



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Community Meeting Room

Palo Alto Civic Center

250 Hamilton Avenue

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

Commissioners Present: Kralik, Lee, Regehr, Savage, Smith, Stinger

Absent: None

Council Liaison: Council Member Tanaka

Staff: Minka van der Zwaag, Mary Constantino

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Kralik: Okay, the Human Relations Commission meeting, regular meeting of February 13th, will come to order. We'll begin with our roll call. Staff will call the roll. Thank you.

II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS

Chair Kralik: Item II is Agenda changes, requests and deletions and, you know, I understand that sometimes when we put together these agendas, minutes are assigned, and sometimes also people want to change the order of things for different reasons. So, speak up and just go ahead and mention anything in what you feel should be changed, okay?

Commissioner Regehr: I just have a request, which is also part of agenda. I would have preferred to have it scheduled, the speakers, at a time when we had more time for full discussion, because tonight we have an important thing about the election, which we only allocated 15 minutes for. So, I would like to suggest that the introductions to our speakers and our thank-yous are left very briefly and we try to hold all our questions. So, we limit our questions.

Chair Kralik: Well, it's always been official to let the speakers speak, and I know if we can limit some of the questions that it will move us along and keep to the timeframe.

Commissioner Regehr: Also, the introduction and the thank-yous.

Chair Kralik: All right, great, sure.

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III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Kralik: Okay, oral communications from the public. We have three cards, but they're all to Aram James. Aram has identified parole and the ITC – I'm not exactly sure...

Aram James: I'm sorry my handwriting is not that great.

Chair Kralik: Well, come on in, you have to... Yes, he has difficulty with his disability, so we're going to let him go ahead and sit at the table. Yes, if you press the button right there. Three minutes on this one. You have two other comments. One is on item number 2...

Mr. James: Mr. Chair...

Chair Kralik: ... and the other is on item number 4, so just hold those other two, and...

Mr. James: I was under the impression that oral communication was 5, according to the agenda.

Chair Kralik: It can be if you want to spend that time, but we ask you to try...

Mr. James: I try to do the best I can.

Chair Kralik: Okay.

Mr. James: One of my favorite books is *Make No Law: The Sullivan Case and the First Amendment*. I always like to remind public bodies that the core principle of the First Amendment is the right to criticize public officials. To do that harshly, even unpleasantly. Now, it doesn't mean we need to do that, but when I hear civil engagements, sometimes what I hear is, let's self-censor. So, it's a book that Anthony Lewis, who also wrote *Gideon's Trumpet*, it's a gem of a book if you want to know about the history of the First Amendment and what our citizen rights are in that regard. Okay. I apologize, but I'm going to read a little bit here. This is a letter I wrote. It was published in the *Daily Post*, Monday, December 16th, 2019, called City – this is the *Daily Post* – City foot-dragging. [Reading] *Dear Editor: In response to the Post's story on Saturday, More Police Secrecy Proposed, quote-unquote, I find it difficult to reconcile the alleged racist conduct of Palo Alto police captain Zach Perron and the systematic foot-dragging by city officials in refusing to release this long-overdue investigation. It's difficult not to reconcile – not to conclude, excuse me – that we're watching an ongoing cover-up. The alleged incident dates back to January 20, 2014. Note that I had four years; it should have been six years ago. Not only has the investigation not been released, but Captain Perron was rewarded with a promotion. The longer this incident is allowed to fester, the more likely it will catch fire with the public, the press, social meeting, and social justice groups like Black Lives Matter. If our city were really concerned with any of the longstanding animus between the African American community and the police, the Perron investigation would be released immediately.* So, I started out with, who's going to be the Mitt Romney of the Palo Alto HRC? Who is going to be the Mitt Romney of the Palo Alto City Council? Who will step up and lead a movement that demands that the City of Palo Alto Chief Robert Jonsen, the City Attorney Molly Stump, our City Manager Ed Shikada, and our City Council, release the investigation regarding Captain Zach

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Perron? I really would think it would be important for all of you who were not present on December 16th, 2019, to watch agenda item Number 16, where they were talking about the independent police auditor, OIR, Group and how they were going to take allegations of misconduct and categorize them either as personnel, which would then secretly go by way of the HR department, versus going down the normal path and letting our independent police auditor investigate the matter. It's outrageous, if the allegations are true and, by the way, here's the paper that, when it was finally leaked to the public back on May 21st, 2019, we know what the story is, but is anybody going to take action? I know there's been some really great people that wrote to the *Palo Alto Weekly*, but you need to watch the December 16th agenda item Number 16 to see an exercise in obfuscation, where the City Council sat there for an hour and never asked the operative question of the executive members there – the police chief, Molly Stump, Ed Shikada. I hope I didn't mispronounce that. Not one of them said, when are you going to release it? When are you going to release this investigation? Now, the last time I was at an HRC meeting, I was sitting here with Zach Perron. I've always had gotten along with Zach. That night, Susan Dremann wrote up about body-worn cameras. So, it was a few years back, and I've talked with Zach about the homeless incident. But you know what? My sons are both African American, they both grew up in Palo Alto, they both swim, and when I said, "What do you want me to do about this?" They said, "Dad, we've grown up in Palo Alto. They're not going to do anything about this. You go ahead and do your thing, dad, but we're not coming down." I want you to know what it feels like to hear that kind of language, to have to talk to my boys and... One facing the police, and one here, that Zach Perron, who grew up here in Palo Alto just like I did, Paly High, Gunn High, doesn't want to stand up and at least explain it. Because I'm for restorative justice. If the man comes forward and tells us what was going on, hey, I'm okay with that. I'm okay with that. But be man enough to talk to me. Sit down with your kids and my kids, and let's find out why.... Okay. Thank you very much.

Chair Kralik: And I know that you have two other speaker cards that will come up.

IV. BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Kory Amaral, Executive Director of the Bay Area Western Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

Chair Kralik: All right. First line of business is to introduce Reese Levasseur, President of the Bay Area & Western Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and also Kory Amaral, Executive Director. This is a discussion item for 20 minutes. This is a new group visiting our Commission, and we welcome both you gentlemen, and look forward to hearing about your human relations work in the community. Thank you.

Reese Levasseur: Thank you guys for the invitation. I'd like to introduce Kory Amaral, and he'll start off the presentation.

Kory Amaral: Like Reese said, I'm Kory Amaral, Executive Director for the Bay Area & Western Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. We're actually located in VA Palo Alto Healthcare System, so we're actually lucky because we're the only non-profit in the VA in terms of VSOs. So, although we are in the Palo Alto VA, we also cover VA's across California and

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Hawaii, so we do have a big scope of how many members we do have across California and Hawaii, as well. Like Reese said, he is the President and I am the Executive Director, but we do have nine board members, and four of them are elected as directors. Reese is the President. We have Sebastian, which is our Vice President. We also have Steve as our Treasurer, and Ken as our Secretary. Our mission statement is all of our veterans have spinal cord injury or disease. They are seen at VA Palo Alto. We have members who go there for their annuals. Basically, what our job is to make sure that our veterans have barrier-free access to healthcare at the VA. We're fighting always to have special need care be in the VA system.

Mr. Levasseur: I would like to talk a little bit more about the eight mandated programs that we try to run through our organization. The first one is our membership. Without our membership, our organization wouldn't be around, so we want to support and acquire those members that have a spinal cord injury or disease. We also cover Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, and the Samoan Islands, as well. We have about 500-and-something veterans in our case, and there's a thousand and some change that actually get seen with a spinal cord injury at Palo Alto Health Care. The other thing that we provide – and this is the main, one of our good services – and that's the National Service Officer. That's the VSO. That's the gentleman that reaches these veterans when they first get injured, whether it's service-connected or post-service, or what we call non-service connection. They get to those veterans and explain what our organization does. They help them with their claims and benefits and what kind of program that they are qualified for throughout the VA, whether it's home care, bowel care, vehicles, the ability to get back into driving and continue with life. The other thing that we do is hospital liaisons program, and that chapter, part of our chapter organization, we do meals, we do holidays, Tuesday brunches. When our veterans come in for their annual visits and they have to fast for their blood work, we try to give them something to do or a meal to eat prior to lunch so they're not starving. We also do bingo games and activities throughout the week or month with our veterans that are inpatients, to give them something out of their room to socialize. A lot of the information our veterans get is information from veterans, so they get to learn more about how they can deal with life, and how they can cope with this type of an injury. The other thing that we do is fundraising. So, of course, we have to fill our budget, we are right around \$300,000 per year. We get a little bit of a grant from the national organization, and it's around \$100,000, so we do a lot to try and make those programs beefier so our veterans can enjoy those type of activities. We do that through grant writing, our golf tournament, wine fundraisers, and our direct mail. The other bigger thing that we're going to be doing, and we're going to be doing that at the end of this month, is advocacy. We actually get together with congressmen and senators and talk about a lot of the important problems and needs that are happening at the Palo Alto VA, and also within the city and the towns. This doesn't just help our veterans. When we advocate for the ADA laws and the Air Carrier Act and some of those type of benefits, it makes the world more accessible and boundary-free. It doesn't just help our veterans, but it helps anybody with a disability. The other thing we do is sports and recreation. We have two big events that our organization helps fund. It's a winter sports clinic. We send about 20-25 veterans to Colorado, to Aspen, to what we call Miracle on the Hill. This is an opportunity for them to learn how to do snow skiing, mono skiing, in a sled, without having to be standing. They can do sled hockey, cross-country skiing. They do, it's not shuffleboard, but it's curling, where they do the stones across the ice, and all that kind of stuff. They get a really good break-in to what kind of activities they can still do with a spinal cord injury. And we call it

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Miracle on the Hill because these two opportunities change our lives. For example, I served in the Marine Corps for 10 years. I'll go back and explain that. I did 10 years in the Marine Corps, from 1992 to 2002. I saw the end of Desert Storm and the beginning part of Iraqi Freedom. I actually came home afterwards and got hurt on a motorcycle, three years after I got out. So, at the very beginning of my time as a civilian, I did not know that I had VA rights. Not being service-connected, I didn't know that the VA and this organization could help me. I happened to run into a person, got me into the VA, got me into Palo Alto, and it changed my life dramatically. I got to do kayaking, I got to do both the summer and winter sport clinics, I got to ski – all those things that we did... because I went to Barstow when I was in the Marine Corps. We did cold weather training, we did skiing, all that kind of stuff in the military, and it was just nice to get back into that type of lifestyle, not knowing I could still do those things. To the point now, when it comes to sports and recreation, I actually teach disabled kayaking to our veterans. I wanted to give back with what I learned. Sorry, sports is my favorite spot. The other activity we do is the summer wheelchair games. This is our summer sport. This is weightlifting, cross-country, javelin, swimming, archery – all those types of summer sports. Golf and this year, it's going to be in Portland, Oregon. It's going to be during Fourth of July weekend, so we're going to be in an awesome town, and seeing the fireworks, and having a camaraderie with other veterans during that time at a patriotic event. And being able to compete and be with sports. The other thing that we do is research and education. So, we help make sure that the staff, nursing and doctor staff, is well trained in the spinal cord portion of our healthcare and makes sure that the veteran gets the utmost attention to make sure that we're not getting injured or going down the road of pressure sores and things of that nature. Which is actually one of the things that when we go to the ER on a civilian site, that is part of what's happening. We actually get injured going to the ER because the care in their specialty is not quite as advanced as the VA healthcare. So, it's really important to keep that VA healthcare. And then, we also send staff to our PVA summit and education and conferences, so we help offset their income to make sure they're using their time to get their education, and just helping them out. We use communication for our newsletter, and that is in your blue bag, our last month. We do that quarterly through snail mail. We're trying to save a little bit on paper by not doing it monthly or bimonthly, but we do have a monthly e-bridge, which is our electronic emails that we send out monthly to our veterans and let them know what the chapter, the hospital, what's going on, where they can get things. And of course, like everyone else nowadays, we're always using Facebook, Twitter, and our website to get information out to our veterans.

Mr. Amaral: Can I just add on a little bit? So, people do get confused. There is a national organization that started in 1946, which is located in DC, but there are 33 chapters. We are the one that covers Northern California and Hawaii and it is hard because people state, "Oh, we donate to you all the guys." But it's not. They donate to the national organization, so they get that confusion. We do have two different federal ID numbers, so we just want to make that clear. The good thing is that we stand out up here in Palo Alto because we try to go to all of these events that, you know, the Chamber events and the City events, to try and get the word out. The problem is there are a lot of VSO's out there, veteran service organizations, but ours is very specific for spinal cord injury. So, I think it makes us stand out a little bit. So, just added that. Go ahead, Reese.

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Mr. Levasseur: That's pretty much our presentation at this time. We will open up the floor for any questions.

Chair Kralik: Okay, I'm just going to start with one question. I'm an ombudsman for long-term healthcare, and I visit several thousand patients in Santa Clara. And I wanted to ask you, because some of them are specialty hospitals. Outside of the VA, where are the paralyzed veterans that are in their group? Do they stay in their homes, or are they in any kind of specialized facilities?

Mr. Levasseur: We do have some catchment for veterans that are dealing with certain wounds and injuries that are in long-term care facilities, to help them monitor and go through, work with those type of wounds that can't help, change their bandages and stuff on their own. I don't have specific numbers, but with our organization, we try and get a lot of veterans back to their homes. We want to make sure that their homes are accessible and that they can live with their family and loved ones and have that... You have a better quality of life when you're in an environment that you want to be in. Do you have numbers, or...?

