



City of Palo Alto

(ID # 8673)

Policy and Services Committee Staff Report

Report Type: Action Items

Meeting Date: 12/12/2017

Summary Title: 2018 City Council Priorities

Title: Discussion and Recommendations for 2018 City Council Priority Setting Process

From: City Manager

Lead Department: City Manager

Recommendation

Policy and Services Committee to discuss and consider making recommendations to the City Council, in January, on the annual Council retreat and priorities setting process.

Background

Attached to this report is the 2012 Council approved Priority Setting Guidelines (Attachment A). Per the 2012 Council approved guidelines; a priority is defined as a topic that will receive particular, unusual and significant attention during the year. Additionally, there is a goal of no more than three priorities per year and they generally have a three year time limit. The process outlined in Attachment A was established by Council several years ago, including the role for the P&S Committee.

The 2017 priorities are:

- * Transportation
- * Infrastructure
- * Health City, Healthy Community
- * Budget and Finance
- * Housing

Discussion

On November 20, 2017, City manager Jim Keene emailed the Council asking all members to forward their ideas for 2018 priorities by Tuesday 12/5, 5pm. In addition each year staff invites online suggestions from the public for their feedback. On November 8, 2017, the City posted the question, "What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2018?" to its Open City Hall online civic engagement site to solicit input and feedback from the community. As of November 28, 2017 more

than 250 individuals had visited the topic with 180 posting responses. Attachment B is the detailed responses from Open City Hall. The community is still able to provide feedback on Open City Hall through December and most of January as we approach the Council Retreat. Airplane noise, traffic and housing are themes in the feedback received thus far.

At the retreat itself we also invite citizens to attend and express their views in person. The purpose of this solicitation is to help inform the Council on priorities for the upcoming year.

The Council preliminary priority suggestions will help organize ideas into groupings in advance of the retreat so staff and Council can prepare for a productive retreat. Council members are free to modify choices at the Committee meeting, Council meeting or retreat.

As we consider priorities for 2018 it will be important to be reminded of the significant focus and attention still needed on four of the existing priorities. Regarding Transportation, alternatives for grade separation remains an open and critical question, regarding Infrastructure we have a very ambitious capital plan that is not fully funded and prioritization will be needed, regarding Budget and Finance we need to stay the course to first understand and then address the unfunded liability, and finally on Housing, as a community we need to come together on a path forward for near term and long term actions to address the housing crisis.

At the 12/12/17 Policy and Services Meeting, City Manager Jim Keene will attend and share his suggestions with the Policy and Services Committee. This staff report will be published on 11/30/17, in advance of receiving Council feedback and further public input; consequently, staff will prepare an At Places memorandum for the meeting.

The Committee's discussion and any recommendations from the 12/12/17 Policy and Services meeting will be advanced to City Council in January prior to the retreat.

Timeline

The Committee may make recommendations regarding the priorities and also recommendations to staff regarding the retreat format and process for selecting a facilitator.

Attachments:

- Attachment A - Priority Setting Guidelines
- Attachment B - Open City Hall Comments

City Council Priority Setting Guidelines

Approved by City Council: October 1, 2012

Last revised: October 1, 2012

Background

The City Council adopted its first Council priorities in 1986. Each year the City Council reviews its priorities at its Annual Council Retreat. On October 1, 2012 the City Council formally adopted the definition of a council priority, and the Council's process and guidelines for selection of priorities.

Definition

A Council priority is defined as a topic that will receive particular, unusual and significant attention during the year.

Purpose

The establishment of Council priorities will assist the Council and staff to better allot and utilize time for discussion and decision making.

Process

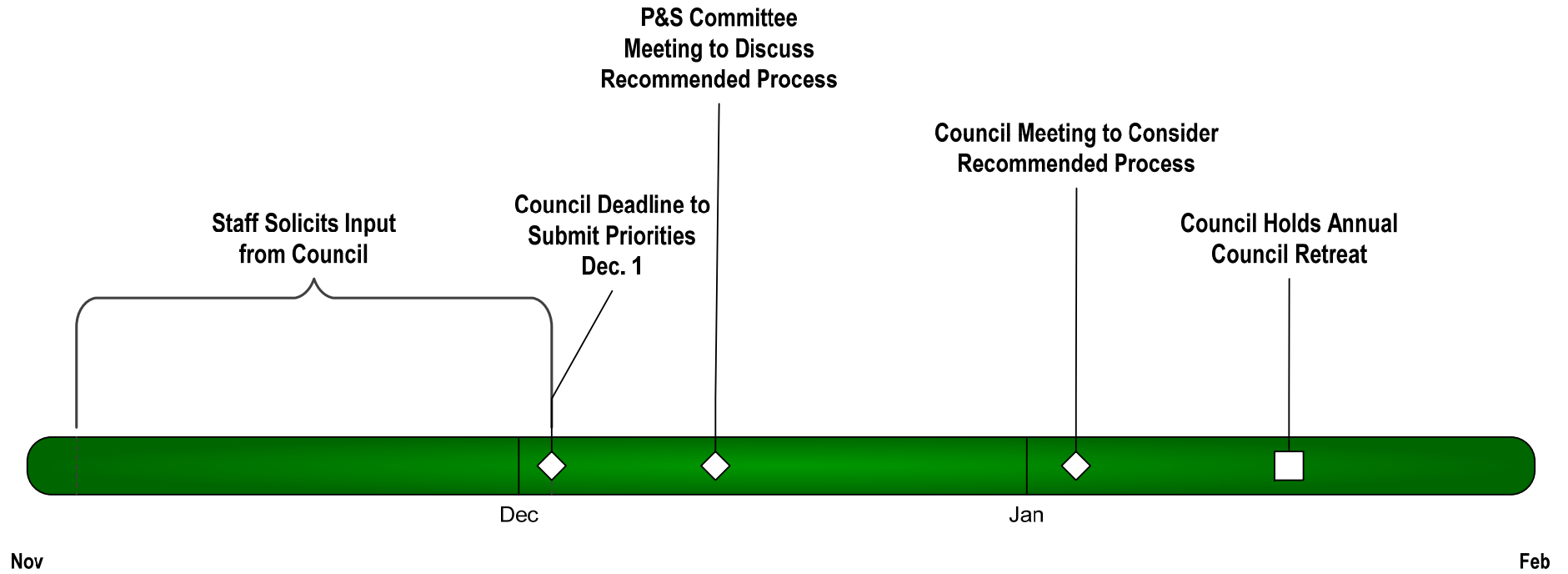
1. Three months in advance of the annual Council Retreat, staff will solicit input from the City Council on the priorities to be reviewed and considered for the following year.
 - a. Council members may submit up to three priorities.
 - b. Priorities should be submitted no later than December 1.
 - c. As applicable, the City Manager will contact newly elected officials for their input by December 1.
 - d. The City Clerk will provide timely notice to the public to submit proposed priorities by December 1. The Policy and Services Committee shall recommend to the Council which suggestions if any shall be considered at the City Council retreat.
2. Staff will collect and organize the recommended priorities into a list for Council consideration, and provide to Council no less than two weeks in advance of the retreat.
3. The Policy and Services Committee, each year at its December meeting, shall make recommendations about the process that will be used at the Annual Retreat paying particular attention to the number of priorities suggested by Council members. The recommended process is to be forwarded to Council for adoption in advance of the Council retreat.

