



## **In Case You Missed It!**

### **Austin City Councilwoman Leslie Pool: “The lack of transparency of the HQ2 initiative is unfortunate”**

*“Those submitting Austin’s proposal threw a veil of secrecy over it; even the council doesn’t know what the proposal contains—and we have asked!”*

**Date:** August 22, 2018

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#### **Righting the Wrongs of Amazon HQ2**

Richard Florida and Nathan M Jensen

[City Lab](#)

August 16, 2018

#### **Leslie Pool, council member, Austin, HQ2 Finalist**

In the future, I would like to see an actual public process convened to take input from the residents of the city who would be expected to accommodate and pay for changes to their neighborhoods that such a proposal would bring. The initiating entity should not accept any proposal that has not been duly endorsed by the municipality and its governing body.

The lack of transparency of the HQ2 initiative is unfortunate. Those submitting Austin’s proposal threw a veil of secrecy over it; even the council doesn’t know what the proposal contains—and we have asked! Those respondents are not City of Austin employees, they do not speak for the council, and they are not authorized to make promises on behalf of the city.

Such unfortunate actions harm the effort, create significant obstacles to such an initiative, and do not serve the public good in any manner.

To access the article, [click here](#).

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#### **ABOUT THE FREE & FAIR MARKETS INITIATIVE**

The Free & Fair Markets Initiative (FFMI) is a non-profit coalition of businesses, consumer advocacy groups, workers and community activists committed to scrutinizing and highlighting emerging market trends that are stifling competition and innovation, influencing federal and

local government spending, putting consumer data in harm's way and limiting consumer choice.  
For a list of members, please visit <https://freeandfairmarketsinitiative.org/about-us/members/>.  
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visit <https://freeandfairmarketsinitiative.org>.