Mr. Amaral: So, Valley Medical Center is the only other place in the Bay Area that does spinal cord injury, but we obviously want our veterans here in Palo Alto, at the VA. Another thing is, our SCI center is getting dated. It's from the 80's. So, they're looking to build a new one, and that will include long-term care, which is very important because veterans are dying in nursing homes because the staff doesn't know how to treat spinal cord injury. So, it's a major issue. But the good news is, hopefully soon – you know how the VA works, everything is very slow – we're looking for having those 20 beds in the community long-term care.

Chair Kralik: Any further questions? Go ahead.

Commissioner Lee: First, I just wanted to say thank you for your service and thank you for all of the work that you're doing through this great organization. I have a lot of questions, but hopefully I'll be able to meet with you offline. The one that I'm going to ask is regarding slide 9. I'm wondering if you could speak to, what are things that cities like Palo Alto could do perhaps better in terms of ensuring that facilities and programs are more ADA compliant and more accessible to folks with all abilities. Is there any one thing that you think cities could do better?

Mr. Amaral: Accessible parking. That's the major issue we see every day. And yes, there's many accessible parking spots, but they're not van accessible. So, the thing is, our veterans are not able to get out of their cars because they have ramps, or they have lifts. So, that's one thing that we see all time, and that our members have problems with. Do you have anything to add?

Mr. Levasseur: I was thinking the parking, and... One of my comments is, even though we need specialty parking, realistically, we don't need that parking to be at the front of the building. We don't mind rolling through the parking lot to get to the store. It's extra exercise for us. The biggest thing is, is that little space, the 70-something inches so that our ramps and stuff can come out and then we can still have room to get up it without the other car being next to us, is the real need that we have. And then, like everything else, it's always the painting. After so many months or years, the painting fades, that no-parking spot fades, and nine out of 10 times, there's another car that parks in that spot that blocks us from being able to get in and out of our vehicles.

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Chair Kralik: Okay. Thank you so much for coming, and we really appreciate the efforts you're making in the community to help our veterans.

Mr. Levasseur: Thank you for letting us present.

Chair Kralik: Okay.

2. Presentation by Rachael Tanner, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Environment, on the Safe Parking Pilot program and next steps

Chair Kralik: We're going to move on to Item 2, which is a presentation by Rachael Tanner, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Environment, on Safe Parking pilot program and next steps. This is a staff and Commissioner Lee item, so, Commissioner Lee, feel free to introduce.

Ms. van der Zwaag: I was just going to spend a moment to just introduce my colleague, Rachael. So glad that she could be with us tonight. And it looks like another colleague is there, who we may not have met before. But thank you for coming, for spending the time, and to share the information about what the Council has given you direction for.

Rachael Tanner: Thank you for having us here. Is it okay if I unplug this computer and plug mine in? Or will disaster happen if I...? I have a PowerPoint presentation. I just want to make sure that it's all right.

[Setting up PowerPoint]

Commissioner Lee: Let me just add some brief comments. This is an issue that the City has been working on for quite a long time. When I first joined the Commission about two and a half years ago, this was a topic that this Commission discussed with the Council during one of our joint study sessions. At that time, a majority of the Council thought that this was an issue worth re-exploring. So, I was very excited to see that Vice Mayor Dubois and Councilmember Kou had put together a colleagues' memo on this member about six or seven months ago, and I'm very gratified to see that Council was very receptive to that, and all of the work that staff has already done and will continue to do on this issue. As we know, homelessness in particular has gone up by double digits in Palo Alto, and most communities in California. So, I want to thank you in advance for all of your work and look forward to hearing what you've done so far and what your future plans are. So, thank you very much for coming.

Ms. Tanner: Thank you so much, Commissioner Lee and Commission. I'm very glad to be here. Council Member Tanaka. I have a brief slide presentation for you, and I have with me my colleague, Nicole Laureola. She is relatively new to the City, but she will be my right hand in working on this project in the Planning & Development Services. We're fortunate to have her here so she can help keep me on track. If you have any questions or follow-up, we're happy to be in touch. The last slide does have my contact information and email, as well as Nicole's, so if you need to get hold of us, please don't hesitate to reach out and thank you, Minka, for inviting us to speak here this evening. I'm just going to briefly share a little bit about the program as

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proposed, and I think at the outset, we'd like to say this program really... I'm grateful that I've been able to do this work, but it really is a collaboration with the community. We as the Planning & Development Services Department, and the City as a whole, are creating a process of framework for the programs to operate, but really, it's going to be the congregations, it's going to be the non-profit organizations, that are going to make this thing work. So, the way that we can be helpful and the ways that we can facilitate, we want to do that. We want to be good partners, but I think as this rolls out, the hats will really go off to the congregations and those men and women who are willing to work and become part of this program, which I look forward to working with them. So, it's fortunate that we're here on February 13th. We were just at City Council on January 13th. So, literally a month ago, we took this ordinance for first reading, and now we're here to share it with you all. I'll do an overview of Safe Parking for those who may not know what it is and those who are watching at home and here, just to provide some background. Talk a little bit about the City Council and the committee actions that brought us here. And then, talk a little bit about the proposed Tier 1 Program and the recommendation that we made to Council, which they fortunately made some amendments and then did pass, and will come back on February 24th. So, Safe Parking programs broadly provide safe, secure locations where households using a vehicle as their primary residence can park the vehicle overnight and sleep in their vehicle. So, I think it's important to note that these programs, the impact that they have, is somewhat limited. Safe parking programs cannot solve issues related to homelessness and folks who are dwelling in their vehicles. Addressing homelessness, including those who are dwelling in vehicles, requires a multi-pronged approach. This is just one part of helping persons who are struggling with housing instability and even with an effective and successful safe parking program, let's say everybody who came to a parking lot found stable housing, they would only be a fraction of persons who are dealing with homelessness, and a fraction of those who are dwelling in vehicles. I think it's important to set ourselves up for what success looks like with these programs. Who is served by safe parking? There may be families that include minors. Could be single adults; could be couples; could be several families together, that are living together. They might be in recreational vehicles, so often RVs are somewhat more noticeable because of their size. But folks are living in passenger cars, they're living in vans, trucks, and the vehicles in many programs must be registered or insured and the drivers must have a valid license. Now, all programs don't operate under that condition. Different parking operators may have avenues to help folks get insured, get registered, but again, part of the goal is to ensure that the vehicles are operational, and they can be driven, and that if folks are leaving their parking lot, that they're doing so safely and would not be... If they were in accident or something happened, they wouldn't be injuring someone else and where do these happen? Most safe parking programs, which there has been an uptrend in California and other coastal communities that struggle with homelessness, to have more of these programs. They are often on publicly owned or publicly leased land, as well as congregations and there is some exploration of whether or not private businesses or other land would be open to this. I think you can imagine some of the hesitancy they may have, but certainly something that we continue to explore, and perhaps as these programs become not too common, hopefully we can stem homelessness so they're not everywhere, but maybe there may be some private sector partners who want to be engaged in this work. Some of the City Council actions and committee actions. This started back in June of last year. As Commissioner Lee mentioned, there was a colleagues' memorandum from Council Member Kou and Council Member Dubois that was referred to the Policy & Services Committee

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to craft the program details. In September, I did a bunch of research, kind of looked at different programs, talked to program operators, especially City of Mountain View, City of East Palo Alto, understanding our two closest neighbors, what they've done, and brought forward an overview of some of the programs, how do they work, how might we consider our program. Policy & Services directed staff to return with a program for up to four vehicles. That's what we're calling the Tier 1 program. There's Tier 1, 2 and 3. Tier 1 for us is this pilot program of four vehicles or fewer parked at congregations or religious institutions. We hope to see a Tier 2 program, which would be more than four vehicles, perhaps at congregations or other privately-owned land and then, the Tier 3 would be publicly owned or leased land that the City or Council and partners might make available for safe parking. We want to keep developing the Tier 2 and 3 while we are getting this Tier 1 up and running. We returned in November with the details for that program to the Policy & Services Committee, which Council Member Tanaka, along with Council Member Kniss and Council Member Kou, helped to craft and give us direction for. And then, we brought that plan forward to the full City Council in January, and for the first reading of ordinance. It's anticipated that on February 24, 2020, the second reading will happen, and the ordinance will be adopted and then, 30 days later, the program is operational, and the ordinance is in effect, and we can begin to accept applications. So, we are really gearing up towards that date. Again, I went over this, what the Tier 1, 2 and 3 of the programs would be. Some of this will be redundant, but again, limited to four vehicles or fewer: parking lots of legal congregations and religious institutions. The programs can operate during the pilot period. The ordinance initially was going to expire in March 2022. The Council did decide to strike that from the measure, but I think that it's important to note that our goal is that by that time, still, we want to have a full ordinance that, whether it's we learn from this program and we revise the Tier 1, we've added Tier 2 and 3. So, I think it's important to keep that date as, like, that's our date to make sure that we're still, in these two years, working towards the next step. The approved permits are valid for 18 months, so once a congregation goes through the process to get a permit, it's good for a year and a half. That is subject to revocation, you know, if an operator, for example, wasn't following the rules, if there were constant complaints, you know, over a period of time, there is a process for revocation. But we hope we would not need to avail ourselves of that and all operations are subject to application and approval. So, we would hope to see congregations coming and working with the City, with their operators to get their permits, not just opening their parking lots to folks. So, that's kind of the process that we're hoping that we'll see. Permits can be appealed, and they are appealed directly to the City Council. I'm going to go a little bit more into the process, so, if there are congregations listening or pastors who are here, if you can think about how this might apply to your congregation. Application is filed by the congregation or religious institution. Again, the permit is to that property, to that religious institution. And the application will include contact information for the congregation, obviously. And we want to see a signed contract with a safe parking program provider. Again, there are several non-profits in the Bay Area and our region that are operating in this space, that operate, I think, you know, LifeMoves, Project WeHope, Lots of Love, that we've referred to in our research for this program, and we hope that congregations will turn to these professionals who know how to operate these programs, are connected to our county social service system, so that the folks who are using this program are not just there overnight, but they're really connected to a system and services that can help to help them find stable housing, and I think the good thing about that for congregations who are interested but worry, how many volunteers will we have to

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organize? How are we going to set this up? Is that this road has been trod, so they can work with these providers to help to guide them and use best practices. That's kind of, really to the next bullet, the evidence of case management services. We want to see that these folks are connected to the larger social service system. We're going to ask for a site plan, which will indicate the designated safe parking area. So, if you have a large parking lot, where is the arrow where you are thinking these four vehicles would park? Making sure that there is enough space between them so that people are not packed in there, but they have some space for privacy, but also kind of co-located for safety and security. Which, again, is a big part of this program, is helping people to have safe places to park, and helping them be connected to resources. We want to see restroom and handwashing facilities available to the participants. We would love to see folks have showers. It can be a big push or a big burden to have showers for only four households, but some congregations may have those resources, or congregations may be able to pull together. We feel that could help to enhance the dignity for the persons who are living in their vehicles, but we didn't want to make that a requirement because that might be too prohibitive to get this pilot going. But we do encourage congregations to make that available if possible, and then, we would want to see adherence to all the standards of operation. Again, I was just speaking with a congregation today, saying, "Well, did you have this in your standards? Do you have a rule about this?" And I said, you know, we really are setting the floor or the guardrails, so if there are best practices that congregations and the safe parking provider want to impose, that's up to them. So, for example, some congregations in Mountain View serve only cars. That is totally within their rights to decide we're going to serve cars versus RVs, and those populations tend to be different in terms of the needs that they have and the ways that they use the safe parking, so that's a decision that congregation, with their provider, are going to need to make. It's not a decision that the City is going to make on behalf of the congregations and the non-profit that they work with. Getting a little bit into planner land of what the mechanics are behind this. Application submitted and reviewed. It is approved under what's called a Director's decision, so Jonathan Lait, our Director, me and Nicki, will present and say we think they've met all the qualifications, this is a good application to approve. He will review that, hopefully agree with us. Finding that the use complies with the standards of operation, that the location won't adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of persons residing or working in the area, and that the site is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the use. That letter of approval would be issued. That would go out to neighbors within 600 feet of the site, so folks would be notified by that process. But we would encourage congregations, again, to work with their neighbors, to do community outreach ahead of time, so that the first thing they get isn't a, you know, a nice letter from the City, but something that is coming from the congregation, again, on their behalf. So, neighbors would have the opportunity to appeal within 14 calendar days once the notice is mailed. I'm sorry I neglected to take off the italicized thing. Staff initially did not recommend the 600 feet, but Council did feel that was good in order to provide ample notice. Many of you may know that several years ago, this effort was underway, and as soon as a congregation said we're going to be hosting safe parking, they got pushback. They then reneged on that and did not pursue it. So, I think an overabundance of caution to let more people know. Let's take the flack if people do want to push back, and that's in their rights to appeal. It will appeal directly to the City Council, and the City Council could either, it will be on consent and they could either side with the Director's decision and say no, we think that this is an appropriate place for safe parking to occur, or they could say, let's pull it off of consent, let's have a hearing. At that time, they may

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still affirm the Director's decision, or they may say no, we do agree this is not, with the appellant, we don't believe this is an appropriate site for safe parking. So, that is the appeal process and they will be placed on a consent calendar, is what I just said and a little bit about the standards of operation. The hours are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Again, this is the floor, so it might be shorter within that time period. It might be the entire time; up to the congregation. No noise, audio, video, or other amplified sound can be generated that's audible outside of their vehicles. Requirements for toilet and handwashing sink. Partnership with case management. The contact information is posted, both contact information for the program operator, the police non-emergency number, as well as 911, if there was any type of emergency like that. That the premise will be maintained safe, cleanly and orderly, and that the revocation would be, the permit may be revoked if it's found to be detrimental to public health, safety or general welfare. Next steps is City Council will consider the ordinance on the 24th on the consent agenda, so if you would like to send a message to them to support, comment or otherwise you may do so and then, we will have a meeting with interested congregations and safe parking operators. We want to make sure that the application that we set up, all the procedures we're going to follow, align with what the program operators need and provide and what the congregations want to know and then, we'll finalize the application forms and begin accepting applications in March, so we are looking forward to that, and I think we, again, want to be partners with congregations as they do their outreach. Any way we can be helpful when they're meeting with their communities or neighbors, we look forward to participating in that. That concludes my presentation. Again, there's my contact information, Nicole's contact information, should you or others be interested in reaching out. We are available for questions.