Guidelines for Selection of Priorities

1. There is a goal of no more than three priorities per year.
2. Priorities generally have a three year time limit.

Attachment A
City of Palo Alto

City Council Priority Setting Schedule



Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of November 28, 2017, 10:15 AM



Open City Hall is not a certified voting system or ballot box. As with any public comment process, participation in Open City Hall is voluntary. The statements in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

As of November 28, 2017, 10:15 AM, this forum had:

Attendees: 263

All Statements: 180

Hours of Public Comment: 9.0

This topic started on November 9, 2017, 3:44 PM.

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Name not shown in Crescent Park (registered)

November 27, 2017, 12:20 PM

Jet noise relief is a very, very high priority.

Parking downtown is almost impossible. Whenever possible I walk, but what about when the time comes that I can't walk?

Parking in Crescent Park has made traffic dangerous. Visibility is greatly compromised at each corner and whenever exiting one's driveway. Pedestrians must be extra careful at every corner.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 27, 2017, 12:08 PM

jet noise relief

101 bicycle bridge

no stoplight at Charleston and Louis

electrification and grade separation

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 27, 2017, 10:21 AM

Jet Noise Relief

Name not shown in Greenmeadow (registered)

November 27, 2017, 9:41 AM

Please make jet noise abatement a high priority as it negatively impacts our quality of life each and every day.

My hope is that the city council and staff will become even more active it bringing relief to Palo Alto.

Name not shown in Evergreen Park (registered)

November 27, 2017, 8:23 AM

Jet noise relief

Ray Dempsey in Professorville (unverified)

November 27, 2017, 7:17 AM

Ah, if only our tree-shaded street really looked like that street in your introductory page. Priority? Continue to make residential areas more resident-friendly for residents.

Ray Dempsey

Professorville

Name not shown in Community Center (registered)

November 27, 2017, 4:46 AM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Something needs to be done about Jet Noise in Palo Alto. It greatly impacts our sleep but also our air quality. We hear a lot about committee meetings, concerned representatives, etc. but the problem is not being solved or even reduced.

Name not shown in Palo Verde (registered)

November 26, 2017, 8:15 PM

It is time for the companies who call Palo Alto home to be responsible for housing for their employees. Palo Alto itself should not strain its resources & its present community to do so. Instead, we should focus on maintaining the quality of our community for our present residents -- reducing jet noise and sustaining the things which make our community unique.

Sylvia Gartner in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 26, 2017, 8:03 PM

Something needs to happen about the proliferation of basements. My 1950's house has sustained considerable damage from five basements being dug in a three block area. Dead bolts don't enter the existing hole and must be re-done. I have many cracks in the walls. A tree in the front yard is now quite unhealthy. The toilet in my only bathroom won't maintain a seal because the house is now sloping. I had none of these problems for 30 years living here. It doesn't seem fair to me that people can buy up a small house and then maximize their investment by scraping it and then building a huge house with a full basement.

Robert Finn in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 26, 2017, 4:38 PM

JET NOISE RELIEF is our most immediate concern.

Prior to NextGen, the landing system at SFO worked superbly, nobody we know here was bothered by noise, nor did we see any predictions of overstrain of the system. NextGen brought with it a SUDDEN jump in noise disturbance. Why is a return to the previous system not being discussed?

Ursula Schulte, Robert Finn

Name not shown in Barron Park (registered)

November 26, 2017, 12:54 PM

Jet noise relief!!!

Name not shown in Greenmeadow (registered)

November 25, 2017, 11:42 PM

1. Address unfunded pension liabilities
2. Significantly reduce airplane noise
3. Stop all development except BMR housing and Stanford.
4. Find a way to develop 1000+ units of BMR housing, with priority for city workers and school staff

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

5. Encourage Palantir and other large companies to move out -- Palo Alto cannot support so many jobs. We must focus on housing city and school workers, and supporting Stanford's growth. We have to stop being everything to everyone.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 25, 2017, 6:43 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not shown in Green Acres (registered)

November 25, 2017, 9:17 AM

Jet Noise Relief for PALO AIRPLANE NOISE CITY !!

City of Palo Alto needs to take this problem more serious and make it a top priority for 2018!

Name not shown outside Palo Alto (registered)

November 24, 2017, 5:44 PM

I am very grateful to Mayor Hendricks for stepping up to chair the ad hoc committee on jet noise relief. I wish him much success because this is a very important issue for those of us living under the flight path.

Byron Bland in Ventura (registered)

November 24, 2017, 5:43 PM

Reduce jet noise

Name not shown in Community Center (registered)

November 24, 2017, 11:35 AM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 24, 2017, 11:21 AM

Jet noise relief.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 24, 2017, 8:20 AM

City Council Priorities for 2018:
Transportation congestion issues
Equable distribution of funds for improvements to all neighborhoods

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 24, 2017, 12:13 AM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Jet noise relief

Name not shown in Community Center (registered)

November 23, 2017, 8:26 PM

I would like to see a limit on the number of "scrapes" allowed in Palo Alto, meaning destruction of the former house and building a brand new larger house. I would also like to see a complete moratorium on basements being built. I live on a block where a house drained 22 million gallons of water, during the drought, so they could have "adequate" space for 4 people to live in a mansion. I think this is reprehensible and environmentally irresponsible. I would also like to see more affordable housing developed, instead of mansions for the uber rich.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 23, 2017, 6:16 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 23, 2017, 2:11 PM

Railroad grade crossing separation
reduce jet noise

Peter Brende in Charleston Meadows (registered)

November 23, 2017, 10:38 AM

Reduce jet noise

Aude Ismael in Crescent Park (registered)

November 23, 2017, 10:05 AM

Please prioritize a program to reduce jet noise.

Name not shown in Crescent Park (registered)

November 23, 2017, 8:42 AM

I have lived in Palo Alto my entire life (54 years). It saddens me every time I get in my car to go anywhere!! The amount of traffic and building has ruined the "community" feeling of Palo Alto. Bigger does not mean better!!! The top priority for the city should be maintaining the integrity of our wonderful city by not continually growing. At some point, there is just not enough space left. Also, as a long time lap swimmer, please do not give control over to a private company!! This is another example of bigger does not mean better!! The pool should be enjoyed by all, and control should stay in the hands of the city.

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

As a parent of a high school student, the city should also focus on the mental well being of our students. Why is there so much pressure on our kids? The focus should not be over achieving, but enjoying learning!!! Thank you for your time....

Marilyn Bauriedel in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 22, 2017, 10:39 PM

I would like Council to put jet noise relief on its list of priorities for the coming year.

Ronald Dotson in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

November 22, 2017, 8:40 PM

We need jet noise relief . We need traffic relief from increasing numbers of vehicles cutting through neighborhoods. We need better solutions to slowing speeders and stop sign runners.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 8:31 PM

JERT NOISE RELIEF! Please!!!

