



Gold Hill Neighborhood, LLC
142 S. Raven Mine Drive, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Dear Members of our Community,

In recent months, *The Gazette* has taken great interest in the Gold Hill Mesa neighborhood, its residents, their homes, the developer, and the professional consultants who have worked for decades to restore a once-blighted property. Gold Hill Mesa, located at the site of the former Golden Cycle Mill, has grown into a strong and vibrant community, which is key to our mission of improving this long-dormant property through a responsible environmental clean-up plan. The efforts to restore this property have improved the economic base and grown Gold Hill Mesa into a vibrant community of diverse, well-educated citizens across multiple generations.

We recognize *The Gazette* is an established, award-winning daily publication, and we support the role of the media in providing news and information to the community. Like Gold Hill Mesa, *The Gazette* is a long-standing part of Colorado Springs' history. We were, therefore, surprised and troubled by the reporting quality we have seen in *The Gazette's* multi-part series focusing on Gold Hill Mesa.

For example: *The Gazette's* establishing premise for its lead article was that officials from the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (PPRBD) and the City learned over three years ago that dozens of homes in Gold Hill Mesa were sinking and allowed development to continue. We now know that, before *The Gazette* published its first article:

- **The reporter was repeatedly told this key premise was incorrect by Regional Building officials, and that the 24 sinking homes were NOT located in Gold Hill Mesa.**
- **The reporter was told that Regional Building officials had visited each of the 24 homes, which should have left no doubt as to their location.**

We also found email chains showing that *after publishing* this unsubstantiated premise over the objections of the very agency that had visited the homes, *both the reporter and an editor admitted that they were still working to "access records" to support their reporting.*

To correct the record, *we have attached the list of homes*, which were obtained simply by a public records request. *This clearly shows that none of these sinking homes were at Gold Hill Mesa.*

The reality is that *The Gazette's* front-page articles about Gold Hill Mesa are misleading, contain significant inaccuracies, omit key facts, and are lacking in credible evidence. Because of these journalistic deficiencies, these articles have become the cause of undue public concern and created a crisis where there is none. These articles have stifled progress and caused significant economic loss, not only to the developer, but to private citizens, small businesses, and local government.

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We recently learned that *The Gazette* started working on a story about Gold Hill Mesa in February of 2016, (Source: Colorado Open Records Request – City of Colorado Springs Meeting Agenda 2/5/16), which means it had over three-and-a-half years to gather facts before publishing its first story. However, *The Gazette* only reached out to Gold Hill Mesa in August of this year to ask questions, (utilizing roughly one percent of its data-gathering period.) Once contacted, Gold Hill Neighborhood, LLC representatives repeatedly offered to assist in providing information to *The Gazette*, and to answer any questions.

For these reasons, we see little choice but to continue to correct the record and address mis-characterizations in *The Gazette's* coverage of our neighborhood by bringing pertinent facts and information to light. Much of this information was obtained by public records requests that take time to gather and compile. Some examples of these deficiencies in reporting are revealed in the email chain excerpts and lists attached in the document below.

We thank our residents for supporting our mission of building a strong community and for choosing Gold Hill Mesa to be your home. We also thank those in the community who are taking the time to understand the realities of what is happening and what is being reported.

Although progress has been needlessly disrupted at Gold Hill Mesa, we are committed to enhancing the livability and attractiveness of the city and our community by bringing much needed housing options and infrastructure improvements to increase the vitality of Colorado Springs' urban core. We thank you for your patience and understanding while all of us at Gold Hill Mesa work through this damaging attack on our beautiful community.

If you have any questions or concerns about this story or about any issue in our community, please do not hesitate to contact me at stephanie@goldhillmesa.com.

Thank you,

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November 25, 2019