Chair Kralik: Yes, I just wanted to start out by asking if you and Nicole can speak briefly about what brought you to do the work that you do.

Ms. Tanner: That's a great question. You can get ready to answer that yourself; I'll take it first. Where to begin? When I was a child... No. So, just a brief thumbnail of my history. I am from Michigan originally and have been in California for about seven years. I came here after grad school to work in Long Beach, and then, I worked in the City and County of San Francisco as a planner, and now here, in Palo Alto. I will say specifically this work does hit on part of my past, which was community organizing the very first part of my career, working with congregations. So, I know the power that they have when people get together and decide they want to do something. It's pretty amazing. And congregations are pretty awesome. People just deciding, hey, this is what we believe in, put their money and their time into something, and they do these amazing things. I also, in that role, worked really closely with our local city and county government to try to work on policies. At that time, we also had a homelessness problem. This is back in Michigan, hometown. So, we worked really hard on the Housing First policy, was the program that we worked in. It takes good people out of government and in government, working together to make changes, so that's what I love to do. This is definitely a highlight program. Unfortunately, it's just a drop in the bucket of what we need to deal with homelessness, but it's really been a joy to work on this.

Chair Kralik: Thank you for your dedication. Nicole, how about yourself? Tell us a little bit about how you came to do this work.

Ms. Laureola: Sure. Oddly enough, similarly, I have worked in community organizing for, what we call Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, which is an environmental justice organization in the Bronx. I'm originally from Los Angeles and did my city planning in New York. Came back, and then moved up here. I want to echo what Rachael was saying, about how amazing it is to have community members come together and facilitate a program like this, and to create that sort of connection is kind of why I think I do this. I'm glad to be on the program.

Chair Kralik: Thanks so much for coming in and talking to us tonight. Commissioner Lee.

Commissioner Lee: I have just one question. Thank you so much for coming. So, the HRC is an advisory body to the City Council, and as staff my understanding is that the ordinance coming in a couple of weeks is for Tier 1. As staff continues to work with PMS on Tier 2 and Tier 3 towards that sort of March of 2022 deadline... And this is a question both for staff, and we have two council members in the room. How can this body as an advisory commission provide the most useful input or assistance to the ongoing work, the ongoing decision-making that's going to be happening at the Council level? I'm wondering if you could just share your thoughts on that. Because we as a body always struggle with, how do we add value without getting in the way? Could you just speak to how you might envision the HRC and if our two council members would, have any thoughts, please speak up. Thank you.

Ms. Tanner: I'll take a swing at that question, and maybe Council Member Tanaka wants to speak to it. I know Council Member Cormack is also leading Council Member Dubois's effort to look at our boards and commissions and think about how to ensure their maximum effectiveness, because all of you are putting in so much of your time, and to how to make the best use of the time and energy. I will say, I think one of the benefits... I'll just speak. I spoke with Pastor Smith today on the phone to talk about this very program. The benefit that you all have that I don't – I live in San Francisco – this is your community. You have real connections with real people who are going to be putting their money where their mouth is to operate specifically safe parking, and even as Tiers 2 and 3 roll out, there may be opposition, there may be support. You are the best, perhaps, to help us know, what are folks saying? What are the worries? What are the concerns? Where are the opportunities? Who should we be reaching out to? Who should we be talking to? So, I know that that connection is really, really important, and to the degree that this meeting is a forum for some deliberation and decisions to happen, I think that's helpful for staff, and I imagine also for our council members. It's also a little, not that it's a casual meeting, but it might be more easy for some folks to come here and speak than be intimidated by speaking in front of Council. Sometimes it's easier to have a dialog here than when things are at the Council level. So, if we can work things out through here as well as through the committees, I think that's a big advantage for all of us.

Commissioner Regehr: Hi, I'm Patti Regehr. I have a couple questions. One is, because that is, safe parking was one of my, when I interviewing that I really want to be involved, because I've been working with Mountain View a little bit on this and one is, has there been any thoughts of having just a women's parking lot? Because I know people that are living in cars, for women specifically, it is a safety item for them. Having one lot just for women?

Ms. Tanner: Before I answer that question, I don't know if Council Member Tanaka wanted to speak to the previous question, about how the HRC could be most helpful?

Council Member Tanaka: Sure. Yes. So, this is my first HRC meeting here, so I really appreciate you guys inviting me, and I'm actually glad you guys have this on your agenda because I actually think that you guys could do a lot of really great work here that could help us on Council make better decisions. So, you know, I think Tier 1 is just kind of the basics. There's a lot more that we could potentially do as a city, but we want to make sure we do it right. As Rachael spoke about, you know, a similar idea happened in the past, and there was a lot of controversy about it. So, I think for this program to work well, there's a lot of detail that has to happen, right? I think the big advantage, kind of staff said, that you guys have is that you guys are very connected to the community, right? This is kind of your ball of wax, so to speak. So, on Council, I would really like, if you guys could do, is get feedback from the community. I think this is just now starting to get out there to the community, but you guys have really deep, personal networks, if you could reach out to people in the community, kind of get feedback on what they think, what are some of the issues they see, what's good about it, what's bad about it. I think really understanding all different perspectives and doing that kind of footwork. Because I think it's hard for staff because they only really hear inbound. But you guys can do outbound. You can hear the voice of the average Palo Alto. So, I think if you guys can do this, that would be really great, because on Council, this is one of many, many different issues that we're dealing with. But as the HRC, this is something that you guys could really focus on and become subject matter experts. So, I think that's, first and foremost, is really understanding people's concern. Some of the concerns I've heard from community members is, one, of course, that people there are safe, right? So, that's a good point about maybe a women's only, or other things. That's one thing, is safety, right? Another concern I've heard, and this is some of the motivation is right now, the RVs are parked on the street. Is that the right place to park them? Will this help them move the RVs off the street? That's a big question, right? That's something that almost immediately after we voted on this the other time around, we started to getting emails about people very concerned about, well, how does this get the RVs off the street? Because some people are concerned about how it causes visibility, makes the lanes narrower, etc., etc. So, I think understanding those perspectives. Or people who have complained about, like, there's a lot of generators, and a generator is, like, to keep things running with it, you smell the fumes, or hear the generator run. Or they're going to plug into the church, right? So, all those kinds of things. I'm just scratching the surface, but I think really, deeply understanding these issues, the pros and the cons. All the things because I think as a City, I don't know if we're really done... I mean, city parking is just a small part of the overall problem because you really become experts in this issue from the different perspectives. I think that would be great, right? In fact, I think it would be great if you guys could even understand who lives in these RVs, right? I know that some people in RVs are people who maybe have houses other places, but they're working here at Stanford, or working on construction, or whatever. That's maybe one group. In another group, there's people who are truly, you know, this is the only place to live. and I think that's probably what the safe parking is more targeted towards and then, there's other people who I heard this one guy has an Airbnb going, and he rents out a bunch of them, and disables the engine, which is a little bit crazy. So, that's another class of people. And that's one I don't think we're trying to service, right? So, how do we deal with people like that? So, I think really trying to understand, who are these people in

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these RVs? What is their circumstance? I think would be really great. The other part that I think would be great to understand is, so, I was talking to some of my colleagues in Mountain View. Mountain View kind of precedes us, right? They've been trying to do this for a little bit longer. Some of their council members told me that it hasn't quite worked the way they thought it would work, right? You know, some of the intent from them I think there hasn't been as many people going to safe parking as they thought, and also, it didn't really affect in terms of taking some of the RVs off the street. Because I think everyone in the community wants to be compassionate about who is living in these RVs, but I think the intent was also to provide a safe place for RVs to go and it hasn't quite happened that way and now, the conversation I had with my fellow council members if Mountain View is like a five-minute discussion, so I can't do it justice. I'm hoping that the HRC could do that, talk to maybe your colleagues in other cities who have similar programs. Understand what worked, what didn't work. Because I think by taking best practices from other cities, we could perhaps make this program even more successful.

Commissioner Smith: Thank you. One of the challenges in Mountain View is that each congregation decides on the population that it serves and the ordinance here is written the same way. So, if St. Timothy, I think, the Catholic Church in Mountain View, actually only does women, I believe, and I know that there are congregations here that are interested in doing it. The significant hurdles from the faith-based community – and I and Rachael have a meeting with a group of churches that really want to do this, on the 25th – is, first of all, in talking to the CSA's, there is the issue of funding. I don't know. We've been given numbers into six figures to run a program, because you need case workers, which is one salary; you need people to monitor facilities, XYZ, because churches don't have case managers. So, the question becomes: How do you fund the program?

Council Member Tanaka: That's a good question. I would love it if you guys could continue to talk to other local cities, people who have done programs like this, counterparts in other cities, to really find out what's working, what hasn't worked. I think continue to kind of do that and see how we can learn, right? Learn from others.

Ms. Tanner: I'm available for any other questions that folks might have.

Chair Kralik: Well, it sounds like this is just the start. Valerie, would you like a question?

Commissioner Stinger: I do have a question. First of all, thank you. This is an excellent presentation and an exciting first step. I saw that you had the communication to the neighbors that a program was going to be instituted, but I wondered if you also had some thoughts about a PR or communication plan subsequently, to put some articles in the press. Talk to next door...?

Ms. Tanner: Yes, and I think in terms of letting folks know that the program is available, to get applicants, or just kind of throughout the process – Is that what you're thinking?

Commissioner Stinger: I was thinking that in the past, some of my neighbors, in some of the letters to the editor that I've seen in the paper, have been negative, and I think that maybe there can be some proactive...

Ms. Tanner: Positive?

Commissioner Stinger: ... to set the tone, so that we help people understand the upside of a program in this community.

Ms. Tanner: Yes, I think that is a great suggestion. I think that, you know, my mind is aspiring, in terms of the previous question, in terms of what's a role the HRC can plan, and the congregations. I think as staff, we have to walk a fine line as being, you know, servants to the public, and advocates, and implanting what the City Council has directed us to and at the same time, try to be fair. So, I think that's a great role for HRC members, if they're supportive, to be authors of those letters to the editor, to try to explain more about the issue. We can certainly provide information as staff and kind of explain, I think. You know, when folks don't know what to expect, there can be a lot of fear, when they don't know who it is. But, hopefully by the fact that it's four vehicles, folks who are already dwelling in their vehicle. So, whether they're in this parking lot or parked at the curbside, there may not be a difference for the homeowner or the neighbor, but there's a difference for that person, in that they feel safer. So, how to kind of think about this in a more rational way than like a, oh, my gosh, what might happen next door to me, kind of way. You know, I'm looking forward to speaking with [inaudible]. One thing that came to my mind today is, a lot of our congregations are on Middlefield Road, so if there are several that choose to participate, some members of the community might worry about over-concentration, or things like that. So, I think there's got to be a concerted effort on the part of those congregations to really do some proactive outreach and some discussions with people who live nearby, and kind of maybe in the broader local media, to help to assuage some of the fears that may come with the program's rolling out. But I think that's a really good point. We did, our City communications team did draft a blog post. We're starting to do more blogs and kind of trying to be more on social media, so there was a post about this program. So, hopefully once it rolls out, we can keep some of that going as well, proactively.

Commissioner Smith: One of the reasons I ended up talking to Rachael today was because nine of the churches that basically are on the Middlefield corridor, we know at least one or two that have the congregational wherewithal and will to do it and one of the things we want to do is set up a public open house meeting before we even get to doing applications. Because I think there's a little bit of distrust if you do the application and then say go along. We're trying to do something in the March timeframe that is an open house and have people from the community really come in and have dialog. One of the, I think, significant challenges, if we read in-depth on the posts that we see in the Palo Alto online, Daily Post, is there is a lack of clear understanding and information and a lot of vilification and othering of the homeless population. So, part of the thing we would love to do in that is have some of the county statistics and other things that humanize the people. So, hopefully on the 25th, we'll come to a better date on when we can do this but I think we want to see one or two places, not like seven churches on Middlefield have it, because different churches have different capacity but we at least want to get one church off the ground and start the process and see what happens, and see how it works, and then start building from there.

Commissioner Regehr: One thought I had was about Hotel de Zink. Do you know how many fellowships use that now?

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Ms. Tanner: I don't. I know that it rotates every month, but I'm not sure the number of congregations that are participating in that.

Commissioner Regehr: Because those neighborhoods are already used to having somebody, is what I was thinking.

Ms. Tanner: Yes.

Commissioner Smith: It's a different thing.

Commissioner Regehr: No, no, it's a totally different thing, but, I mean, but the neighborhoods know and one thing I'm curious, have you thought about having a mechanic? Because that's what I've heard is some people's concerns are, is the car won't start that day and they won't be able to leave.

Ms. Tanner: Yes, I think, again, that would be something that the programs would need to work out. I know some do have relationships with mechanics and try to offer those things. I mean, it is really hands on. You know, talking to some providers, it's like, what does that person need? They need a mechanic. This person needs work boots. This person needs a bus pass. I mean, it's really trying to meet the people where they are with some things that could be too costly for them, but not a big cost in the grand scheme of things. So, they try to provide those services.