Ian Mallace in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 22, 2017, 8:16 PM

Jet Noise Relief. Thank you for making this a priority in 2018.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 8:11 PM

please stop all the high-density housing and business development. The traffic is bad and Palo Alto is becoming a very unpleasant place to live

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 7:35 PM

Jet noise relief !!!!!!!

It is ALL night over our house. Low. Vibrates. ALL day over our house. Low. Vibrates.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 7:07 PM

Jet noise relief.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 6:58 PM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Jet Noise Relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 6:56 PM

Relief from noise of arriving jets 24-7!

Robert Tobin in Research Park (registered)

November 22, 2017, 5:39 PM

City Priority #1: Jet Noise Relief - Get significantly more aggressive in increasing pressure for action by the FAA!! Not a single flight has changed altitude or route!!

City Priority #2: Underground The Train - Figure out how to do it and fund it. Stop studying whether to do it.

City Priority #3: Aging Infrastructure

City Priority #4: Everything Else

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 5:22 PM

Jet noise relief

john kunz in Leland Manor/ Garland (registered)

November 22, 2017, 5:06 PM

Jet noise is appalling.

Jay Whaley in Crescent Park (registered)

November 22, 2017, 4:50 PM

1. Automobile transportation. The gridlock, occurring at the University Ave entrance to 101 on most afternoons, causes grave safety concerns because of inaccessibility to firetruck and ambulance access. The resulting expanding back up in adjoining streets degrades quality of life, as well as air safety. Immediate police and traffic management is required, while designing longer term solutions to the reduction in the number of single occupancy automobiles at certain times of day.

2. Jet Noise Relief! Continuing and increasing efforts from the City of Palo Alto are needed to correct the sound and air pollution impacts of the "NextGen" F.A.A. program that placed landing SFO aircraft in a narrow corridor over many of our neighborhoods.

Jonathan Heiliger in Evergreen Park (registered)

November 22, 2017, 3:58 PM

Please prioritize a program to reduce jet noise

Name not shown in Community Center (registered)

November 22, 2017, 3:19 PM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

- 1) Aircraft noise deduction
- 2) City needs to get its finances in order - unfunded pension liabilities will sink the city if a plan is not made and adhered to
- 3) Get the RVs and street campers off Palo Alto streets

Name not shown in Community Center (registered)

November 22, 2017, 2:44 PM

Jet noise relief

Keva Dine in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 22, 2017, 2:02 PM

Jet Noise!!!

Evelyn Preston in Greenmeadow (registered)

November 22, 2017, 1:36 PM

JET NOISE RELIEF NOW!! Planes from 2 commercial airports (SJ, SFO), San Carlos commuters and Palo Alto private aircraft all fly too often, too low, too loud with too many flights night and day. Quality of life and the general environment are all degraded. This invasion of privacy and upheaval for many neighborhoods are for mostly commercial enterprises that literally steal the peace and quiet of the entire area without residents' input or remuneration.

Why our city councils, county supervisors and other legislators have allowed this to continue without a huge outcry and greater resolve questions their resolve to truly work for and reflect the needs of their constituents. This CONSTANT NOISE is unacceptable! While I thank efforts to date, it is obviously not nearly enough to effect any meaningful change.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 12:54 PM

Jet noise relief!!!!

Name not shown in Evergreen Park (registered)

November 22, 2017, 12:17 PM

Please keep working on roadways. Also, I think spreading sideways is a waste of space, and I'd like to see more parking structures which are tall enough to serve us in the future. Please keep the new parking permit programs. Please keep residential dwellings that are currently single family as single family.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 11:55 AM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 11:45 AM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 11:42 AM

Please do not push the jet noise to in Sunnyvale. There is too much air traffic over Sunnyvale now.
John Hausler

Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 22, 2017, 11:33 AM

Please make jet noise relief the top priority for 2018.

Aoife Maynard in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 22, 2017, 11:13 AM

Jet noise relief: fly over bay

JET NOISE RELIEF PLEASE!!!!!!

Jet noise relief: fly over bay

JET NOISE RELIEF PLEASE!!!!!!

Jet noise relief: fly over bay

JET NOISE RELIEF PLEASE!!!!!!

Kathleen Davis in Crescent Park (unverified)

November 22, 2017, 11:05 AM

Traffic on University Ave:

Traffic is very heavy from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The only way we can get into our driveway is to come in from Hamilton Ave to Lincoln Ave. if coming from downtown or if coming from Town and Country, to University Ave., to go down Lincoln Ave to University and take a left into our driveway. (Even then, there's often a backup of cars and a narrow passage due to parked cars on either side of Lincoln as one approaches University Ave.

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 10:42 AM

Jet noise relief.

16 to 18 hours per day, 7 days a week of constant noise and pollution with flights directly over my house is a serious issue.

Please do your jobs and be much more proactive in restoring the old quality of life that once made Palo Alto such a special place. WE Need Your Help To Reduce Jet Noise and Pollution.. Thank You.

Nick Peterson in Downtown North (registered)

November 22, 2017, 10:28 AM

JET NOISE RELIEF!!!!!!!

Improved pedestrian safety through intersection upgrades in Downtown North (e.g., flags, flashing lights on signs or intersections) especially on Bryant St and Alma @ Everett.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 10:07 AM

Make jet noise a priority for Palo Alto.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 9:17 AM

Jet noise relief now!

Name not shown in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

November 22, 2017, 8:35 AM

Cap all expansive development

Traffic

Jet noise relief

Kevin Ohlson in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 22, 2017, 8:34 AM

jet noise relief

Unmesh Vartak in Palo Verde (registered)

November 22, 2017, 7:36 AM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

The top priority for the council should be to treat entire city as your family. At every decision consider the effect of your decision on other family members.

For example- Ross rd project may have been justified and supported by Ross Rd residents and I do sympathize with their traffic concerns. However it is not fair for residents on parallel streets like Louis Rd to live with extra traffic because of narrowing of Ross road and just because Louis Rd residents did not participate in planning for Ross rd changes.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 7:36 AM

Jet Noise Relief

Lissy Bland in Ventura (registered)

November 22, 2017, 7:27 AM

1. Jet noise relief

Name not shown in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 22, 2017, 7:17 AM

There's been explosive growth in noise and traffic since I moved to Palo Alto 40 years ago. Our quality of life is deteriorating rapidly.

More specifically, we need:

Jet noise relief

Train horn relief at crossings

Traffic relief - protect residential neighborhoods from cut-through traffic

On-street parking relief - create more RPPs

Better traffic signals at Embarcadero and El Camino - eliminate cross walk signal at Town & Country and build overpass or underpass for students and pedestrians crossing Embarcadero from Palo Alto High School

Improve bike lane crossing from Stanford at Galvez across El Camino to Embaradero - very dangerous intersection for bicyclists!

Like the bullet train idea but very worried about future bullet train noise and impact

Roy Moss in Palo Verde (registered)

November 22, 2017, 6:52 AM

Jet noise relief

marty klein in Palo Verde (registered)

November 22, 2017, 2:04 AM

1. jet noise relief.

