

From: [Aram James](#)
To: paloaltofreepress@gmail.com; citycouncil@mountainview.gov; city.council@menlopark.org; GRP-City Council; [Jeff Moore](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Raj](#); [Richard Konda](#); rebecca@winwithrebecca.com; [Planning Commission](#); [Council, City](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); chuckjagoda1@gmail.com; wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com; [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); gstone22@gmail.com; [DuBois, Tom](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Tony Dixon](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); ravenmalonepa@gmail.com
Subject: Is this happening in Palo Alto -I've asked the Palo Alto Police to release the race of the last 5 dog bite victims and the extent of the injuries pursuant to a california Public Records Act —thus for my requests have been denied ...what is PAPD coverin...
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:40:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Marshall Series: police wanted a dog that would bite blacks people ...horrific check it out.

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/10/29/police-wanted-a-dog-that-would-bite-a-black-person>

Shared via the [Google app](#)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Binder, Andrew](#); citycouncil@mountainview.gov; [GRP-City Council](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Council, City](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); chuckjagoda1@gmail.com; rebecca@winwithrebecca.com
Subject: Sweeping attempt at police reforms across the country far from enough
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:07:00 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/18/us/police-reform-bills.amp.html>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Palo Alto Free Press](#)
Cc: [Binder, Andrew](#); citycouncil@mountainview.gov; [Planning Commission](#); [Council, City](#); rebecca@winwithrebecca.com; [Human Relations Commission](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com; [ParkRec Commission](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Tony Dixon](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Raj](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Lewis. james](#)
Subject: Re: Where someone was bitten by the police every 5 days
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 8:33:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Palo Alto Free Press:

Thanks for your powerful insights re this most horrific issue. I will send out other articles from this 12 part series on police sponsored canine mauling..... as I complete them.

We still have much to learn re the horrors victims of the PAPD canine unit have suffered over the years. My hope is that as the public reads the full set of twelve articleswe can then have a fully informed discussion on the the merits of banning canine units in Palo Alto and across this state.

Aram

On Apr 19, 2021, at 7:40 PM, Palo Alto Free Press
<paloaltofreepress@gmail.com> wrote:

Some people describe a police dog's bite as a deep tear through their flesh. Others are haunted by the feeling of a Vise-Grip, the dog's jaws slowly but painfully tightening around their arms or legs until the muscles go numb.

Anyone knowing the pain that is Inflicted and takes no action are themselves sick and sadistic in their behavior to the very marrow of their bones.

And anyone who remains silent on this horrific and painful depiction becomes complicit in all of its meaning / definition.....

Whenever litigation action is taken, the parties referenced always and inevitably, begin with the Police Chief - In this case Robert Jensen.....

Every dictator and menacing force has its leader....In this case again, captured beyond all reasonable doubt in a proverbial brown bag in which he is unable to punch through, short of his resignation....

“All of this I have seen, and I applied my heart to every work that has been done under the sun, during the time that man has dominated man to his harm”.
Ecclesiastes 8:9.

How true these prophetic words are even today!

Palo Alto Free Press

On Apr 19, 2021, at 12:12 AM, Aram James <abjpd1@gmail.com>
wrote:

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/10/11/the-city-where-someone-was-bitten-by-a-police-dog-every-5-days>

Shared via the [Google app](#)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Don Christoff](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Improving Tenant Protections
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 6:59:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Commission members,

I recently read an [article](#) about your current rental issues. I thought I should reach out to you.

If you are like most cities and counties, tenant protections is a critical problem and the current situations are requiring officials to develop quickly new strategies and ordinances to cope with evictions, rent burdens, and livability standards.

Those rent related decisions need to be driven by accurate data, which starts with your current rental unit inventory. Yet, many local governments do not have such inventory information readily available, accurate, and in real-time.

To be effective, cities and counties need:

- An accurate, “up to date” rental units inventory within their jurisdiction. The property owners should have the primary responsibility for maintaining the accuracy of their rental unit inventory, not the government. To accomplish that task, the property owners need the proper online tools.
- An effective case management solution designed specifically for housing with robust reporting/analytics.
- A budget neutral solution via cost recovery

3Di provides proven effective private sector housing related solutions, such as Rent Registry, Rental Unit Inspections, Rent Stabilization and Just/Good Cause Evictions Management to cities/counties including; Los Angeles, Inglewood, Berkeley, Oakland, Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Alameda, and Los Angeles County in California. We are the largest provider of rental housing related solutions in California and the United States.

For more information on 3Di Housing solutions, please visit www.3disystems.com/housing.