Commissioner Smith: The CSA's do provide mechanics because squatting laws in California, if people leave their cars on your property too long, it ends up causing a ton of issues. So, part of what the CSA's have to do is have some sort of resource to move the car.

Chair Kralik: Well, thank you very much for this wonderful presentation...

Ms. Tanner: Thank you.

Chair Kralik: ... and also for your dedication to this issue.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Look, you have one card for oral communications.

Chair Kralik: Okay, we do, on item 2. So, Aram, go right ahead, please.

Aram James: So, there was an organization that I was part of. It was first called Community Cooperation Team, then Stop the Ban. Originally, the City Council – and here's a piece that I wrote during that period. Actually, there was a struggle over wanting to ban vehicles altogether in the city of Palo Alto. They passed that ordinance. Liz Kniss was one of the people that led that charge and then, there was a decision out of Venice, California, the 9th Circuit, that constitutionally said that that wasn't appropriate. Anyway, Stop the Ban, Community Cooperation Team, a lot of Stanford students, and other members of the community, a lot of unhoused folks, as well. I was lucky enough to link up with a gentleman that was unhoused, and the two of us went down to the Santa Barbara program. The safe parking program there is very robust. They have something called New Beginnings, and that was back in 2012 and they really stressed the importance of rolling it out with lots of community awareness. Because absolutely,

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you're going to get the fears in the community. To answer one of the questions you put out, they have a robust program for women in different parts, women and children, men, and it's really, really nuanced. You start drinking, you're out of the program. You're starting fires outside. So, it's really monitored. Caseworkers are great. You gotta have that. But, you know, I really, for me personally, I grew up in Palo Alto, I think we've got the money not to put the whole burden on the churches. We had such a struggle, there was so much resistance back in 2012. Nobody wanted this and the 9th Circuit came down with a decision that changed things and again, you've got a lot of legal problems when you try to prevent people from staying in their vehicles on the street when you're just going to push the problem on... You know, I remember Justice Mosk the dissenting opinion out of a Santa Ana case, talked about what, ultimately, what? Are you going to push people into the ocean, from to the next? So, I recommend you roll it out slowly, but you don't put it all on the churches. You go down to Santa Barbara, you call... I think Kristine is still there. It's Kristine Schwartz, Executive Director and their people... we brought down some counselors from that program. We had 100 people meet, including then city council person Karen Holman, in the city. But the resistance was unbelievable. We contacted 41 faith communities in Palo Alto over a long period of time. Maybe two or three and the wealthier the community I found, the more likely there was going to be pushback. I don't know why that is but I really appreciate what both of you had to say tonight, and I commend the HRC to take that on. I moved recently back to Palo Alto. A lot of my stuff on homelessness and legal stuff is in another box, so I gotta bring that back, but I'm happy to sit down and talk with anybody about the three or four years' experience that we had here in Palo Alto, and why, finally, we disbanded. I mean, at one point, they said, why don't you guys run it? Stop the bell. We'll give you \$500. This is the City of Palo Alto we were dealing with. I was like, okay, we're going to run it. So, I really think we have to have some city employees involved in this, caseworkers, if we're going to be serious. I don't have to tell you, you all read the paper, how dramatic the problem is around unhoused people living in the streets. And for every person that doesn't live in their RV, they're going to be out in the streets. And then we're talking the cost of emergency room, the legal system – it just gets more and more expensive. So, again, I just commend everybody. I think Council Member Tanaka is correct. You've got to educate; you've got to talk. But I also think the City Council's got to take their share of the responsibility. It shouldn't just be on the HRC. You all need to have a forum here at the City Council chambers just on this issue, so we can get educated en mass. Bring in some experts on the subject, including people like Chuck Jagoda that have lived in their vehicle here in Palo Alto. You've got to get participation from the people that are most affected. That will humanize. I know there was that word used. If we really want to humanize the unhoused, you'll find out that in most places... It was interesting. In Santa Barbara, like Palo Alto, most of the people that are unhoused live there, grew up there, and it reflects the demographics. We picked Santa Barbara out because it's quite a bit like Palo Alto. So, anyway, that's what I would say. I commend the City for doing this, but, boy, the City needs to put some money into this, and it shouldn't be all on the faith community. It's great when they can do it, but sometimes things don't work that way. There's just a lot of... Okay, thank you very much.

Chair Kralik: Well, thank you for those thoughts, and I appreciate your paper that you've forwarded to our attention.

Mr. James: Thank you.

3. Presentation by Dr. Karen Eggleston, Director, Asia Health Policy Program, Stanford University on perspectives on the novel coronavirus 2019-nCov pandemic

Chair Kralik: Now we're going to ask Mary to hook us up to video. Let me give a short introduction to this. As you all know, my daughter Abigail, who has visited here, is from Wuhan and when the crisis started with coronavirus, we followed the news very closely at home. We all have been to Wuhan and to the train station there, and we've seen the city. It's a crisis that has dominated the news. But some of the things that concern us as the HRC are not necessarily public health, but a focus on backlash in the community. Something that's called coronavirus hypervigilance, and actual shunning of people that sometimes could be felt to border on racism. That is something that really concerns me, just by watching some simple events that have taken place in the last several weeks. My children do go to a Chinese emergent school. They share that school with a German international school. Their events have been cancelled. They've had restrictions on parents and grandparents, and some of the grandparents are at home and unable to pick up the children. It's not really clear to me that a lot of these restrictions, which were developed on the fly, are things that are based on science, or fears that are not really grounded in science. So, I saw this issue, and I included it in the public health, and I am thankful for Commissioner Stinger for seconding this speaker. Dr. Karen Eggleston is an infectious disease expert, and I think its kind of important, if we think about this issue, because it has been in the headlines, but it has impacted our community, businesses. If you just think about the high-tech businesses that have had difficulty with their supply chains. The economic impact is there, but the human impact is there as well. There are a lot of people in universities. I saw on the news in Berkeley, where they did a presentation because some of the students that came back from China were asked to isolate themselves without any kind of reason, other than they were from China and some of the things that are happening do fall, in my view, into hypervigilance. There's another reason that I put it on here, and that is vulnerability of populations. As you know, I do go out into the community as an ombudsman to long-term healthcare centers, including healthcare centers where there are Asian nurses and doctors that are impacted by this. Also, those communities, they include Alzheimer's patients, they include long-term care patients. And I don't know how prepared all of those facilities are in terms of connection with the public health department, but there's an awful lot of reliance, and the question is, is that reliance misplaced, or not? There's been some under-reporting that has been noted in the media. Yesterday, I think there was a spike in cases reported, including deaths in Wuhan. So, this is an unknown, or novel virus. It's known now, but the treatment is unknown. There's no vaccine on the horizon for the next 18 months. So, it raises a lot of questions. So, I'm concerned about the vulnerabilities, concerned about the human relations aspects of shunning, particularly in our own community. We have a big community of Asian folks and in my own household. I think one of the things that my daughter said to me was, "So, you're not going to talk to me now because I'm from Wuhan" and that was just an outburst that happened. And we talked a little bit about it, and I think there has been some concern, you know, on the playgrounds even, with kids. Some bullying and other things that have gone on. So, that's why I wanted to start with some knowledge base, and I want to hark back to our offsite program briefly. We set up a process not to take action right away on

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items. We set up a process to begin to discuss. That's what this is. It's more of a kickoff. We're open to ideas, and I know Steve has expressed an interest in public health, and he's also part of the initiative as a commissioner. I found that out today. I'm sorry about that, Steve. So, I do want to ask for ideas, and ask that you listen, and certainly communicate those ideas once you hear the speaker. So now, we're not sure where our speaker is. So, hold on just a second.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Mary was waiting for you to finish your introduction.

Chair Kralik: Okay. I should mention that Dr. Eggleston is in a quarantine right now, so, she can explain that a little bit as well.

[Connecting via Skype.]

Dr. Karen Eggleston: Hello?

Chair Kralik: Doctor, this is Gabe Kralik, the chair of the Human Relations Commission. I want to thank you for appearing on video tonight. I did a brief introduction as to some of the Human Relations concerns that we have as to vulnerability of some of our populations, as also some of the social issues associated with shunning and hypervigilance that concern some of our Asian community members. So, we talked a little bit about how this is an introduction, and we're counting on you to help us as an infectious disease expert to talk through what's going on with coronavirus. So, thank you very much for coming.

Dr. Eggleston: Thank you very much for inviting me. As you know, I'm Karen Eggleston at Stanford University, and I direct the Asia Health Policy Program. I'm actually a social scientist, but not a medical doctor. So, I will provide some background in policy and how the virus has developed from China and impacting the rest of the world. I provided these slides requested yesterday. I will go through them rather quickly because I know they provide background in other parts of the world and your concern may be much closer to home. Just to note that I believe that Palo Alto is already taking many appropriate actions, and I'm pretty confident we'll continue a prudent, science-based precautions in this event. So, I'll start with a timeline of key events, as you may all be familiar. Please feel free to jump in with any questions as you would like.

Chair Kralik: I just want to start and ask you if you could just tell us a little bit why you're appearing by video.

Commissioner Lee: [off-microphone] Did we want to project the [inaudible]? We can either project it ourselves, or she can project it on...

Chair Kralik: I don't know how to do that, but Mary can speak to that.

Commissioner Lee: So, we can share our screen here, and we can just flip through the slides.

Chair Kralik: While we're doing that, can you tell us a little bit about...

[crosstalk]

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Dr. Eggleston: ...so I'm using Skype. But I can let you know that I'm actually in self-isolation myself, having had a family member return from China and on the 14th will be the 14th day. But that's why I'm appearing to do you remotely.

Chair Kralik: How did that come about? Did you select to be in self-isolation, or were you following a protocol?

Dr. Eggleston: Well, as you know, things are evolving quickly, so, actually, the day before the family member returned from China, which was already earlier because of flight cancellations, etc., just the day before, Stanford came out with a policy, saying that everyone who is a family member of someone who returns from China – I might note, anywhere in China, not just Wuhan – should work from home. I took the decision at that time as a family that the member would be isolated. At that time, the school district actually had not yet come out with a policy, but I figured we deserved to give the whole community the same kind of protections that Stanford was saying was prudent. So, that individual has been self-isolated since returning home.

Chair Kralik: Thank you very much. We've got your screen and we've got your presentation in front of us. Please continue.

Dr. Eggleston: Okay. So, as you know, it developed in December in China, and there were communications to the World Health Organization and other international organizations about the nature, although it was not declared an international concern, emergency event of international concern until the end of last month. There was some controversy about how it was initially handled, and in Wuhan, you may have seen recently that there was some turnover of officials there. I can talk more about that if you're interested but the thing to note here is that drastic measures have been taken, like the awkward [inaudible] of a whole city of 11 million, of Wuhan, and other areas within China, as well as shutting down much of international travel. So, I'm now on the slide that goes through January 30th. You'll see that there's the first cases of US transmissions. Moving to the last part of the timeline, you'll see that the very end of January was the [inaudible] declaration, and as of... I'm going to flip next to the current epidemiology. Again, this was as of yesterday when I sent the slides. I just checked, and it's over 64,000 confirmed cases now, globally, a majority of those in China, in the Hubei province, with over 1,300 deaths. Often not quoted, there's been over 7,000 who have recovered and a scattering of cases here in the US. I believe 15 at the latest count, including eight here in California. These can change quickly. So, showing the current epidemiology and the map on the next slide. We know that the epicenter had been in Wuhan and it's spread from there from travel and individuals, and there's been human-to-human transmission in other parts of the world. That's why it was declared an international, emergency of international concern. One can easily follow the numbers through the WHO or other sites that follow the evolution of this virus, which has been dubbed the COVID-2019 for coronavirus disease 2019. So, I have a few other slides about the social and economic costs, but those are quite uncertain at this point because, as you know, it is still evolving, and while there has been international sharing of information, a lot is still not known, both clinically and epidemiologically, as well as the social and economic costs. I would just emphasize that unprecedented public health measures that have been taken have led to complete lockdown of millions of people in cities in China. It's unclear of the eventual extent of death and other social and economic costs from that, but it does have ripple effects throughout the global

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economy, as you all well know. I won't go in detail through those cost estimates because we know they are all so incredibly uncertain at this point. So, I wanted to talk about some of the aspects of importance that will shape our public health response, particularly what's known about the clinical future that's in the spread. So, it was sequenced early on, which has allowed experts to try to follow the development and try to find out what might be an effective treatment for it eventually. The genome characterization was the first... Again, I won't go through all the details, but just to give you some of the recently and very quickly published research about this virus. First is the genomic characterization, which confirmed that it's similar to other coronaviruses, but different. Hence, the new name now coined for it. There are also clinical characteristics of 99 cases, a study that talked about the initial spread in Wuhan. We know, as for many cases, that the most vulnerable are those who are older or have co-existing conditions, and those were some of the first lives lost to this particular virus. The spread and the way to appropriately respond to such a crisis depends on several factors. So, transmissibility and severity. So, a lot of attention has been given to try to figure out those characteristics of this new virus. I quote here from a very recently published article in JAMA – the Journal of the American Medical Association – about transmissibility and severity. They are often considered the two most critical factors that determine the effect of an epidemic, and the control strategies that are appropriate and it's important to note that some of the other cases that I brought up similar to this one have not had that combination of high transmissibility and severity, although some are one or the other. So, the ones that they discuss are pandemic influenza A H1N1, or the coronavirus of SARS – severe acute respiratory syndrome – or the Middle East respiratory syndrome – MERS – the coronaviruses and a key issue about transmissibility is this, are the basically productive number, which we know it's small, and it kills people right away, but it won't be easily transmittable. But if it's greater than one, we know it can have sustained transmission, and we know in this case that it is indeed at least COVID-1, at least the current evidence suggests that, that it's between 2 and 3. In this article, they also draw the parallel to what happened here in California, just to bring home the point parenthetically that this can arise from anywhere and not just in China. So, Influenza H1N1 first identified in Southern California in 2009, as you may recall, was highly transmissible, and I have quoted some numbers there about how far it spread, to 120 countries in three months. But it was not severe and although there were many more total deaths there than from so far with this coronavirus, it was many times lower than the 1968 ... [lost Skype connection.]

