it will always be the same. When I came on board a year and a half ago, I was instructed that building codes, inspections, rules, and regulations will apply to everyone in our limits and will not be a *who you are* decision. Fairness and equality, across the board, regardless. This is what our staff does and continues to do. We have improved our communication regarding permitting and building requirements, a quick look at our website under the building and inspections department will lead you in the right direction. If you still have questions, visit us, call, or email us. We can provide you with a detailed letter that explains the steps needed. Please know that our resistance and refusal to bend or break rules for anyone, no matter how much we like an idea or think it will be good for our town is not personal. Follow the rules, that's all we ask, no matter what you do, plan, dream, scheme, concoct, or promote. Rules are for everyone. We don't have our heads in the sand, on the contrary, we have our brains on the task of shining up this town. We appreciate everyone who has come in, asked questions, and is insistent as we are on doing the right thing. I am sorry that some refuse to follow the rules squashing their dreams and dreams for our city, I am sorry that my staff has to endure the anger and ugliness of a few who use words and tone in person, over the phone, or in public to defame our characters, and I am sorry that some feel that are rules our forcing them to leave, but I am not sorry for enforcing the rules, standing behind our staff, having integrity and ethics, and being honest. We want good things for Palacios, if you work with us, and follow the codes set forth, we can work with you. As we beef up our code compliance department, more enforcement will occur. It is not fair to those who follow the rules, do what is right, and invest the money into the proper standards to look the other way for someone else because we want to, or because they want us to. Fair is fair, right is right. Anger will get us nowhere; teamwork will get us everywhere. If you need any help, reach out. Educate yourself and then follow through. It's that simple. Thank you for your question!