We would like to have a conversation with you and/or other influencers/movers to show you how these solutions would be effective for your communities. Please let us know some dates and times that work for your schedules. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Thank you,

--

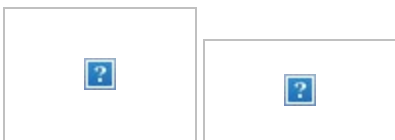
Don Christoff
Sales Director, 3Di Engage
724.866.6646
3disystems.com



[Click Here to Schedule a Meeting or Call](#)

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Don Christoff
Sales Director, 3Di Engage
724.866.6646
3disystems.com



[Click Here to Schedule a Meeting or Call](#)

From: [Kevin Ma](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Study Mountain View's Tenant Protections and Other Comments
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:45:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I would like to direct you to explore Mountain View's [rental protections](#), which derive from a 2016 citizen-initiated charter amendment. Their rental oversight body, the Rental Housing Commission, will actually be discussing today on [adding full-scope legal services](#) to their eviction prevention efforts. Perhaps you can reach out to them to see how their efforts are going and how their housing production is going.

To address a misconception from last meeting, [AB1482's just-cause protections](#) apply if the building is older than 15 years old **AND** that the tenant has been there for more than a year (or 2 years if sharing with a roommate of less than 1 year residency). If you extend just-cause protections to buildings built within the 15 years mark, the tenant residency requirement still remains.

And to echo a point made by one of the other commentators, perhaps think of the Tenant Relocation Assistance as an Eviction Tax, one that has a visible direct benefit to the tenant to be dislocated. Compared to the variety of issues causing high housing construction costs here, TRA is not too financially significant on development. But to the tenant who is now thrown into the housing search in our region, it can be the difference between having the time to search for another home with some breathing room versus just leaving the area altogether. (Evictions do have [health impacts](#)). It's about giving dignity to the tenant, especially since the TRA-equivalent for homeowners is the buy-out or eminent domain.

So let's caution against rhetoric that any tenant protections harm housing production; a similar argument would say that safety standards harm housing production, since given the market as-it-is it's possible to sell a hazardous home. Tenant protections are about giving stability and respect to the 45% who do rent in the city, something that the state and Mountain View caught on more quickly.

Sincerely,
Kevin Ma

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Binder, Andrew](#); citycouncil@mountainview.gov; [Planning Commission](#); [Council, City](#); chuckjagoda1@gmail.com; rebecca@winwithrebecca.com; [Human Relations Commission](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com; [ParkRec Commission](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Tony Dixon](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Raj](#); paloaltofreepress@gmail.com; [Jeff Rosen](#)
Subject: Where someone was bitten by the police every 5 days
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:12:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/10/11/the-city-where-someone-was-bitten-by-a-police-dog-every-5-days>

Shared via the [Google app](#)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Council, City](#); [Planning Commission](#); [rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](#); [Raj](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Tony Dixon](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [city.council@menlopark.org](#); [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [james pitkin](#); [Eduardo Guilarte](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Molly](#); [wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [gstone22@gmail.com](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](#)
Subject: Police just keep killing
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 11:12:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/17/us/chicago-police-shooting-adam-toledo.amp.html>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Council, City](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Planning Commission](#); [rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [chuckjagoda1@gmail.com](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com](#); [Raj](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [Tony Dixon](#); [Anna Griffin](#); [paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Raj](#); [gstone22@gmail.com](#); [ravenmalonepa@gmail.com](#)
Subject: During Chauvin trial police cold blooded murders mount
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 11:05:27 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/17/us/police-shootings-killings.amp.html>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Filseth, Eric \(Internal\)](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Council, City](#); [Tanaka, Greg](#); [paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](#); [rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [chuckjagoda1@gmail.com](#); [Planning Commission](#); [mark weiss](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com](#); [Lewis, James](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [ravenmalonepa@gmail.com](#); [Raj](#); [Charisse Domingo](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#)
Subject: THE GUARDIAN: A beach town seized a Black couple's land in the 1920s. Now their family could get it back
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:50:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

FYI: Thanks to the Palo Alto Free Press for sending this important piece my way. This is an important story about the possibility of reparations for a black family who had their land - beach front property in tony Manhattan Beach, CA and the campaign to have the property - now valued at \$75 million- returned to the family. And, of course, the resistants by the city council and others that want to hold on to a model of white supremacy and oppression. Article also discusses return of property to Japanese Americans whose property confiscated during World War 2. What can Palo Alto learn from this story?