[Regained connection]

Chair Kralik: We ended with a few thoughts that you were sharing about H1N1. We didn't get all the way through your thoughts. You got cut off.

Dr. Eggleston: Yes. Sorry about that. So, H1N1, highly transmissible, but not so severe. I just wanted to point out that, less we forget that influenza epidemics hit large swaths of the population and are estimated to lead to deaths on the order of 250,000 to 500,000 per year. So, in light of that, it's important to take prudent measures and understand this and take steps to eventually prepare a vaccine, but also to note that there are many other things that are affecting our populations, particularly the most vulnerable. So, the final slides are simply to wrap up with that, to talk about what we know about this virus. So, I include a modeling study about possible future spread of this particular virus, what is known clinically, and also about travel out of the

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epicenter of Wuhan and this gives some idea, does confirm that the transmissibility is estimated between two and 3, so epidemic potential, and they estimate the doubling time was 6.4 days. That was all based on quite preliminary information. That gives you some idea of how rapidly these things can evolve. So, the final slide and the key questions of impact assessment more generally are: What are the roles of the pathogenicity and our ability to contain these emerging viruses? What is the shape of the disease pyramid? It's important to keep in mind, particularly given the scarcity of testing kits, that not everyone who has mild forms is detected or confirmed. So, while there appear to be higher case fatality rate from that perspective, if we only know about the most severe cases. But many things are still under investigation and will become clear only later. So, it's prudent for each community to do what we have been doing here in Palo Alto – to take prudent science-based precautions and public health measures; isolation of those who have been exposed; and to avoid discrimination on anyone who might be assumed to have any characteristics, or simply be Chinese, or having traveled. I might note that the Human Relations Commission, if I saw it correctly, had the values of civility, respect and responsible actions, and that could be more important in this case.

Chair Kralik: I just want to begin first by saying thank you for coming to give this talk. But I also know that you are an Asian study expert, and I wanted to get your impressions about how the measures that have been taken in China impact human relations and are there lessons learned from what's been going on there so far.

Dr. Eggleston: Yes, well, it's been a fairly extraordinary and difficult time, of course, for many people in China, and there's been a lot of fear and distrust about information, to see whether they're getting full information. This is common with pandemics and outbreaks, but there's a particular reason for a population to be worried in this case. And that is precipitated both unprecedented public health measures of isolation and revealed a lot of inherent weaknesses. So, the healthcare system in China is much, much stronger in many respects than during the SARS outbreak, but that doesn't mean that it can't still get worse before it gets better and there are millions and millions of people now under lockdown in very stringent measures, and many of those are quite appropriate. Other ones are less clear. There already has been shakeup of some local officials replaced, and the tragedy of healthcare workers themselves, some of them trying to tell the world about it, having died themselves.

Chair Kralik: Opening it up for any other questions.

Commissioner Smith: One of the things that I'm noticing is the othering of individuals in social settings because of their ethnicity. Is there anything that the City or the Human Relations Commission can do to push back against that? Is there information we could provide to say, that we should say? Because I think it becomes unfair. I think it was Stanford mall, and I watched somebody just cross all the way to the other side because they saw an Asian couple coming towards them. So, I'm wondering, is there any ways we can be proactive?

Dr. Eggleston: Yes, I appreciate that question. I think it's very, very important to empathize and not stigmatize, not to blame the victims, and not to over-generalize. I know Chinese Americans have already been feeling somewhat tense from the tension between our two countries, and this just adds to that tension. I know among young people, having young people in the household

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ourselves, that there have been on social media, things saying, “Just because I’m Chinese doesn’t mean I’m infected.” It’s very important to use proper terminology. Perhaps now that there’s an official name, to not call it the “China virus” or the “Wuhan virus.” Very practical way is simple to use the coronavirus name for it and also, to demonstrate in our behavior. I have to say that the school district and the teachers have been incredibly supportive of us being in isolation and are helping the students and it makes all the difference when you hear from people that understand and are not discriminatory.

Commissioner Lee: I have two very short questions. Thank you so much for being with us, Doctor, remotely. The first one speaks to the point you made about fear and the stress of information. I myself am third generation Chinese American reaching out to our Chinese community on WeChat and Facebook, and really imploring people to be very discerning about the source of information and I’ve been trying to refer them only to the CDC and the County’s public health department. My first question is, are those the right two sources that we should be referring folks to here? What are the universes of sources that people can trust and rely on here in the US? The second question there’ve been a lot of events locally around the Bay Area that have been cancelled. I was on the planning committee for one of the Palo Alto Chinese New Year events, which was cancelled, which personally I didn’t think was warranted. But there have been other events that have been kept, others that have been cancelled. What is the current thinking around cancelling events, or whether folks should be out and about.?

Dr. Eggleston: Well, thank you for the question. I think that, although it’s a rapidly evolving situation, there’s very, very little risk right now in our community. So, although it’s appropriate for schools to have been shut down in places in China, it certainly wouldn’t be appropriate here. Now, part of the cancelling of public events has been to an abundance of caution, and one could understand that from sort of a purely emotional point of view, and that people just want to have an abundance of caution about these kinds of things. But it’s very important not to overreact, and also to stigmatize or to overreact can actually make people go underground and doesn’t help with a prudent handling of the situation. So, again, it depends on a case-by-case basis, and I would follow the public health authorities. You mentioned the CDC. They have lots of information, including clinical guidelines. There are many very able clinical providers in our area that stand ready to give advice and are already preparing in case more cases will be found in our community. There also are places following information, both a mapping and visualization by Johns Hopkins, with up-to-date material. Both the *New England Journal of Medicine* and JAMA and Lancet all have collections of scientific articles. It is very important to not forward questionable sources of information that are not scientific, and unfortunately that’s a big problem on social media these days. So, it’s something that we all have to think carefully about.

Commissioner Lee: Thank you very much. I did have one quick comment for my colleagues. As I mentioned, I’ve already done a little bit of outreach to the Chinese community through WeChat, which is how folks communicate in Palo Alto, and I’ve let them know that we exist as a body. So, if they are hearing or seeing anything, that they should certainly reach out to us. So, I’m hoping it doesn’t, but they at least know that we’re here for them.

Commissioner Regehr: I was going to also say that I’m a zero waste leader in Palo Alto, and we have packets, like, plates, and some people are, they had ordered them for big events, and people

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are saying, “We don’t want to use these. We’re going to use paper plates from now on because we don’t want...” and that is so miss... I mean, and they know that it’s not related, that stuff doesn’t live on plastic for very long, like 72-hours. So, I think it’s just a fear more than it is... than a total racial issue.

Chair Kralik: I do have another question, and this concerns readiness and resources. You know, some of the things that have been raised in talks over in Berkeley to college communities about this relate to masks, and the appropriate masks, why someone would wear masks. There was a Hong Kong piece on TV last night, where people were fighting over masks and you know, can you help us understand the state of readiness? I know you spoke highly about Palo Alto doing things, but what is the state of readiness regarding resources, supplies, etc. and also, can we as a community help with any kind of resources that might be needed, where there’s connections of our community members to China?

Dr. Eggleston: Well, I think those who work specifically on this topic might be more informed than I am, and those who work particularly in hospitals, and clinical providers in public health, first responders, would know more than I. But I believe it’s very important, as you said, to note that wearing masks can be as a precaution. It doesn’t mean that you’re infected. We happen to have some in our home, which we used when this family member had returned back. So, for people to prepare that ahead of time is prudent. Obviously, all of the healthcare providers should have preparedness plans in place, and they do. But we know that there was a mistake with testing and incorrect results in San Diego, which is not so far from here, which shows that these things can happen. So, it’s good to be prudent and thinking ahead and providing information. Once thing to emphasize is that washing hands is probably more important even than wearing masks, and to emphasize that all the same precautions that you take for flu season are appropriate here, to frequently wash your hands, and cover your coughs and your sneezes, and so on.

Chair Kralik: Commissioner Stinger.

Commissioner Stinger: Thank you. Thank you very much. My comment was related to the basic flu, which I think is probably more of a concern, immediate concern in this community, and I wanted to think about some the HSRAP grants and the emergent needs, and how we address populations that don’t have the same access to medical care that we might around this table. I’ve been in the emergency room twice in the past few weeks, and there are signs all over Stanford, and my clinic has emailed me and told me to be careful about how I wash my hands and cover my cough. But there are people who have less access to insurance and good medical care, and I wanted to be aware of that and think about that as we look at programs to improve the public health in our community.

Chair Kralik: Thanks very much.

Dr. Eggleston: Yes, it’s very important to think of the vulnerable. I would second that and that applies not only to our clinical efforts, but also when thinking about isolation [distortion]. Not every family can afford to DoorDash food or miss work.

Chair Kralik: Doctor, this is a very timely topic, and you came to us on very short notice. We want to say thank you for what you've presented tonight, and we hope you will stay in touch with the Human Relations Commission.

Dr. Eggleston: Well, thank you very much. It's an honor.

Chair Kralik: Okay.

Dr. Eggleston: Bye.

Chair Kralik: [off-microphone] We do have comments on item number 3 from Aram James.

Aram James: Thank you very much. Boy, what a timely, timely subject. I know when I was working of the public defenders' office, Jose Villarreal, who was then the public defender, asked me to go to a conference, and it was featured around a film called The Color of Fear and the producer of the film was a gentleman by the – and I hope I got this correct – Lee Mun Wah, and he was a Chinese American who was raised with a family who had a Chinese restaurant. And he decided he was going to do this film because his parents had trained him, when he was a youngster, to do all they could to discourage African Americans from coming in the restaurant, because they believed that would be bad for business. I have two African American sons. For a very long time, they were living together with their mom here in Palo Alto, in an apartment and I was driving one of my sons back from Bol Park, we had just done a walk, and Palo Alto police were there and there was an Asian woman standing next to the police, and I walked up and I said, "What's going on here?" Well, she just saw two black men go into that apartment. I go, "Oh, really? Those are my sons." So, it's a difficult issue. I've got a friend that lives in a facility here in Palo Alto, and it's a predominantly Asian facility, and she's afraid to death of the virus. Because everybody needs to understand, it's not about the race; it's the virus that people need to be afraid of. But she's been trying to get information from the director of the place, the low-income place, and won't give it out and of course that's going to create panic and the other thing that I've heard as a community activist is, some of these facilities seem to have been driving people that have grown up in Palo Alto, particularly African American and others, out of the facilities, and all of a sudden, there's people from other countries Russian, Irish, Chinese that are in those facilities, and people are wondering, why is that? Why are we excluding folks from the area? These are all really burning questions that, Gabe, you've raised. I'm sorry, Gabe, I don't know your last name, so if you could...

Chair Kralik: [off-microphone] Gabe is fine.

Mr. James: Okay, Gabe. So, I really think there's not a hotter topic now than this. My wife's son, long dreds, African American, lives in the city, lived in the Excelsior District, and guess what? A lot of Asian folks there. He loves to get to know people, but they walk across the street to not have to interact with him as an African American. So, the issues that we're hearing are, you know, applicable to everyone in our community that's why I think The Color of Fear, if you can get hold of it and you can do a forum around that, because everybody, whether they're Jewish folks, whether they're African American folks, Italian, Native Americans, and the group included some Native Americans, I remember, at the forum, and they were really upset because

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they had all the traditional minorities that we think of, but no Native Americans in the film and they wanted to know why they weren't included. So, the forum started a very hot thing. But I think somebody has to have the courage on the Human Relations Commission to go to the different facilities in Palo Alto, the low-income housing, and find out how the people are feeling about this. Because from my friend, who is a senior like myself, there's a high level of panic. They don't want to give information about people that may even be isolated as we speak in those facilities, and I just think that needs to more panic, more fear and I think we just have to reach out to neighbors, regardless of what their race is, and say, "Look, this is about the virus. It's not about the race." Anyway, that's my two cents.

Chair Kralik: Thanks for your comments.

4. Human Relations Commission Chair and Vice Chair Elections and consideration of recommendation to move and hold new elections at the June 2020 Retreat if Chair/Vice Chair are not elected

Chair Kralik: We're going to move to item number 4, the Human Relations Commission elections for Chair and Vice Chair, and consideration of recommendation to move and hold new elections at the June retreat when we have a full seven members. I'm going to refer now to staff to direct us at this time.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Sure. Thank you, Chair Kralik. This is an item that was pushed forward to this, to tonight, as a decision was not made at the last meeting. So, there are a couple actions that can take place tonight. One is revisiting the election of the Chair, and those would be the same candidates as they were last month. If there is a request and a motion that passes to open up nominations again, that could happen, but the referral was to just take the two nominated individuals and to vote again tonight. If whether or not a decision on the Chair is made or not, the HRC does have the prerogative to do elections for Vice Chair, and you also have the ability to make a decision if you would like what the term would be. So, if there is a decision, for instance, to move the elections to the June 2020 retreat, if a decision cannot be made tonight, the HRC could consider that a Vice Chair would serve only until that June meeting, or, a decision could be made that that person would serve until their full term would be over. So, that would be January 2021. So, at this point, I would recommend that you first address the issue of Chair, that you have a discussion if you feel the need is, or go directly to the vote for the Chair with the two candidates that you had last time and then, after that, then the HRC can make the decision. They can go straight to the recommendation of moving it to June 2020 if a decision is not reached, or you can move directly to discussing the Vice Chair. So, there's a little bit of flexibility in the order there, but the first order of business would be the election of the Chair.