2. STOP narrowing streets and slowing down traffic. we DON'T have a problem with unsafe streets.

Cliff Mercer in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 22, 2017, 1:13 AM

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of November 28, 2017, 10:15 AM

<http://www.peakdemocracy.com/5666>

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Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Jet noise relief

The noise pollution of frequent, low-flying jets over Palo Alto and directly over my home in particular has become a significant nuisance in the last couple of years. I understand that the FAA changed many flight paths in recent years to optimize for things other than quality of life for residents in high density areas near major airports. That was a mistake that must be corrected.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 22, 2017, 12:42 AM

Keep working on increasing housing supply at different price points, and adding more usable public transportation, and continue making biking even safer and easier, especially for kids biking to school.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 11:56 PM

Jet noise relief!!!

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 11:23 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 11:00 PM

Top priority: Jet Noise Relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 10:44 PM

Jet noise relief

Katherine Wurzburg outside Palo Alto (registered)

November 21, 2017, 10:32 PM

Jet noise relief, please!

Beverly Brockway in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 10:23 PM

Stop Jet Noise. It is unacceptable both at night and during the day. The gridlock at times makes it impossible to drive out of our driveway on Hamilton. Parking and traffic issues must be addressed before more buildings are

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

built and streets narrowed.

Kerry Yarkin in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 21, 2017, 10:06 PM

Jet noise relief

Our family's quality of life is going downhill rapidly due to the hundreds of planes over our home daily. I can't walk to the park, Garden, sit in my backyard, barbecue outside because of constant airplane noise. As a City, boycott United and Southwest Airlines so they know we are taking a stand where it will actually get them to do something. The FAA will take another 5 or more years, and may do little or nothing to equitably distribute the noise pollution! Help!!!!

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 10:00 PM

Jet noise relief

Jerry Chu in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

November 21, 2017, 9:55 PM

Airplane noise! The airplane noise in the past two years has gotten ridiculous, sometimes non-stop for an hour or more as if we lived right next to a runaway! There have been a lot of discussions, protests etc but they all seem to fall on deaf ears. Is there anything else the city can do, or FAA is keen on screwing those unlucky ones who happen to live under the fly paths they choose? Why can the flight routes be spread out?

DANIEL TUERK in Leland Manor/ Garland (registered)

November 21, 2017, 9:52 PM

Palo Alto needs Jet Noise Relief. There are times when it sounds like we are living adjacent to an air show.

Jennifer Landesmann in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 9:49 PM

Jet Noise Relief!

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 9:45 PM

jet noise relief

Name not shown in Barron Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 9:42 PM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Over a hundred small cell phone towers are currently being planned for installation in residential neighborhoods in Palo Alto. New ordinances can be created to keep cell towers out - other cities in the Bay Area have achieved this - we can too. Please make this a priority!!

Allen Fitzpatrick in Evergreen Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 9:12 PM

Jet noise needs to be reduced over Palo Alto. Over the past 2 years it has become progressively worse. The noise is continuous at all hours of the day.

Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 21, 2017, 9:08 PM

Jet noise relief!

And relief from airplane noise from Palo Alto airport.

Name not shown outside Palo Alto (registered)

November 21, 2017, 9:04 PM

- 1.) Jet noise relief
- 2.) Jet noise relief
- 3.) Jet noise relief

The new NEXTGEN flight path brings jets overhead continually throughout the day and night at low altitudes with speed brakes on. Our enjoyment of our home and quality of life has been severely degraded. Constant jet noise and exhaust particulate exposures are well-documented hazards to human health. Everyday 24/7/365, more than 300 jets and turboprop planes fly low and loud over Palo Alto on approach to and departure from SFO, SQL, OAK and SJC. Other nearby communities suffer far lower exposure and risks to health. This is a burden all communities must share equally.

Jeff Keller in Leland Manor/ Garland (registered)

November 21, 2017, 8:52 PM

jet noise relief

Dan Mahoney in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 21, 2017, 8:51 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 8:46 PM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

We need a good deal more housing, particularly housing near Caltrain stations. It's sad to see great people, including those who provide vital services, move away due to dramatically increasing costs.

As part of the transportation plan, bicycling and safe bicycle routes should be emphasized. I have two young children whom I take to school in a cargo bike, cutting down on car use. If I can do it (and enjoy it), I suspect that so can many others if they can do so safely.

Name not shown in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 8:43 PM

Proposed Priority: Street Safety and Parking -"Take back Palo Alto Streets!"

Palo Alto streets are beautiful PUBLIC areas yet we allow them to be crowded with parked cars causing safety risks for people riding bicycles, impeding smooth flow of traffic and turning PUBLIC areas into PRIVATE parking places.

Palo Alto City Council should prioritize taking back our streets with five measures:

- 1) Survey Palo Alto streets and reduce from 2-side to 1-side parking for streets that can not safely accommodate two side parking & smooth 2-way traffic including bicycles.
- 2) Add 100 miles of bike lanes so our community can enjoy the Palo Alto street scape safely without being squeezed between parked cars and moving traffic.
- 3) Provide signage and enforcement prohibiting parking from 1AM to 6AM on all Palo Alto streets without resident permit.
- 4) Implement yearly street parking permit fee and cap number of parking permits issued.
- 5) Increase parking meters to cover entire downtown.

Palo Alto streets are our PUBLIC property. We need to take them back for the public and share the value.

Susan Thomsen in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

November 21, 2017, 8:11 PM

Jet noise relief!!!

Name not shown in Greenmeadow (registered)

November 21, 2017, 7:54 PM

Please address the problem of jet noise over Palo Alto - a major decrease in quality of life.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 7:41 PM

Jet noise relief.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 7:35 PM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Make Jet Noise Relief a priority. Second -- work with Bay Area neighbors to simplify public transportation -- both ticketing and routes, in order to make it easier for people to commute on public transportation. We should be ashamed of how poor our public transportation is, yet all I hear is complaints about parking and traffic. It's time to work together on new systems -- we must invest in a future that works -- not more bandaids.

Name not shown in Barron Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 7:15 PM

I live in Barron Park. The constant noise from airplanes approaching SFO is unbearable. Relief from airplane noise should be one of the Council's topmost priorities. We cannot be a healthy community so long as the skies above us are a threat to our health and welfare.

Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 21, 2017, 7:13 PM

Please make JET NOISE REDUCTION a priority for 2018. Thank you.

Name not shown outside Palo Alto (registered)

November 21, 2017, 7:12 PM

Jet noise relief

Patricia Jones in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 7:02 PM

Absolutely top priority needs to be addressing traffic congestion and gridlock in the Crescent Park/Hwy 101 area and potentially other areas. Safety is the issue here. When traffic gridlocks, as it is doing more and more frequently, no emergency vehicles can get through to address problems such as fire, accidents, health emergencies, etc. It recently took my neighbor an hour to drive 3 blocks during rush hour. It is only a matter of time before there will be a real disaster.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 7:02 PM

Jet noise relief.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 6:58 PM

Top three priorities.

1. Traffic and parking relief in neighborhoods
2. Relief from congestion from large numbers of employees pouring into Palo Alto with inadequate parking and non-auto, TIMELY access to and from Palo Alto

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

3. Jet Noise Relief

Arnaud Venet in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 21, 2017, 6:25 PM

Please make jet noise relief a priority.

Gregory Turnbull in Leland Manor/ Garland (registered)

November 21, 2017, 6:24 PM

Make jet noise relief a very high priority!

