



Your guide for
August meetings

Advisory Councils: *Speak Out*

Advisory Council Discussion Questions:

Where's the "rest of the story?" Radio commentator Paul Harvey was famous for this tagline. But when it comes to most broadcast stories, how often or clearly do we hear "the rest of the story"?

Case in point: When Union County dairy farmer Gary Conklin was implicated in a video that showed an employee abusing animals, the news story quickly ran on media stations around the state and on YouTube. The family continues to receive threats even after Conklin was cleared of wrongdoing. It seems as this is a case of

being "guilty until proven innocent" and Conklin and his family continues to suffer even though there was no evidence to charge him.

We are fortunate to have freedom of the press and first amendment rights. While we do not control the media, we can also encourage them to use fair and thorough reporting.

Discussion questions:

1. What is the media's role and responsibility in reporting both sides of the news and "the rest of the story" in fairness to both sides?
2. To what lengths should the media go when reporting on those who are cleared of charges?
3. What policy recommendation does your council have about encouraging the press to tell "the rest of the story?"