Chair Kralik: Okay, I'm just going to ask that if you wish to speak, that you turn on your light, and I will recognize you.

Mr. James: I also have a speaker card.

Chair Kralik: Okay, thank you. Is there anyone that has a comment or a thought, or we can move right to the vote?

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Commissioner Regehr: Could we hear the oral first? Or what's the process on that?

Ms. van der Zwaag: Usually you introduce an item, and then there's discussion and then, after the discussion is done, then you would hear from oral communications.

Mr. James: Before the vote. Is that correct?

Ms. van der Zwaag: That is correct.

Chair Kralik: Okay, is there any discussion items at this time? Okay, not hearing any, go right ahead.

Aram James: I read all about the controversy and, you know, as a citizen, and with what's going on in Washington, I was going, huh? Why do we need to be doing this rather than dealing directly with human relation issues? We all have dysfunctional families, so, I'm just going to say that at this point, the HRC, in the past, from everything I read about the controversy, looked like a very dysfunctional family. But, that said, they may not remember me because it's been a long time, but I've been in contact with Steve Lee – Is that correct? Steve? Did I get it correct?

Commissioner Lee: [off-microphone] [inaudible]

Mr. James: Yes, and then, Pastor Smith, I've sat at the same table where... On one of the race conferences that you set up a few years back and I've been to your church on race issues, as well. I'm happy to see that it's down to two men of color that we're going to be voting potentially on. But what I have to say, because I really admire both of you equally. You're both advocates for stuff that I feel strongly about. So, as a public defender, I used to have clients who didn't always make it to court on time and I would tell them, "The judge is not as patient as I am and you're going to go into custody if you're not on time." I had a friend who told me, it goes like this. He said, "Having a good excuse for being late is not the same as being on time." Having a good excuse for not being a meeting is not the same as being at the meetings. I think it's a tiebreaker, and I'll leave it to you all to decide what I mean by that, but I think one person is a little bit further up because of the attendance record. It's a tiebreaker. That's just me as a citizen, and, you know, there you go.

Chair Kralik: Thank you, Aram, for the comments. Are there any other discussion items that anyone wishes to raise? Not hearing any, seeing any lights on, we're going to go ahead and proceed to the vote. Thank you.

[Ms. van der Zwaag and Ms. Constantino hands out ballots.]

Ms. van der Zwaag: Please mark your choices under #1, please.

Commissioner Lee: To clarify, we can only vote between myself and Commissioner Smith.

Ms. van der Zwaag: That is correct.

[Ballots are collected.]

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Ms. van der Zwaag: There is no decision made. There were no four votes for any one candidate.

Chair Kralik: Okay, we're going to open it up for discussion as to the next consideration. It seems like there's two possible things. One, to consider the...

Commissioner Lee: Mr. Chair?

Chair Kralik: ...recommendation – hold on just a second – recommendation to move and hold new elections. We could invite other candidates. Commissioner Lee, go right ahead.

Commissioner Lee: Yes, at this time, I'd like to make a statement, and then a motion.

Mr. James: Could you speak up, please?

Commissioner Lee: Yes. At this time, I'm going to make a statement, and then I'll make a motion. So, this particular issue has been something that's been on my mind pretty continuously since our last meeting, and it's something that I've lost sleep over, something that has just consumed my thoughts over the last couple weeks. You know, contrary to what some folks may think, I do think I'm ready for this position. I think I've worked hard during my two and a half years on this commission. I've shown up at every meeting that we've had, without exception. I go above and beyond to attend meetings and to meet with colleagues. Between this meeting and the last, I've done at least 13 phone calls, meetings, public events, totaling more than 20, 25 hours of work. Not including the actual physical work that we do in terms of editing things and crafting things. So, I think I put in the work, I put in the effort. You know, I think I've raised the visibility and profile of this commission, and I think, together with my colleagues, we've done a lot of good work during the last 2 ½ years. I certainly have a more expansive view of what the commission can do for our community. It's a view that I think I consistent with our charge as a Commission under our Municipal Code, but certainly one that I will admit is more extensive than this commission has played historically. I think we are doing good work, and we're doing it together, notwithstanding our debates. I think our debates make us stronger. I think we all bring interesting passion and perspective to this work, and I've enjoyed all of that work. So, even though, you know, I think I'm ready, and I believe I'm the best candidate for this position, I do care so much about this body as an institution, and I'll continue to do as much as I can independently and working in pairs and threesomes with my colleagues to do good work for my community, but, you know, we have so much to do, and I don't want this to be deadlocked for the next couple of months. So, perhaps inspired by some of the company we're keeping tonight, I'm going to pull what I think we can all call – the "Councilman Cormack" move, and I'm going to be the bigger person here, I'm going to be the mature person, and end this deadlock. You know, again, I want to reiterate that, you know, I have strong convictions that I could have done a lot as chair to raise the entire commission, not just any one person's particular agenda, but to help raise all of it together. With that being said, I'm going to, at this point, ask that all those who have supported me at this time vote for Commissioner Smith.

Chair Kralik: Are there any other comments?

Commissioner Lee: So, I'm going to make the motion...

Chair Kralik: Thank you.

Commissioner Lee: I'll move that we select Commissioner Smith as Chair.

Chair Kralik: I think the proper thing to do is, with that statement, maybe hold another vote. Is that something we can do?

Commissioner Lee: Well, I mean, I made a motion, so we would vote on that and discuss it.

Chair Kralik: Oh. We can have any further discussion; the next move would be to vote.

Commissioner Lee: Someone would need to second it, then we would discuss it, then we would take the vote.

Chair Kralik: Okay, I'm not sure... We're following a process to elect. I think I understand you to say that you've asked folks that have supported your position to support Pastor Smith, and I'll just ask staff what the next step is. I think we can have further discussion onto your topic, but I do think that we have to have a vote.

Commissioner Smith: We moved with a motion to keep two candidates. So, in Robert's Rules, you have to go back against that motion.

Chair Kralik: Yes, I didn't hear him say he's going to remove his candidacy. I think he just called for someone to...

Commissioner Lee: I said I would move that we select Commissioner Smith as Chair. So, if that has a second, we can discuss it, and then vote on [crosstalk].

Chair Kralik: Okay, I don't hear a second at this time. Okay. I understand your comment to be that you've ask those that supported you in the election... I think we've had four polls now. Is that right? Four?

Ms. van der Zwaag: That's correct.

Chair Kralik: Okay. To support Pastor Smith. I think we should hold another vote.

Ms. van der Zwaag: So, just to be clear, Commissioner Lee, you are withdrawing your name from consideration. Is that correct?

Chair Kralik: Or...

Ms. van der Zwaag: Or, were you requesting, you were trying to have a motion that the individuals who voted for you would change their vote? I think that would be individual decisions for each of those [crosstalk].

Commissioner Lee: The comment was that I would ask that those who supported me to vote, and then...

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Ms. van der Zwaag: The comment.

Commissioner Lee: The comment.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay.

Commissioner Lee: The motion is that we vote to select Commissioner Smith as Chair.

Ms. van der Zwaag: I would feel much more comfortable if we just had the process as it is...

Commissioner Lee: That's fine. Then I...

Ms. van der Zwaag: ... that it is valid that each individual...

Commissioner Lee: ...move that we vote again.

Ms. van der Zwaag: ...can respond.

Commissioner Lee: Okay. Then I move that we do another round of balloting.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay, but are you withdrawing your name, are you not withdrawing your name?

Commissioner Lee: No.

Ms. van der Zwaag: You are not withdrawing your name. Okay. Thank you. I just wanted [crosstalk]...

Commissioner Lee: I mean, I'll leave it up to my colleagues to decide, but, you know, I did...

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay. Thank you. I just wanted to be clear.

Chair Kralik: Okay. We'll go ahead and vote again. Thank you. If we could turn off our lights, our speaker lights, that would be great.

[Ms. van der Zwaag and Ms. Constantino hand out ballots; commissioners vote; ballots are collected.]

Ms. van der Zwaag: So, we do have a decision and a pass motion, with five votes for Commissioner Kaloma Smith.

MOTION PASSES 5-1.

[Light applause.]

Chair Kralik: That's great. Are we going to let him move us on to the Vice Chair vote?

Ms. van der Zwaag: That is the protocol, that he would move on as Chair and oversee the rest of the meeting.

Chair Kralik: Let me just pass on my regular dual action to the pastor. I wish you good luck.

Chair Smith: I am profoundly moved by Commissioner Lee's stance. I'm also profoundly moved by his dedication to this commission. As I spoke to him on the phone earlier, I made it clear, I deeply admire his passion and work for what he's done on this Commission, and he will continue to be an integral part of what we do here. My hope is that as a Commission, tonight we received a mandate from Councilman Tanaka as far as homelessness, and we have some real meat in action items we can work in there. We heard so clearly about veterans and those with issues, and we've also heard about parts of our community who have been marginalized by irrational fears. So, the HRC has a full docket of stuff even in one night that we need to deal with. So, my hope is just to create frameworks and things that we can all work together really well. Thank you. Our next action of business is for Vice Chair. We will open with nominations.

MOTION

Commissioner Savage: I'd like to nominate Valerie Stinger.

SECOND

Commissioner Lee: I'll second that motion.

Commissioner Stinger: Thank you.

Chair Smith: Do we have any other candidates?

Ms. van der Zwaag: I think before you do that you would ask Commissioner Stinger if she is willing to accept the nomination.

Chair Smith: She said, "Thank you."

Ms. van der Zwaag: She said, "Thank you." That was... Okay.

Chair Smith: Okay. Before we close, any other candidates? Do we need to take the vote, or can we just close?

Ms. van der Zwaag: We can close if folks found that was enough time, if there's any discussion, and then, we can go to the vote and just for clarity for staff, because we did produce two ballots, this would be for the full term, to January 2021. Is that correct, Chair? Or other...

Chair Smith: Yes.

Ms. van der Zwaag: That was your intention, Commissioner Savage? Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Savage: Can I, more comments, with regard to that?

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Chair Smith: Yes, please.

Commissioner Savage: I've known Valerie for more than a decade. She's got a wealth of experience, she's reliable, she's responsible, and there's a very good relationship already between she and the current chair, and she knows how to deal with people effectively. The two of you have a history of working together, and I just think it's a good match. Good fit.

Chair Smith: Thank you. Any other comments?

Commissioner Kralik: I can second that. I'd just like to say that I took over for Valerie, and I had the opportunity to work with her on many different things. I do think she will be a good guiding force for you, Pastor Smith, as you take on this task, and your ability to interact with staff is only going to be enhanced as a leadership team, given her background, her experience, as well. So, I think she's going to be a wonderful candidate.

Chair Smith: Thank you. Any other comments? Valerie?

Commissioner Stinger: I really appreciate that. Thank you very much. Looking around the table, we are a group of volunteers with an extreme pool of talent. I kind of liken us to a repertoire company. We are competing for the lead role, but when the vote is done, we're going to work really hard together because we have a show to put on. I enjoy working with each one of you and respect the talents immensely that sit at this table.

Chair Smith: Thank you so much. I know I personally would not be here if it wasn't for Commissioner Stinger. We did, after the Charleston shooting, I did a community rally on racism, and then, she captured my attention. I think we are on our eighth or ninth event in the last four or five years. So, I'm grateful for her work. Staff, do we have a vote?

Ms. van der Zwaag: Yes, we have a decision. The motion passed with a vote of six to zero. Six votes.

MOTION PASSED WITH UNANIMOUS VOTE

[Light applause.]

Chair Smith: Thank you.

Commissioner Savage: Chair Smith?

Chair Smith: Yes.

Commissioner Savage: I just wanted to congratulate you, as well as Commissioner Stinger, on the new positions. I think we're headed for a wonderful year, and I just also wanted to talk to Commissioner Lee. I think that was a really gracious thing you did. I'm sure it wasn't easy, but for the sake of the Commission, you selflessly stepped aside, and I do appreciate that.

Chair Smith: All right. We can at least say we agreed on one thing tonight, and that was Commissioner Stinger. Thank you.

V. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner Reports

Chair Smith: Let's go to Commissioner Reports. We can do it in circle fashion, so we'll start with Commissioner Lee, and then we'll go to Commissioner Stinger.

Commissioner Lee: As I mentioned earlier, I've had a very prodigious month working with my various colleagues on our various workplan items. Working with Commissioner Regehr, we've been working with various groups in the community who might assist with some of our homelessness and housing-related workplan items, and hopefully we can get something on the agenda in the next couple of months to address those two topics.

Chair Smith: I would invite both of you to the meeting that the clergy and City staff will be having. It will be on... I have it in my email, in my text. The first initial small group meeting will be on, 2:00 p.m. on February 25th and I'll give you the location.

Commissioner Lee: Okay.

Chair Smith: Sorry. Continue.

Commissioner Lee: I've also been working with now-Vice Chair Stinger. You know, as we've previously mentioned at the Commission, we've been working with the LGBTQ working group to get that group sort of self-running. So, we met with our two co-chairs of that working group to finalize some of the structure and the mission of that, and we are re-launching it and including a broader set of community partners from all of north county and one of the things we're going to be working with that group is to be planning the, what would be the first PRIDE event in Palo Alto so, that's one of the things that we're working towards, in addition to some of the other four categories that we [inaudible] earlier, which includes space, which we've already made tremendous progress on thanks to Supervisor Simitian's office, and Avenidas, as well as identifying opportunities for training and education, and... What were some of the other items? Programming. Sensitivity training. Did I miss any categories? What category did I miss?