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 6:21 PM

Jet noise!!

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 6:20 PM

jet noise and traffic relief are my most pressing concerns

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 6:15 PM

Jet noise relief

Jeff Rosner in College Terrace (registered)

November 21, 2017, 6:13 PM

1. JET NOISE RELIEF
 2. A REAL PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT THAT IS PROACTIVE
-

Name not shown in Palo Verde (registered)

November 21, 2017, 6:09 PM

I have been saying "jet noise relief" for the past 2 years, and here we are again. No improvement in sight!
Jet noise, jet noise, jet nose relief ! damn it!

judy frost in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:59 PM

Jet noise relief...PLEASE!

Karen Edwards in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:55 PM

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of November 28, 2017, 10:15 AM

<http://www.peakdemocracy.com/5666>

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Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Please make jet noise a priority. Also the gridlock on university avenue.

lois shore in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:50 PM

Jet Noise Relief

Nicholas Briggs in Barron Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:49 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 5:43 PM

jet noise relief

Name not shown in College Terrace (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:43 PM

jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 5:39 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not shown in Green Acres (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:39 PM

Jet noise relief

Sandra Ben-Efraim in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:33 PM

jet noise relief

traffic

infrastructure

Gary Hammer in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:33 PM

TWO:

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

- o Jet noise relief
- o Underground-ing the train tracks (at least ditch, but very preferably, a tunnel). If we can raise money for a tunnel (hello, 13 local billionaires, per Forbes 3/09/2016), it would be wonderful to convert the existing Alma Street train right-of-way to a north-south park with bike and walking paths adjacent to Alma Street. Name the park after the donors -- heck, give them statues, since this would be the most impactful gift to Palo Alto since Leland Stanford's.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 5:30 PM

Jet Noise Relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 5:24 PM

JET NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION RELIEF

Name not shown in Barron Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:23 PM

Jet noise relief

alex green in Palo Verde (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:17 PM

Jet noise reduction.

Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:15 PM

Chronic jet noise and exhaust particulate exposures are well-documented hazards to human health. Everyday 24/7/365, more than 300 jets and turboprop planes fly low and loud over Palo Alto on approach to and departure from SFO, SQL, OAK and SJC. Other neighboring communities suffer far, far lower exposure and risks to health. For our children's sake we must act!

Paul Rubinstein in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:12 PM

Jet noise should be a priority.

Ronda Rosner in College Terrace (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:11 PM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Please prioritize council efforts regarding jet noise relief. After two and 1/2 years, some progress has been made, but jet noise continues to heavily infringe on sleep and outdoor activities. Since NextGen was implemented in March 2015, altitudes of passing jets have steadily dropped, with many commercial aircraft bound for SFO currently flying over our neighborhood below 4,000 feet of altitude and using very noisy braking maneuvers.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 5:11 PM

Jet Noise Relief. Please. Thanks.
Andy Robin
Walnut Dr.
Palo Alto

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 5:10 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not shown in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:09 PM

Jet noise relief

Michael Fischer in Charleston Terrace (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:05 PM

How much longer do we have to wait for jet noise relief?

Bill Courington in University South (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:04 PM

1. Fiscal strength. City actions should support getting Palo Alto out of its financial hole (unfunded pension liabilities) and keeping it out.
2. Transportation. City actions should reduce the number of cars on the street in peak hours despite growth in residential and commercial development.

Name not shown in Research Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:03 PM

The airplane noise over our homes is incessant and needs to be addressed. It is clear that FAA will not act to mitigate the problem. The city needs to take matters into its own hands and bring court action against the airlines to abate the noise in our neighborhoods. It is no defense to say FAA mandates it — FAA does not

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

mandate that any of those airlines fly to SFO — they are flying to SFO of their own free will and for their own profit.

Marcia Sterling in Research Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:02 PM

- Jet noise relief

- Access and parking for Stanford Dish

Fred Krefetz in Downtown North (registered)

November 21, 2017, 5:01 PM

Jet noise relief...PLEASE!! The current relentless jet noise is absolutely intolerable and I don't understand how this was allowed to happen to our wonderful community. It is destroying the pride and joy I once had living in Palo Alto. Please, please do everything possible to fix this problem as soon as possible.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 4:56 PM

Please make jet noise relief a priority

Tim Flagg in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 4:54 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 4:46 PM

Jet noise relief please

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 4:45 PM

Jet Noise Relief - please do everything you can to work with state, local, and federal agencies and elected officials to reduce the impact of jet noise on our community. I can no longer sleep through the night or enjoy time inside or outside my house without the continual noise of whining jets going overhead. We need relief!

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 4:43 PM

I would like to see what can be done about the jet traffic. The worsening air traffic has decreased our quality of

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

life due to the noise and pollution.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 4:42 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 4:40 PM

Jet noise relief

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 4:39 PM

Jet noise relief.

Name not shown in Fairmeadow (registered)

November 21, 2017, 4:31 PM

I think we need to work towards a tunnel solution for Caltrain at Meadow and Charleston and Alma.

Name not shown in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 4:12 PM

airplane noise

traffic: Please stop selling parking permit to commuters in residential neighborhood.

High taxes

Jo Ann Mandinach in Leland Manor/ Garland (registered)

November 21, 2017, 4:04 PM

Please start paying attention to residents' complaints about the non-stop addition of road barriers. giant Botts dots, bollards, posts,. poles and other expensive, dangerous and irritating "road furniture" that impede through traffic and make gridlock even worse. More than 100 residents have complained about the Ross Road barriers. For 3 years people have complained Middlefield traffic is backing up INTO Oregon and we get no response. Now PA's adding POLES/POSTS at Middlefield intersections at Seale, Tennyson, and now Lowell which will back traffic into Embarcadero! WHY? This prevents cars from going around me when I'm turning into my driveway at 1699 Middlefield. Also, the new lane striping eliminating the turn lane from Middlefield to Embarcadero West now backs up traffic for blocks northbound! WHY? How do we get you to heed our complaints???

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 21, 2017, 2:51 PM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Airplane noise. It is so loud and frequent that I cannot hear in my own backyard. And nothing is actually being done about it year after year.

Eric Seedman in Southgate (registered)

November 21, 2017, 2:25 PM

Please stop granting permits to build commercial projects that worsen an already horrendous traffic situation. And do not reward the dishonest folks at Castilleja with permit to enlarge their facility after they have been non-compliant with the previously agreed upon enrollment guidelines. Address grade crossing issues at CalTrain, including moving forward with soils studies to determine if undergrounding train is feasible.