Aram

A beach town seized a Black couple's land in the 1920s. Now their family could get it back

Los Angeles officials have announced an effort to return the valuable Manhattan Beach property to the descendants of Willa and Charles Bruce

Read in The Guardian: <https://apple.news/ApJccXDSdT-qn-rq0C-tV3w>

Shared from [Apple News](#)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [chuckjagoda1@gmail.com](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Planning Commission](#); [gstone22@gmail.com](#); [Council, City](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Jeff Moore](#)
Subject: Palo Alto looks to expand police auditor role.....
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:10:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2021/04/13/palo-alto-looks-to-expand-police-auditors-oversight-role>

Shared via the [Google app](#)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Binder, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); citycouncil@mountainview.gov; [GRP-City Council](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [Betsy Nash](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [Tony Dixon](#); [Scheff, Lisa](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Shimizu, Tim](#)
Subject: Re: California Public Records Request re current PAPD interrogation techniques
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 8:23:30 PM

Assistant Chief Andrew Binder,

Thanks so much for your prompt response to my CPRA request. I look forward to discussing current PAPD interrogation tactics with you when your schedule permits.

Sincerely,

Aram James

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 14, 2021, at 7:54 PM, Binder, Andrew <Andrew.Binder@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Mr. James – This email confirms my receipt of your email below and to let you know it will be processed as a California Public Records Request per your direction.

<!--[if !vml]-->
<image008.png>
<!--[endif]-->**Andrew Binder**

Assistant Police Chief
Palo Alto Police Department
(650) 329-2449 | andrew.binder@cityofpaloalto.org
www.cityofpaloalto.org | www.papd.org

[<image003.png>](#)

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From: Aram James <abjpd1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; citycouncil@mountainview.gov; [GRP-City Council](#) <council@redwoodcity.org>; [Jonsen, Robert](#) <Robert.Jonsen@CityofPaloAlto.org>; [Planning Commission](#) <Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org>; [Josh Becker](#)

<becker.josh@gmail.com>; Cecilia Taylor <cmrstaylor@gmail.com>; Betsy Nash <BNash@menlopark.org>; Reifschneider, James <James.Reifschneider@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Perron, Zachary <Zachary.Perron@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Tony Dixon <Wadixon@menlopark.org>; Binder, Andrew <Andrew.Binder@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Subject: California Public Records Request re current PAPD interrogation techniques

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

FYI:

4/14/21

Dear Assistant Chief Andrew Binder.

Directly below is the rough draft of a guest opinion I wrote for the Daily News (Dave Price paper at the time) that was ultimately published back on Tuesday Jan 18, 2005. The piece was eventfully titled: *Coerced Confessions still likely*

The Jorge Hernandez case became national news including a feature piece on 60 minutes.

<http://www.talkleft.com/story/2004/02/27/313/52110/innocencecases/60-Minutes-to-Feature-False-Confessions>

Below my letter are a few questions I'd like to ask you and also ask that the questions be considered a California Public Records Request.

Okay, look forward to talking to you when your time permits.

Best regards,

Aram James

415-370-5056

Coerced Confessions still likely (by Aram James Jan 18, 2005, *The Daily News*)

The most troubling issue to be raised by your recent editorial (City settles suit but doesn't fix problem, Dec, 20, 04, on the settlement in the Jorge Hernandez case is that neither Lynne Johnson or Detective Natasha Powers see anything wrong with the way in which the interrogation process that led to a coerced false confession was carried out. Such statements send a clear message to the rank and file PAPD officer –act in an overzealous fashion and we will support your actions regardless.

Chief Lynne Johnson was quoted as saying" "We didn't issue an apology because we didn't do anything wrong," (Palo Alto Daily News Dec 21,

04), and Detective Natasha Powers who actually conducted the interrogation leading to the coerced false confession by Mr. Hernandez, said of the settlement "It certainly isn't going to change how I do my job," (San Jose Mercury News Dec 18, 04).

Chief Johnson and Detective Powers' mind set, one of defiance and unwillingness to acknowledge the overzealous and misleading interrogation process used in the Hernandez case, carries with it the strong likelihood of future wrongful convictions directly related to the use of unreliable confession evidence extracted by members of the PAPD.

Contrary to public perception, wrongful convictions resulting from false confessions are more common than normally acknowledged. . Of sixty- two individuals in the United States who had been wrongfully convicted and ultimately exonerated by DNA testing 15 had falsely confessed to the crime, (Actual Innocence, Scheck et al. 2000).

But for the fortuitous circumstance that the real perpetrator of this horrendous crime, rape and beating of a 94 year old woman, left DNA at the crime scene, Mr. Hernandez, given the strong impact confessions have on juries, would likely have been wrongly convicted of these charges and would currently be spending the balance of his life in prison.

Given the cavalier comments by Chief Johnson and Detective Powers regarding their belief that they did nothing wrong, it seems unlikely that training and reforms geared at changing the interrogation process that resulted in the false confession in the Hernandez case will occur in the PAPD any time soon if the decision for change is left to Chief Johnson.