Ms. van der Zwaag: I would just say the continuation of the good work that Avenidas is doing, if you haven't said it and the event that they're having tomorrow. The Love is Love...

Commissioner Lee: The Love is Love event.

Commissioner Stinger: Between 3:00 and 5:00. Third floor at Avenidas. It's going to be lovely. Music, DJ's. Views.

Commissioner Lee: The last thing I will bring up is the childcare initiative that the Commission weighed in on back in October. I did get some feedback from some of the PTA leadership, and I'll be culling through that data and putting together a second proposal sometime in the next

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month or two. So, thank you.

Chair Smith: Can we add that, if we can ask the City to put changing tables in the bathrooms on this level for parents when they bring their kids to meetings? Because I brought my baby to the meeting and we had to change his diaper and there wasn't a changing table in the men's or women's bathroom. You generally, bringing kids to meetings, that would be an important part, some place to change.

Commissioner Lee: Definitely, we'll add that in. Thank you.

Chair Smith: Commissioner Stinger?

Commissioner Stinger: We held a convening of community leaders on January 23rd to talk about vaping and the local response and this was an activity of Healthy Cities Healthy Communities, with PAMF and we will be summarizing that more formally. So, I just want to touch on this now because these are sort of my edits, but not sanctioned by the committee. We found some gaps in programming at the middle school level, some gaps in mental health treatments; parent education; and we have some groups that want to address those needs, and we will be trying to identify and empower those groups to take the initiative by themselves and carry forward. One of the findings, or one of the follow-ups that we need to do, or I believe we really need to do is to recognize and applaud PAMF. They put out a huge effort to bring some 65 people together to look at what's being done, what are the gaps in service, what do they need to continue their work and they will continue to take this issue forward.

Chair Smith: How do you propose we recognize them? Is it a letter, is it a resolution? Is it...? What would you envision the recognition looking like?

Commissioner Stinger: A resolution would be lovely. I think we also need to just be very conscious in the press, to give them credit when we go to Council, when we speak in public places. Minka, did you want to add to that?

Ms. van der Zwaag: I was just going to say, there are two options – One through the work of the Healthy Cities Healthy Communities, and the HRC also has a recognition process for community groups that was fashioned a couple years ago. So, the Chair and the Vice Chair could consider that as well.

Chair Smith: Can we get a full description of the work they've done for the next meeting, and then we can bring it to general conversation to see if we should do some sort of resolution or official recognition?

Commissioner Stinger: I would love to do that.

Chair Smith: Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Kralik: So, we did meet as a subcommittee after that vaping group, and I think one of the things that impressed us was the self-starting, and the determination of the students. One of the comments that was made is really, I thought, very effective comment, was how the

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students felt it important to take on the leadership of the response to vaping, because they didn't want to be lectured to. They wanted to have the ability to set out their own ideas about how to talk about it. I think one of the ways that we can do that is to support them, and I think, you know, I'm sure as we meet as a subcommittee again, we will identify certain recommendations for the HRC to move forward. I think we had some good speakers tonight. I did work on that. I think both the veterans' group and Dr. Eggleston brought some really good information. I do think that, you know, in the context of our group, discussion is really important, and being open about ideas is important. So, I just want to encourage all of us to continue to do that.
Commissioner Regehr...?

Chair Smith: Commissioner Kralik, could we have recommendations next meeting?

Commissioner Stinger: I can do that.

Commissioner Kralik: The Vice Chair says she can make that happen.

Chair Smith: So we'll have the letter and the recommendations, right? Okay, cool.

Council Member Tanaka: So, again, I'm really glad you guys are leading the charge on the vaping. On the Council, we've also taken some action, as you guys know, and staff is actually looking at... They really dealt with the supply side in terms of banning the sale, but I think there's a large part that could be done on the... I'm sorry. We dealt with the supply side. I think there's a lot to be done on the demand side, right? What can we do? You know, I've talked to a lot of... I'm now the Council rep to Palo Alto Youth Council, so I asked them, "Okay, what do you guys think this ban is going to do in terms of stopping your colleagues, other students from vaping?" and people said, "Nothing." So, I do think that it's worth it for the HRC to investigate this issue more, to figure out what really does work, what would help. I know staff is working on this topic right now, but if the HRC could weigh in on this and kind of figure out what could be more effective, right? So, I definitely appreciate it. I think you guys could have probably more time and perhaps more focus on figuring out,... I don't think there's an easy answer, but again, continue to look at other cities, you could look at what's worked and not worked. Talk to other students, right?

Commissioner Lee: Can I ask the council member a question? I know when the Council last took this up, in addition to directing staff to prepare the ordinance, they also asked staff after the breakfast, to come back with funding recommendations, and I'm wondering if you think it would be appropriate for this Commission and subcommittee in particular, the three commissioners in front of me to come back with a possible recommendation in terms of funding especially given our role in terms of providing HSRAP funding, but certainly could be in a different pot of money. Would that be something that you think would be appropriate?

Council Member Tanaka: Well, I mean, I can't talk for the Council as whole, but I can talk for myself. I would find that very useful. I mean, one of the things I think this was actually part of the motion, which was to look at, you know, could potential fines be one way to discourage use? A lot of us think so, but there's also a lot of potential pitfalls to as well, in terms of fairness and all that other kind of stuff. So, I for one don't think that we have the magic answer. I think this is

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a very tough, hard problem. It's something that's spreading among our youth quite rapidly, even at the middle school, which is sad. So, I'm looking for the best ideas and the best brains on this.

Commissioner Lee: I don't want to discuss it, but I would ask that the committee consider bringing one of the recommendations, including...

Council Member Tanaka: I think you guys have to figure that out, but I personally would, as a council member, I would find that very, very informative. Especially if you get feedback before it comes back to Council.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Can I just interject as far as the timing, Chair Smith? Is that I would like to have some flexibility for the Health Cities Healthy Communities, to do some of their follow-up. Vice Chair Stinger is on that. I would rather, instead of just saying, "Okay, it has to be next month at the HRC," to look at the timing of this, and do it when it makes sense that the HRC can be informed by the analysis that the subcommittee on the Healthy Cities Healthy Communities group has done on the vaping event, and the next steps, and some of what they've heard back. So, I do believe there is obviously a role for the Human Relations Commission to discuss next steps, but I wouldn't want that to happen without some of that important work on the Health Cities' committee to happen first. So, I'm not asking for a great delay, but I'm just not sure that the information would be there to have a productive conversation. So, that's just something that we can discuss at agenda planning, but I will say that I would like that to be, you know, considered, so that whatever recommendations the HRC may have, really feel like they come in concert with the work that the Health Cities committee has done and all that acknowledges the leadership you've provided for this topic up until today.

Chair Smith: Thank you.

Commissioner Stinger: Chair Smith, can I have two more sentences? I was trying to be really brief since we were just doing commissioner reports. But we've talked about the strength of the teen voice, and one of the voices, one of the statements that they made that I think is really important is, we've seen it; it's on us and the high school students were saying they wanted to be instrumental in speaking to the middle school students, and using peer-to-peer influence, and trying to de-mythicize some of the myths and in that vein, the Palo Alto Youth Council is doing a program, Escaping Vaping, on April 2nd, at 7:30. It's a student-organized panel, primarily targeted to the parents and they've taken some of the myths about vaping and tried to twist it... not twist it, present it from their standpoint because they have said clearly that the medical facts aren't deterring them. If they can see the experience of other students, that's much more helpful. So, they're stepping up, and we need to let them go and encourage them. Give them what they need.

Chair Smith: Thank you so much. Commissioner Regehr?

Commissioner Regehr: I have nothing to report.

Chair Smith: Commissioner Savage?

Commissioner Regehr: Can I just say...? I look forward to – I’m sorry – In some ways, I do, I’ve been working a lot on different issues, and Minka has been asking me, do I want to present it on the agenda before and look forward to working with, having you ask us, so we can coordinate agendas, not just shared lead, so that some of my things I’ve been working on can be on the agenda, and can be discussed. So, for timely reasons, I mean, I’ve kind of backed down a lot of times. So, I look forward to...

Chair Smith: And we’re meeting next week, right? We’ll talk then.

Commissioner Savage: Okay. So, two months ago, Chair Smith, Commissioner Lee and I met with Palo Alto Police Chief Jonsen, just to go over current events. The first thing we discussed was community involvement, and they mentioned recent community things, were the December toy drive. They hold monthly CAG meetings – that’s a Citizens Advisory Group – who recently developed a strategic traffic plan, so that committee is really going to town. They had a National Night Out, and they offer citizens’ academies three times a year. There’s an upcoming academy right now, and applications are now open if anybody wants to apply. We also discussed crime trends. Residential burglaries are slightly down, but what is up is grab-and-run, and smash-and-grab. Grab-and-run are robberies at stores like Apple or Lululemon, where they come in, they grab, and they run. Smash-and-grab, that’s on vehicles, where they smash a window, grab your computer, and run. Both of those are on the increase. Staffing for police, there are currently 13 vacancies. There are three people right now in the police academy, and three additional ones getting field training, and another three are in the final hiring process and lastly, the status of the new police building, it’s on time, on budget, and completion date is 2022.

Chair Smith: Thank you so much. I have two items to report. As you’ve heard, I’ve been doing some work with the faith community, and the parking initiative. As it stands right now, I think there’s a couple of steps we’re taking. We met with nine faith communities and the three major community services agencies, and we started having a discussion, just to see where everybody was. There was a lot of lack of clarity. There was a little bit of confusion and a lot of people were in different phases of their thought process as far as discussion. Also, we started to address the cost, and there was a certain level of cynicism because they had been down this path before with the City, i.e. 2012. Next steps, a couple of next steps for that. There will be a small group meeting with two or three houses of worships that actually are in place. One of them actually, when they did their renovation, their social space to have a space, having a bathroom that’s accessible from outside, with a shower. So, this group was already thinking about this. So, they will be at the table, and two others. We want to put together a community forum to start answering questions, because some of the pastors locally have started talking to neighbors, and what we’ve realized is the high level of misinformation and dehumanizing of the homeless population. So, we continue to work on that and then, we’re going to meet with Rachael because we are connecting her with a couple of the big serve list of religious institutions in the community. So, when the City has their bigger meeting to invite everybody that’s interested, she’ll be able to have a deeper penetration there. The second thing is, myself and Commissioner Stinger met with the League of Women Voters, and we wanted to continue our dialog around diverse communities. We are looking to do our next event at the end of March, if I remember correctly. We have not finalized location. The one location we were thinking about, we have to see if they finish building it. I don’t know if you know, Congregation Kol Emeth has just, is in

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the process, they're almost done, of building a beautiful, \$30 million synagogue, and this would be the first public event, talking about diverse communities. We want to put a panel together of two from marketplace, where we have one young lady that's African American that runs D&I Tech company, and another young lady that runs D&I another corporation, to talk about doing diverse communities. Two faith leaders and two community leaders and we want to make it an open public discussion, talking about, what does it mean to be a diverse Palo Alto? What does that really mean as a community? Our goal with this one is to make it more interactive and more about the people at the table discussing the situation. So, we are in the planning process in finalizing of that now.

Commissioner Lee: Is that the third in the four-event series?

Chair Smith: That would be second.

Commissioner Lee: Second one.

Chair Smith: First one was Rob Wilder in September.

Commissioner Stinger: We were not counting Jennifer Eberhardt as part of the series of four.

Commissioner Lee: Gotcha. Okay.

Chair Smith: So, I think it's a great opportunity.

Commissioner Lee: Can I also just ask real quick, Mr. Chair? With regards to the first update, to the extent that you would like to involve the Commission with any of those efforts, I would ask that you tag up with Commissioner Regehr and myself since the two of us are identified on the workplan on homelessness. So, it would be great if can follow the structure that we've set out.

Chair Smith: I will definitely do that. I have a little, I don't want to call it conflict of interest. A lot of the work I'm doing on that is as my role as a pastor, and the lead pastor in the area. But I'll definitely... I think it would be very valuable to have you at the table. So, all the meetings we're going to have from now on, I will definitely include you and have you there with everybody else because I think it's super valuable to have everybody at the table.

2. Council Liaison Report

Chair Smith: The only other thing is...

Ms. van der Zwaag: Council Liaison Reports.

Chair Smith: Council liaison, yes.

Council Member Tanaka: Well, again, thank you for inviting me here. It's great to see you guys in action. It seems like you guys all really care deeply about the community and want to make it better, so that's awesome. I guess for me, the thing that I, I would only talk about some things that I think would be helpful, like the vaping, or the safe parking. But I, you know, as you guys

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probably know, I served on the Planning & Transportation Commission for a while, so I have a deep appreciation, actually, for commissioners. I really appreciate you guys putting your time in for this role. I think that, on Council, like, for me, because we're quite busy looking at a lot of different topics, I definitely like the fairness and deepness that you guys go into topics and I think this is something which makes it easier for us on Council to make better decisions, because we have you guys looking at this stuff, researching it, looking at it from every different angle. So, I just want to encourage you guys to continue to do that. Also, I want to encourage you guys to, you know, it seems like you guys have various initiatives that you guys are trying to do, and I think that's great as well because I think on Council, we don't necessarily see everything, right? So, I think it's great that you guys have different initiatives that you're looking to kind of put forward and research. I think that's good because I think, on Council, we're not blindsided when there's something that comes up, right? We haven't even talked about coronavirus, but that seems like a good thing to be talking about, given all the news right now. So, that's great. You know, I want to definitely work with the Chair on how to actually be supportive, but I kind of see you guys as a resource for us on Council, and would love to see more stuff that you guys do, right? I think it allows us to free up time for other things, right? To look at other things that we may not get time to if we're spending a lot of detail time on some of the stuff that you guys could do. So, thank you.