Name not shown in Crescent Park (registered)

November 21, 2017, 2:18 PM

Priorities for Palo Alto 2018:

- 1) AIRPLANE NOISE over our homes.....unsafe and unnecessary. For years planes flew higher and over the Bay. The change has been a disaster to quality of life for many of our residents.
 - 2) TRAFFIC..... as long as the council continues to be pro building without INSISTING on better public transportation options, there will be NO RELIEF!!! Already, University Avenue is practically at gridlock in the a.m. and p.m. And all that traffic is funneling into neighborhoods.
-

Mike Forster in Evergreen Park (registered)

November 19, 2017, 7:57 PM

- 1 Housing - More, including low-cost and for the homeless. All new commercial construction should be 4 stories tall - underground parking, first story retail, second story offices or housing, third and fourth floors housing. Existing single-story commercial building should be encouraged to rebuild to 4 stories. Housing for the homeless is tough to do, but one of the richest cities in the world should be able to find ways for every "resident" to have a roof over his or her head.
 - 2 Retail - "Low-cost retail". Perhaps some of the retail space should be reserved for low-cost retail, like low-cost housing. It seems that only nail salons, bike shops, gyms, some clothing boutiques, and restaurants can afford commercial rents on University and California Avenues. Florists, thrift shops / second hand stores, stationery stores, toy stores, etc. are mostly closing.
 - 3 Transportation - Expand shuttle program to touch more neighborhoods, be more frequent, and make cross-town travel easier for all of our residents and workday visitors, especially including our senior population. Perhaps add parking structures along 101 and 280 at Page Mill, with shuttles to work centers, to reduce the traffic and parking issues in the city.
 - 4 Fiscal Responsibility - Make sure the City of Palo Alto is on a firm financial footing for the next, say, 50 years, including pension liabilities.
-

Suzanne Keehn in Barron Park (registered)

November 19, 2017, 4:41 PM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Building office buildings should cease, until the congestion problems are solved, if even possible. From Los Robles last week, to turn R to get to a train meeting it was a zoo, I waited for 3 lights till I could turn and get into the L hand turn lane for Charleston, going to Middlefield and the Library. Complete grid lock. My colleague, another evening, leaving EPA going West had no problems but for the folks leaving MP to I01 it was total gridlock, moving a few inches at a time. the whole way.

Thinking all this will be resolved in some 'imaginative' way, trains, bikes, etc. Going from here across the Bay or to 101, going East there is no solution.

We need to be aware of our environment and how the building that is planned by P.A. and Stanford has not been accounted for, as it says in our Comp Plan's EIR and that of Stanford. At some time we will 'get' that everyone cannot work and/or live in the same area.

Issues Pollution, air quality, noise, trucks etc. In Europe they do not tear down and rebuild, they refurbish and modernize the interiors.

If we were not on a narrow Peninsula, and had had the foresight to build underground trains, like London, Barcelona etc. it might have been possible.

Being on the S.F. Peninsula means for livability, congestion, our environment we cannot keep repeating and continue with the same mind set that got us here

Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 18, 2017, 7:58 PM

Now that property taxes and mortgage interest cannot be deducted, how will the city ease the tax burden on residents?

Name not shown in Palo Verde (registered)

November 16, 2017, 12:04 PM

Focus on transit, HSR, CALTRAIN, and shuttles for the arteries. We need to be creative and forward thinking. Parking strategies and relaning are just delaying the hard work.

Jeff Hoel in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 14, 2017, 4:39 PM

Please make Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) a priority for 2018. The City needs to be in control its telecommunications future, and the best way to do that is to implement citywide municipal FTTP. We need access not only to symmetric gigabit-per-second speeds today but also to exponentially increasing speeds over the years ahead, and fiber is the only medium that can support these requirements for the next several decades. We want features like privacy and net neutrality, and the Trump administration's FCC has taught us that we'd be fools to hope that the federal government can be counted on to require that all Internet service providers deliver them.

If we want economic development, let's try supporting it by providing access to world-class broadband, even for

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

home businesses. If we want to cut down on automobile traffic, let's try making telecommuting possible for more people.

In 2013 and 2014, Council made "Technology and the Connected City" (including both FTTP and, regrettably, wireless) a priority. But Council was then distracted into "chasing the Google 'unicorn.'" Let's not make that mistake again. In 2015, Council considered making FTTP (and not wireless) a priority, but City Manager Keene argued that it wouldn't make any difference to staff whether it was a priority or not; so Council chose not to make it a priority. Let's not make that mistake again either.

Stephen Rosenblum in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 13, 2017, 4:01 PM

The Council should make it a priority to reduce emissions of global warming gasses from stationary and mobile sources to zero by 2050.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 13, 2017, 2:50 PM

Take another look at the road diets around town. Middlefield between Menlo Park and University could have been solved with a less draconian trial. The Transportation department needs to start small and work it's way up in increments until they come to a workable solution. They use a baseball bat when a fly swatter would work. Other road diets are just as bad. I also think that the RPPP's should be abolished.

Joel Davidson in Barron Park (registered)

November 13, 2017, 2:25 PM

Low cost housing

Rent control: We are forcing middle and lower class tenants out of our city. Shameful.

Traffic is an increasing mess. What took me 5 years ago to go from Barron Park to Downtown or Stanford just 5-7 minutes; now takes me 15 minutes. And that's not just at commute hours.

I do not understand why Palo Alto City Council would forgo the tax benefits for Marijuana. This should be revisited.

Name not shown in Downtown North (registered)

November 13, 2017, 9:48 AM

Palo Alto needs to come up with a comprehensive solution to the lack of housing at decent prices for the large number of young and professional people. These are the people who will enrich our community, raise a family, and represent our future. No small solutions. Big solutions such as using a good chunk of Palo Alto's land which is "open space" to enable higher density housing such as townhouses. There is no point in keeping more than half of such land as open space, when the housing need is so great.

Do we want to end up being a sleepy town of old people, because we are pushing everyone else away to other cities due to our astronomical housing cost??? Or do we want a future?

Maryanne Welton in Barron Park (registered)

November 13, 2017, 9:18 AM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

1. Jet noise - it has completely destroyed the quality of life for people who live under the NextGen flightpath. I am no longer able to sleep through the night or enjoy life inside or outside because of the constant stream of jets whining overhead every 2 to 3 minutes.
2. Underground the railroad tracks - this bottleneck and potential danger will never end unless the city council makes it a priority to find funding.
3. Affordable housing - more affordable housing for families and seniors is desperately needed. Don't let NIMBYs sabotage affordable housing projects.

William Brew in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

November 12, 2017, 9:16 AM

The "priorities" you listed are so vague, they are meaningless.

My top three priorities.

1. Airplane noise.
2. Airplane noise.
3. Airplane noise.

Name not shown in Palo Verde (registered)

November 12, 2017, 9:06 AM

Number 1 Priority: Consider the Budget and seriously consider the effect of spending measures on our long term ability to pay debts. Several statements already filed by others mention the budget as an issue. We need to maintain our city well, however, there does also need to be fiscal responsibility. Set 1 Goal that will have a positive long-term effect for Palo Alto's Fiscal State - for example, require a Special Report on the Budget from the City Manager with 3 recommendations for long term actions that will positively affect the City's fiscal position over the next 5 years.

Number 2: Infrastructure should remain a priority.

Number 3: Addressing the housing issues, including transients, should remain a priority. We need to maintain a standard for our community and advertise the ways in which we also help.

I don't think it is appropriate for the Council to be so opposed to change and modernization as it has been.

Find a way to embrace change and maintain a community that values family, community, hard work, learning, diversity, and innovation - all values Palo Alto has been known for in recent years.

Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 11, 2017, 1:18 PM

Code Enforcement. Do something about the RVs parked all over the city, residences with inoperable automobiles in the front yard or parked for weeks without moving, residences with 2 foot high weeds in the front yard, gas leaf blowers. We pay a lot to live here. It should not look like skid row.

Stop commercial development, which generates too much traffic.

Work with regional governments to reduce aircraft noise.

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Continue fixing the unfunded liabilities issue.

Name not shown in Downtown North (registered)

November 10, 2017, 11:21 PM

#1 - Environmental sustainability - stop all growth that will add people and their cars, trash, energy and water requirements and pollution to the city. Produce a detailed plan to change zoning to decrease office areas to reduce the daytime population and add open space to the city. Plan to support the current population with no growth but providing a good quality of life for residents and the environment.

#2 - Make the entire Fry's site a park, playing field, community pool and meeting area - like the Lucie Stern and Rinconada Park area. We are more that 40 acres behind in what is called for in the current comprehensive plan in park space for the city. Time to do something for residents.

#3 - Plan to fully fund the past unfunded pension liability and make city employees pay the full cost of their own pensions moving forward since we will need Palo Alto money to pay for the past unfunded pensions.

Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 10, 2017, 10:51 PM

Quality of life in Palo Alto has declined so precipitously in recent years it is hard to know where to start. Here's my list.

1. Jet noise, jet noise, jet noise. Nextgen jet noise over my home is unbearable.
 2. More noise: traffic noise with Waze making my street a main artery with cut through traffic, home construction noise, etc.
 3. Density, congestion, traffic. Too many people. It's very ironic to me that people are willing to pay so much to live here because Palo Alto has gone from pleasant suburb with a nice downtown to an increasingly urbanized mess with ridiculous traffic and loads of petty crime and a police department that doesn't enforce our laws.
-

Pamela Diken in Barron Park (unverified)

November 10, 2017, 10:44 PM

Please distribute the subsidized housing throughout Palo Alto not just in the south. If you want to save money stop sending the street sweepers in Barron Park until you put sidewalks in BP
With that said please put sidewalks in Barron Park. It is unsafe walking on the street. :-(

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 10, 2017, 9:00 PM

(1) Please do as much as possible to lessen the incessant airplane noise from SFO, SJC, and Palo Alto airports.

(2) Ross Rd. bike boulevard appears to be a disaster in the making.

(3) Please provide increased enforcement of gas leaf blower ban.

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

(4) Please limit wood-burning fireplace use as much as possible
Thank you for your service!

Name not shown (unverified)

November 10, 2017, 6:41 PM

Please keep cell towers out of residential neighborhoods!

Jamie Beckett in Evergreen Park (registered)

November 10, 2017, 5:17 PM

I used to love Palo Alto, but in recent years, congestion of both traffic and people is degrading our quality of life. Despite the so-called cap on commercial development, the city continues to add office space without taking any measures to reduce traffic. Within a quarter-mile of where I live on Park Blvd., at least 130k of new office space is planned, already complete, or under construction. Yet nothing is being done to alleviate traffic that is a consequence of all the added space.

Traffic is backed up both to Page Mill/Oregon Expressway and on the two highways. I thought Palo Alto believed in pedestrian- and bike-friendly neighborhoods but once-peaceful Park Blvd. -- with cars now speeding to the Oregon Expressway or Page Mill Road -- is anything but. It's dangerous to ride a bike and even more dangerous cross a street with no speed limit signs, no stop signs and virtually nothing to calm traffic.

Park Blvd. is just one example. Page Mill, El Camino, Oregon Expressway, Alma/Central Expressway are impassible during rush hour.

The council continues to believe that if you build an office near Caltrain, people won't drive to work. That is a fantasy. The council conveniently forgets that many people have family responsibilities that preclude taking public transit. People with kids to pick up, activities planned after work or irregular schedules have no choice but to drive. And it's not like the Bay Area is so well-served by public transit that anyone, anywhere can hop on a bus or train. Driving is the only option for many.

The city must stop building office buildings, and when it adds housing, account for and manage the traffic new developments generate.

Geri Spieler in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 10, 2017, 3:35 PM

Palo Alto is truly a wonderful place to live. And, because of that, we have a growing population. In spite of the high cost of housing, there is a lot of new construction and remodeling, which adds up to difficult traffic congestion. It has gotten increasingly worse just in the past year. I'm amazed that it can take 30 minutes to drive from Midtown to Downtown. It just doesn't make sense, but there it is. Traffic contribute to a decrease in quality of living and the environment.

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

I would like to see a significant effort in creating viable public transportation that reaches the entire community. If I could count on a convenient way to get back and forth timely, I'd use it. Also, we desperately need jet noise relief, please.

elizabeth Duncan in Downtown North (registered)

November 10, 2017, 3:10 PM

California is the most progressive state in the USA. Palo Alto, in the midst of Silicon Valley, is a leader of this State. Yet we are known for our support of the death penalty despite previous efforts to bring the subject before the City Council. "Once more unto the breach dear friends"... let us come out loud and clear supporting abolition of this barbaric, ineffective and expensive habit in our beautiful state. SO I URGE YOU TO PASS A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TOTAL ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY.

Patrick Barrett in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

November 10, 2017, 2:22 PM

The City and its residents and businesses would benefit from more consistency within and between departments of the City government. When a building is being modified or replaced, too often a ruling made by one employee and relied on by the building owner is later overruled by another employee, resulting in extra costs and delays.

The City also needs to continue the process of updating infrastructure.

Name not shown in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 10, 2017, 1:28 PM

To improve the quality of life for residence of Palo Alto, new homes and major remodels of homes should be limited to weekdays only and the hours should be restricted to 9am to 5pm.

Name not shown in Old Palo Alto (registered)

November 10, 2017, 1:22 PM

The most important issue facing Palo Alto is traffic congestion. There is too little infrastructure for the number of people who want to use our roads and limited parking. Any new construction, whether commercial or residential, will exacerbate this problem.

Sharon Dickson in University South (registered)

November 10, 2017, 12:58 PM

Infrastructure: safer streets downtown--no thruways on Homer and Channing as these streets have become increasingly residential over the past 20-30 years.
Streetlights that light the SIDEWALKS at night so pedestrians can travel safely. Street drainage that actually works when it rains.

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Fewer empty storefronts downtown and a cleaner University Avenue. The sidewalks are disgusting.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 10, 2017, 12:43 PM

Address Rail crossings for future electrification and increased ridership on CalTrain. Preferably to move the train up or down, rather than the roadways.

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 10, 2017, 12:27 PM

Council: Be strong in negotiations with Stanford! The size of their new proposed development is too large. Traffic with the large hospital is choking Palo Alto roads and neighborhoods

Name not available (unclaimed)

November 10, 2017, 12:23 PM

ERequire all new buildings to be fully parked. For all apartments assume 2 cars/ apartment. Paint in as many parking places as possible. There are hundreds of possibilities. Eliminate all 4 way stop signs. Synchronize all lights on RI Camino, Embarcadero, Oregon /Page Mill, etc.

