

COMMUNITY MELTDOWN...

24 Critical Elements



In many communities, citizens are not satisfied with the results of government and want government to change to be more responsive to community needs. Citizens feel that the city is at the mercy of special interests, unions and bureaucrats and the cost just keeps going up. It is time for local government to focus on the basics and engage citizens to rebuild faith and trust, and to achieve economic and social viability.

The following 24 elements are critical to the overall success, trust and faith in local government. Here is where you need to focus your attention. Communities that do not desire to build faith and trust have these elements:

1. No collaborative VISION
2. "We're broke" thinking
3. Silo operations
4. Operate in fear
5. Avoid every risk and conflict
6. Budgets are columns of figures not tied to the citizens
7. "I know what is best" attitude
8. Have no clear communicated priorities
9. Always take the easy way out or avoid the problem
10. Turn a blind eye. Let others take care of it
11. Compromise ethics
12. Hold back
13. Let's close the blinds
14. It's easier to say "NO"
15. Lack transparency
16. Hold on to all the information
17. Put it on the shelf, especially if it disagrees with me
18. Elected's do not provide real direction and oversight
19. Focus on balancing the budget
20. Do not bring the citizens in
21. Do not ask the hard questions
22. "Let the Engineer do that" mentality
23. No buy-in, accountability or empowerment
24. Citizens are looking internally and seeking information and documents.