Commissioner Regehr: May I just ask, does he have our workplans, so he knows who's doing...? Or can he get the workplan, so he knows...? So, you know what each of us, areas we're working on?

Council Member Tanaka: It might be helpful. Thank you.

Chair Smith: [off-microphone] [inaudible]

3. Staff Liaison Report

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay, thank you. I have several things. First is I'd like to give out a copy of hot-off-the-presses Community Services' annual report, and we do that in the form of a calendar. You all are listed in here and thanked for your service. Human Services, the operation that Mary and I serve the City with, is one of the months. Do you remember what month? We might be September and there's a picture of Senior Friendship Day, and that is a program that is a collaboration between the City, the Adult School, La Comida and Avenidas. It is mostly Chinese elders, so, there's a great picture in here. I will hand that out. The second thing is your HSRAP site visits. That list has been sent out. Everybody is signed up except for Commissioner Kralik, if you could take the time to look at the list, if you are able to take the time to make any visits, and then, once you have done so, Chair, I will send an email out to all the commissioners, and those that are listed as leads, I ask that you take the time to start initiating those visits. Mary has sent an email out to all of our key contacts at those agencies, so they know to expect your contact. Just as a reminder, this is a social visit. Of course, questions can be asked, but Mary and I take on the role of really analyzing the effectiveness of their management of the HSRAP grant. Related to HSRAP in that the HRC has a role, on next month's agenda is Community Development Block Grant Second Year. So, in that capacity – for those that have served for a while, may know what I'm about to say – the CDBG staff does meet with the subcommittee from the HRC to look at the

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decisions that need to be made for Year 2. Protocol has usually been that those that served on the Year 1 committee serve on the Year 2 committee. So, that would be Commissioner Lee and Vice Chair Stinger. There is one spot open from Commission Brahmbhatt who is no longer serving. So, we need a third person. Actually, what I would say is, Commissioner Kralik, the process that he and I had discussed is that anybody who was interested would let me know, and then, the Chair would make the decision of who would serve. Often it's easy for folks who have done it before because they have a process, but that isn't a requirement. So, I'd like to just stay with the process that he identified. So, if you are interested, can you let me know by tomorrow?

Commissioner Regehr: Can we let you know now?

Ms. van der Zwaag: You can.

Commissioner Regehr: Okay, I'd like to. I'd be interested.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay.

Commissioner Lee: Can I ask a question? I know historically that's how this Commission has done it, but technically, shouldn't the Commission vote on who is on a subcommittee?

Ms. van der Zwaag: Because this is time sensitive, that can happen, but this is just trying to fill that...

Commissioner Lee: I think, in the future, we can try to do that.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay. But this was a decision made, the Chair, just to be more effective, because this subcommittee will be meeting in the next week or so.

Chair Smith: I'll withdraw my name. Let's have Patti do it and move on. Thank you.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay. The other thing is just a reminder that there are three positions on the HRC, two terms that end May 31st by current commissioners who would be eligible to reapply if they so desired, and one term that is empty. So, I'm not sure. I got the information from the Clerk's office. Not sure if you as individual members have received that...? Okay. Then I will pass that on to you. The other thing is...

Commissioner Regehr: Can I ask a question on that one? Is it possible, because I know that when Daryl and I applied – and I can't remember the other woman's name – the process was different for each one of us? Like, Daryl got it videotaped just with one commissioner, I think with you. I met with everyone and I think that it should be a consistent way of interviewing, or something... I mean, I don't know how to say that, but I think that it's, it seems like we should be consistent.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay. So, with that feedback, there are two council members here, and I can provide that feedback back to the clerk's office. Just as an FYI, I chair, it's not extremely formal, but the Palo Alto Homeless Services committee. It is a committee of homeless service providers and senior providers. We are hosting a resource fair for unhoused and low-income members of the community tomorrow, at the Opportunity Center, from 10:00 to noon. So, those providers

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have been doing outreach for the event. You're welcome to stop by, but that's tomorrow, 10:00 to noon, at the Opportunity Center.

Chair Smith: Can I ask something? Can we start, like, a Google doc and just start listing all the various events that different people want to do, and we can add to it? So that we have one, like a repository, of things that people go to.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Are you asking for a listing of the events or a listing of who's going to them?

Chair Smith: No, no, no, just a listing of events. So like, I know we go through the meeting, Valerie mentioned, and I know you mentioned one. So that we can all have...

Ms. van der Zwaag: It's usually, those things that are very good intentioned at the beginning, and hard to keep up. So, this is an event that Mary and I are planning, so it's not particularly an HRC event. I was just letting you know about it. I mean, we can take that into consideration. There is a spot that needs to be developed on the HRC website that talks about... HRC events and past events can be listed on. I think, too, if the leadership committee wants to talk about something else, we can definitely do so. Just wanted to bring that to your attention. Let me think if that's all that I had on my list. I believe so. Thank you.

Chair Smith: Thank you.

Commissioner Lee: Can I ask for clarification? When will staff be making its recommendation on Year 2 on HSRAP? Is it to Council?

Ms. van der Zwaag: There is no recommendation that goes back to Council for HSRAP.

Commissioner Lee: Oh, just renew it.

Ms. van der Zwaag: They have a two-year contract. It's basically one year with a possibility of renewing, and there's really no formal process that happens there.

Commissioner Lee: So, staff could decide not to renew a particular contract for Year 2?

Ms. van der Zwaag: Theoretically, but staff has no recommendations to do so at this time.

Commissioner Lee: Theoretically, when would you be renewing then for Year 2?

Ms. van der Zwaag: That just happens within the budget cycle for next fiscal year.

Commissioner Lee: So, June?

Ms. van der Zwaag: That is when the budget is approved. But as a base budget, the current HRC budget and contracts just go straight through to Year 2.

Commissioner Lee: Okay.

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Commissioner Kralik: I think you also held a meeting that I attended. I just wondered if you wanted to speak about that. The senior group.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Sure.

Commissioner Kralik: I had an opportunity to see you in a whole new light as a community organizer...

Ms. van der Zwaag: Okay.

Commissioner Kralik: ... and I certainly enjoyed being present. It was a well-attended meeting. Speak a little bit about that.

Ms. van der Zwaag: So, part of the work of the Healthy Cities Healthy Communities was to join and make Palo Alto an Age-Friendly Community, and really, that was part of an effort to have every city in the county be designated as age-friendly. That's a World Health Organization designation that means that we are striving to be age-friendly and working together as a community and providers to look for ways to make our community a better place for older adults. So, I've been working with that committee for a couple of years and decided it was time to do a revamp of that committee. We had a meeting just under a month ago. We had at least 25 individuals in the room that work with older adults, in one capacity or another. We are meeting again next week to look... There were so many ideas generated. The goal was to come up with some ideas and projects and so forth, for the group to work on collaboratively, but there were so many ideas that we're having another meeting, just to revisit some of those ideas, and pare them down, and see what work that committee, and what good work it can do in the community.

Commissioner Kralik: I thought you did a great job...

Ms. van der Zwaag: Oh, thank you.

Commissioner Kralik: ... certainly in organizing, but also in running that meeting. It really brought out a lot of great ideas from different people. So, thank you.

Chair Smith: Thank you each for your time this evening.

VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, March 12, 2020

Ms. van der Zwaag: There's a call for agenda items, Chair.

Chair Smith: Okay. Any agenda items for the next meeting?

Ms. van der Zwaag: I will list, just as a reminder, the CDBG. That is listed on the next agenda. I would give, for your consideration and that's really up to the Commission – is one item that did get tabled was the workplan review. Just to bring that up.

Chair Smith: Definitely.

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Commissioner Kralik: Commissioner Lee was first.

Commissioner Lee: I wanted to ask staff. Maybe we need check with Kristen on this, but in terms of following up on the CIP and the therapeutic recreation position that they were considering, when would we need to discuss that as a Commission, if we wanted to send a recommendation to Council as part of their budget process? Can we wait until April?

Ms. van der Zwaag: I think you're talking about two separate things...

Commissioner Lee: Yes, yes.

Ms. van der Zwaag: ... because, obviously, the staff position is not a CIP. The CIP is for facilities-based items. I can check with Kristen and share that with the Leadership Team.

Commissioner Lee: If it's time sensitive, I would ask...

Commissioner Regehr: Because I think she said March.

Commissioner Lee: March?

Commissioner Regehr: I thought...

Commissioner Lee: If it's time sensitive, I would ask that it be March.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Thank you.

Commissioner Lee: For both items.

Ms. van der Zwaag: I will check.

Chair Smith: What's the item again, Commissioner Lee?

Commissioner Lee: It's the Rinconada pool CIP, and the...

Chair Smith: What does the acronym "CIP" stand for?

Commissioner Lee: Capital Improvement Project.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Capital Improvement Project.

Chair Smith: That's for the entryway for the...

Commissioner Lee: For the gender-neutral family changing rooms.

Chair Smith: Okay.

Commissioner Lee: The other thing was, we're still working out the therapeutic recreation specialist. I don't know if they're going to be asking for [crosstalk].

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Chair Smith: So that's two separate...

Commissioner Lee: It's two separate, but its under the same workplan item.

Chair Smith: Okay.

Ms. van der Zwaag: That can be a staff follow-up item.

Chair Smith: Okay so we're voting on a timing for staff to let us know when we can make a recommendation?

Ms. van der Zwaag: Staff will let you know timing as far as when it can be brought back to this Committee, and you can make a decision if you want to make a recommendation to the Council that would probably just be shared with Council when they do the budget process, which goes to the finance committee.

Chair Smith: Okay.

Commissioner Lee: Thank you.

Chair Smith: Any other items.

Commissioner Stinger: Two items. One, an update on vaping, and the Healthy Cities and Healthy Communities progress, and we had talked about perhaps revising our schedule of election retreat and setting a workplan for the year. I'd like to look at that. Maybe a retreat would be better in February or March, right after the Council's retreat, and when you have a full year to act on an action plan.

Chair Smith: I like the thinking to that. We'll review it with the workplan, and then, we can bring it to a vote to the body, to see if they want to move it for the following year. I don't think we can move it for this year. We'd have to keep it, and it would affect the next group for the following year. Any other items?

Commissioner Kralik: I'd like to second the vaping discussion, just as a way of update. I understand from Valerie that the Healthy Cities group is meeting early in March, and I think if we can just kind of focus on a limited agenda item to report off of that, that would be good, pursuant to the ideas of staff on collecting that wisdom and kind of thinking about which way to go.

Chair Smith: Okay. Commissioner Regehr?

Commissioner Regehr: I'm wondering why that can't just be part of a commissioner's report. It seems like our workplan should be a big item, because there's many items... I know you seconded it, but I'm just saying that it seems like that could be part of a commissioner's report, not a small little agenda item because it seems like, according...

Commissioner Stinger: Can I speak to that?

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Commissioner Regehr: ... Because according to the workplan, that was just one item, and we have been taken over by, I mean, in some ways, about just kind of flip-flop, I mean, a ping-pong ball of our agendas, and I would recommend that you guys think about the workplan and how that's going to fit into the agenda along the way, and how some workplans haven't even been on the agenda.

Chair Smith: That makes sense.

Ms. van der Zwaag: Can I speak? It can, if they're not bringing anything to you for consideration, for any type of action. That would be, I would leave that for that subcommittee to be in dialog with the Leadership Team about that.

Commissioner Kralik: Yes, I think you have to just find out what the input of the Health Cities group is, and if it becomes a report, or there's something that can be raised, you just play it by ear. So, we'll see how it goes.

Chair Smith: Okay. Do you have an item you'd like to add? I think we'll discuss offline whether it's just a report, or if it needs to be action. We'll make a determination at that point. Do you have any other items?

Commissioner Savage: I do.

Chair Smith: Okay. Commissioner Savage?

Commissioner Savage: Now that we have new leadership, I'd like to explore the possibility of getting someone in to do a presentation on media training. Yes, maybe staff can do that...?

Ms. van der Zwaag: I've already, at this point, a point of scheduling it but I have been in touch with the City's chief communications officer about this specifically.

Commissioner Savage: Great. I think media training for everyone, but especially the Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Smith: Thank you.

Commissioner Lee: Does that have to be something at a publicly noticed meeting, or can we just do that, like, separately? Because we have so few of these meetings, and I would hate to waste it on a presentation like that.

Chair Smith: I'll look at it for feasibility on the amount of time, because if an hour and a half training, it would not make sense to do it at a board meeting.

Commissioner Lee: Right. I mean, my preference, even if it was half an hour, we have a long list of discussion and action items.

Chair Smith: Well, I'll talk to staff, see what feasibility is, and what makes sense, and then, we can...

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Commissioner Lee: I guess my question is, is it possible that it be not at a meeting? Like, technically...?

Chair Smith: Oh, definitely.

Commissioner Lee: Okay.

Chair Smith: Anything is possible. We just have to see what it is. All I have right now is a title, so, until we figure out what timing and everything is, then we can sort of figure out what we have to do. We have a lot of hard work to do around homelessness and other things, but we definitely are going to get to media training because we want to avoid some things. All right.

Commissioner Regehr: Do we need a second on the workplan, for that to be on...? Because you seconded about the vaping.

Ms. van der Zwaag: For clarity, we did not need a second on the vaping. We made a decision at this Commission that if something was already on the workplan, it did not need a second to be brought back to the Commission. As far as the workplan item, that's really just a continuance of when it was on the agenda last month and did not get heard.

Chair Smith: All right. I know that we live in a very fast-moving world. If anyone wants to add anything or change anything to the agenda, please text me. Please have a good evening. I hope you all have a good Valentine's Day with somebody you love. I'll talk to you next month. Thank you.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:43pm