

City of Boise
RE: Harris Ranch Community Infrastructure District No. 1 Regular Meeting
July 20, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.

Agenda Item: FY2022 Operating Budget Public Hearing

Larry Crowley:

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Board. It's always nice to see you. My name is Larry Crowley. I reside at 3738 S. Harris Ranch Avenue in Boise, Idaho 83716. My comments really are kind of a continuation of the comments that we had last year. Last year was the first year, as I understand, in the 11 or so years that this Board's been meeting that there any public participation or discussion of issues that directly affected homeowners and taxpayers that reside within the CID. Bill has pointed out a couple of issues I wanted to speak to as well after he brought them up. One is this disclosure requirement. We purchased our house just over 3 years ago and, at that time, received no notification, no disclosure, or any idea of the impact that the CID would have on our property taxes. It wasn't until we received our first property tax bill in 2019 that we began looking into it and trying to figure out where all of this money came from and where is it going and how does it get there. So, the disclosure issue is a really important one. As Bill points out, when we went through closing, we went through all my closing documents. We've refinanced a couple of times, and there is no disclosure statement included in any of the closing documents from our transaction. And it's a very similar response from, I'd say, more than 50 percent of the people that are now members of our association. It's not just a matter of disclosure, it's a matter of how it all works and the impact that it's having on people's budgets and what we're getting for what we are paying. There may be some nice amenities within Harris Ranch, but one should have the opportunity to say "I agree that they're nice and I'm willing to pay for them." We don't get that chance. We don't have an opportunity to evaluate whether those amenities are worth spending thousands of dollars a year in additional property taxes for the next 25 years. And that is one of the core issues that we have. So, it's not just the disclosure. The disclosure process is a lot of work if it's going to be effective at all. But it's not the answer to the core issues.