Joe Baldwin in University South (registered)

November 10, 2017, 12:14 PM

Unlike the United States, the government of Palo Alto cannot create money, i.e., issue Treasury notes, bills, and bonds, and print \$100 bills. Our city's #1 problem, by a wide margin over a host of other serious ones, is long-term fiscal irresponsibility. City Council's #1 priority should be addressing our hundreds of millions of dollars in unfunded liabilities. It is long past time to stop kicking that gigantic can down the road.

Shannon McEntee in Evergreen Park (registered)

November 10, 2017, 12:11 PM

We need Jet Noise Relief! And -- Increasing traffic impacts more than parking and travel time. It creates air and noise pollution. Others have covered these issues above. I'd like to concentrate on how Palo Alto's streets have become alarmingly dangerous. Drivers are speeding and cutting through residential areas and failing to stop at stop signs. Pedestrians, including children and elders, put their lives at risk to walk to school, to their clinic, the grocery store or to one of our parks. We have to change this wanton disregard for safety and the rule of law!

Our traffic woes are related to our lack of effective public transportation. Palo Alto should prioritize working with Bay Area transportation officials to address these problems. An example: It is ludicrous that we cannot take a bus or a simple train ride to the airport. The simple and cheap bus that afforded transportation to all three SFO

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

terminals was suddenly dropped about three years ago! Getting there now by train involves a ridiculous and confusing transition to BART, let alone the air train in the airport. It's all well and good to say that you want more housing at transportation hubs — but we must invest in frequent and efficient transportation options in order for people to use those hubs and get out of their cars. Please make improved public transportation a 2018 priority.

Name not shown in College Terrace (registered)

November 10, 2017, 11:33 AM

Reduce noise and air pollution from low flying aircraft. Demand that the altitudes of jets flying over Palo Alto be raised. I am constantly hearing planes over my house at all times of the day and night. I can't sleep well because planes wake me up every night. The quality of life in Palo Alto has been negatively affected by low flying planes, both jets and smaller aircraft. Air quality is also affected by low flying aircraft. Create laws that work to reduce air pollution. 35% of the lung cancer cases at Stanford Hospital are non-smoking related. Air pollution is one cause. Figure out how to enforce the gas blower ban. Enact a law that prohibits idling cars except when waiting at a traffic light. Create incentives for people to carpool, etc. Create more affordable housing. Create solutions to increased traffic.

maurice druzin in Crescent Park (registered)

November 10, 2017, 11:11 AM

It is almost 20 years since San Francisquito Creek overflowed and flooded so many homes, including ours. Those of us who were affected live in fear every winter. This could happen again! It is amazing that after all this time, the process of flood control is barely under way, and seems to be proceeding at a very slow pace. The 101 work is in its second year and continues, and upstream mitigation is only being discussed now. This should be a priority, and the timelines need to be accelerated. The Joint Powers authority seems to be unaware of how stressful this situation is for so many homeowners. The other priority needs to be the issue of parking, especially in our Crescent Park neighborhood, and the related horrendous traffic through our area. I would also like to voice my strong objection to a Dog Park at Eleanor Pardee, which is already heavily utilised with the park, sportsfield, picnic area and community garden. Those of us who live in the vicinity are constantly subjected to traffic, noise and unsanitary disposal of animal and human waste, and we do not need to further exacerbate these problems. If you add in the noise and disruption of the SFO air traffic, our wonderful neighborhood and quality of life is deteriorating. These issues need serious attention from our City staff and elected officials

Name not shown in Green Acres (registered)

November 10, 2017, 11:05 AM

More than anything I would like to have the AIRPLANE NOISE ELIMINATED! Please help do this.

Neilson Buchanan in Downtown North (registered)

November 10, 2017, 10:57 AM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

1. Proactive management of spillover traffic onto residential streets.. identify streets at risk, regularly monitor traffic levels. Make data available online
- 2 City staffing/budgets must match growing pressures from office growth, traffic, safety lapses and lost productivity. Adopt metrics for key risk areas.
- 3.Finance: Unfunded liabilities and new debt, ie dont over-leverage TOT. Move to pay as we go. No new debt over 20 year term. Scarce city funds should not pay for business property owner responsibilities. Prime example: the new Univ Ave garage. Redirect city funding for this garage to pay down of pension liabilities. Adopt Stanford University compensation policies for all city employees. This would create modernized, competitive compensation policies. Benchmarking city compensation to local cities is a race to mediocrity.

Andy Poggio in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 10, 2017, 10:42 AM

I urge the council to make Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) a priority for 2018. Palo Alto has a unique opportunity to offer its current and future residents and businesses (especially startups) extraordinary internet services (with symmetric, gigabit speeds) at reasonable prices. The incumbents (ATT and Comcast) have let us down for decades; the newcomer (Google) has recently let us down as well. The lesson here is that we must do it ourselves.

San Francisco is outpacing Palo Alto for new startups. Palo Alto can't create another North Beach or SOMA, but we can build FTTP. And the internet is a fundamental utility, much like electricity, used every day by nearly the entire community. For example, we use the internet much more than our libraries — but the city spends much more on the libraries.

A large concern is paying for FTTP. Palo Alto is uniquely positioned to cover FTTP costs. We have multiple funding sources:

1. Fiber utility fund, currently over \$20M.
2. Revenue bonds covered by future fiber utility income.
3. Onetime payments by new FTTP subscribers.
4. FTTP monthly subscription fees.

In total, these can cover the costs of FTTP.

Karen Price in College Terrace (registered)

November 10, 2017, 10:25 AM

Please make keeping older "Class C" professional office buildings a priority. Too many have been torn down already. These buildings are mainly rented by self employed professionals such as psychotherapists, Rolfers, family lawyers, accountants, insurance brokers, etc. When the buildings are gone we lose all these people that contribute so much to our community. We do NOT need more big shiny new buildings inhabited by tech companies that come and go and contribute nothing to the livability or stability of our community. Once these buildings and people are gone they do not come back. Thank you.

Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

November 10, 2017, 10:22 AM

Council Priorities 2018

Tell us your ideas for the 2018 Council Priorities!

Palo Alto is under pressure to add housing. With additional housing, our traffic becomes worse and it is more dangerous as people try to avoid clogged arterials.

I suggest solving the problem of roads and housing simultaneously with a low- or no-cost solution. For large arterials throughout the city, we can bury the roads. Housing, owned by the city, can then be built on top of the buried roads and rented out to pay for the expense of underground roads. Roads like Alma, Oregon Expressway, and parts of Middlefield are large enough that we can gain enough housing to offset the cost of making them tunnels. It should also improve traffic at intersections because these roads would no longer cross any other road.

Because the housing would be owned by the city, we can offer subsidized housing for our city workers, including teacher, police officers, and fire fighters.

I suggest that we will have few NIMBY problems for these roads that are already arterials because I think people would rather have a home near them than a loud and more dangerous road.

Dan Bloomberg in Barron Park (registered)

November 10, 2017, 10:17 AM

Highest priority: budget. Get out of the SEIU pension hole that we've been digging for the past 15+ years. It's not sustainable and is already preventing us from doing necessary maintenance and desirable projects. We must proceed immediately to buy our way out of CalPERS, and put all city employees on a 401K plan to which the city matches 50%. Work with other cities in California, so that if SEIU challenges with lawsuits, we will have many cities and counties fighting with us.
