

From: [Jana Bennehoof Koroczynsky](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: PALM DESERT CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMENTS JANUARY 9, 2025
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 7:51:53 AM



When you look at everything in retrospect:

- the short notice of the Refuge Palm Desert neighborhood meeting scheduled for the dinner hour during the height of the summer in August 2022;
- a faulty audio system during that meeting making it difficult to hear the presentation and impossible to hear questions from the residents;
- the subsequent omission (fear of flooding) by the city planning manager to the Planning Commission, and therefore, upon their approval, to the City Council, that the neighbors' only concerns were dust, traffic, and loss of views;
- the repeated and consistent ignoring by city staff, MSA Consulting, and the developer of a water drainage specialist's request for details, then once finally given, his pleas to review *his* figures about the distinct likelihood of flooding if they proceed with their plans (even after Hurricane Hilary flooding in a Palm Desert community);
- letters about other neighborhood meetings regarding this development either not received or came in envelopes with return addresses (not from the city) from companies other than Refuge Palm Desert and therefore mistaken for junk mail;
- the insistence by the developer and city engineer, that the elevations shown on their plans and then graded in 2024 were correct when they clearly varied from highly accurate and reliable USGS and Google Earth maps (that both agreed with each other);
- the council's approval of the first phase in August 2024, **despite the breaking of California law by the developer building a structure that is offensive and creates a flooding hazard** and despite being shown that the elevations graded were not for drainage but for "view homes" on "view lots," (seen as such clearly labeled in the developer's plans) and that the land parcel had a 27-foot drop in elevation from the south to the north end at Gerald Ford Drive;
- lack of response by the developer and city staff to impacted neighbor's damages and complaints;

can you understand why the Kaufman Broad and Shepherd Lane neighborhoods feel they and the city council have been consistently lied to?

At the very least there were misrepresentations by the developer, MSA and city staff both to the neighborhoods and to the council. At worst there may have been fraud. We believe a thorough investigation should be made of this matter. If the developer has misled the city, then the plans should all be revisited. If city staff misled commissions and council, then there should be some accountability. There is no doubt the neighborhoods have been misled.