

Objectives of a Transparent Government

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One of the important outputs of this initiative will be a comprehensive written City policy on transparency. We're looking for public input before we actually start writing a draft of the policy. In the meantime, we thought that it would be useful to provide some preliminary thoughts on what we think the purposes of transparency are, both to stimulate discussion and to guide us in the development of specific initiatives.

We see transparency as intended to achieve five basic objectives to support "good" government for Salt Lake City:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->(1) <!--[endif]-->Due Process. Citizens are entitled to have advance notice of proposed government actions that may affect them. They are also entitled to have an opportunity to submit their views on the matter and to be informed in a timely and understandable [manner](#) what the government's decision is.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->(2) <!--[endif]-->Effective Decision-making. Salt Lake City's elected officials and employees are both dedicated and well-informed, but they are not omniscient. Public input can make an important contribution to finding the most effective solutions to the challenges that the City faces.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->(3) <!--[endif]-->Performance Accountability. Salt Lake City government is ultimately accountable to its citizens. Simply stated, if the citizens do not know what actions we are taking and the bases for those actions, the citizens can't determine whether we are doing a good job or not.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->(4) <!--[endif]-->Conflict of Interest and Fraud. Salt Lake City's elected officials and employees are responsible for upholding the public trust. We are to pursue the public interest, not promote our personal interests, financial or otherwise. As a result, Salt Lake City has well-developed conflict of interest rules governing the conduct of its elected officials and employees.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->(5) <!--[endif]-->Improper Influence by Third Parties. All citizens are entitled to pursue their individual interests before City government. The City's campaign financing and conflict of interest rules, among others, are intended to assure that the City's decision-making processes are not improperly influenced.

We invite comment on these purposes. In the meantime, we will use them to help us identify specific initiatives for providing greater, more effective transparency.