Future money judgments against the city should be incentive enough for immediate reform in the interrogation process. But more importantly, the likelihood of wrongful convictions of the innocent, if the current interrogation practice is allowed to stand, should trigger sufficient citizen outrage to demand that change take place immediately.

The research in the field of wrongful confessions strongly suggests that once there is a confession attributed to a suspect everyone in the criminal justice system, the defense attorney, district attorney and judge etc, assumes the guilt of suspect and close scrutiny of the case, including testing and or investigating of the reliability of the confession ceases. Where the courts, public defenders and DA's are burdened with heavy caseloads the situation is only exacerbated.

Once the confession is recorded the focus of all the players in the system most often becomes pressuring the defendant to plead guilty. In the case of a false confession the defendant frequently becomes the victim of both a coerced/false confession and a coerced plea of guilty.

The numbers of individuals who are the victims of both false confessions and subsequent pleas to charges they are not guilty of are much larger than commonly understood. Without immediate reform to the police practices that lead to false confessions the cycle of injustice will remain unabated except for the rare case like Jorge Hernandez where irrefutable

evidence of its falsehood exists.

Simply agreeing to tape the entire interrogation (which the PAPD has apparently now agreed to do) is an insufficient safeguard against coerced false confessions. Without an end to interrogation tactics based on lies and deceit there is no guarantee that a false confession will be uncovered. It is not enough to tape the entire interrogation; the use of lies, trickery and deceit as routine police practice in extracting confessions must be outlawed.

April 14, 2021

California Public Records Request

To: Andrew Binder, Liza Scheff, Molly Stump, Beth Minor (Please consider the below questions a California Public Records Request)

From: Aram James

Re: Current interrogation tactics of the PAPD

1. Please point me to the section of PAPD policy and procedure manual dealing with the current training and policies related to suspect interviews and interrogations. (And any and all documents related to your current interrogation policy re criminal suspects, both misdemeanor and felony charges).
2. Any and all documents re the current training materials used to train PAPD officers re how to conduct and memorialize crime suspect interviews.
3. The number of complaints or lawsuits filed against the PAPD in the last ten years, involving allegation of coerced false confessions. (all documents related to this request)
4. Whether the Reid technique is still used by members of the PAPD? All documents and information re this question. (Criminal Interrogation And Confessions, Fred E. Inbau, John E. Reid, Joseph P. Buckley, and Brian C. Jayne)
5. If the Reid technique is no longer used what training methods are used? All documents in this regard. Training text, book(s) currently used.
6. Are members of the PAPD still allowed to lie to crime suspects as part of the interrogation process? All documents etc.,
7. Does the Palo Alto Police Department still use a specifically

designed interrogation room, at the police station, for crime suspect interviews? (any and all documents in this regard, photos of the room).

8. Any and all documents re the policy and procedures for interviewing alleged crime victims.

submitted by aram james

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)
Cc: [Greer Stone](#); [GRP-City Council](#); [Council, City](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Molly](#); [Dave Price](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#)
Subject: Re: Redwood City: Family sues over 2018 police killing of teacher Kyle Hart
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 8:16:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Rebecca,

Your points are all spot on and poignantly expressed. The police reforms you ask for are the minimum we should expect.

Failure to act on your requested reforms will only add to the many calls for total abolition of policing as currently practiced in this city and across this country.

Aram

On Apr 14, 2021, at 7:46 PM, Rebecca Eisenberg
<rebecca@winwithrebecca.com> wrote:

I posted this response to the Palo Alto Weekly article on the topic, below. If we do not take armed officers off of mental health and traffic response, we *will* see more murders of innocent people. This must STOP.

https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2021/04/14/family-of-slain-palo-alto-teacher-kyle-hart-sues-redwood-city-police#comment_513781

My heart goes out to Kristin Hart and her beautiful children for the murder of her beloved husband by the Redwood City Police. The police have an abominable record when it comes to responding to mental health issues, yet for no reason whatsoever most cities -- including Palo Alto -- dispatch the police in response to mental health emergencies.

Kyle Hart's death was avoidable. For decades we have known that mental health professionals, not armed police officers, are the only safe responders to mental health emergencies, as well as to domestic violence. When armed officers enter these situations, more times than not, their methods escalate rather than deescalate the crises. The police apparently is aware of this problem, yet still cities send them in to respond to situations that far too often lead to the death of innocent fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, neighbors, and friends.

Palo Alto has the opportunity to change this with our PAPD. Join me in urging the Palo Alto City Council to take armed officers off responding to mental health calls, replacing them instead with trained volunteers or - better - paid social workers and mental health professionals. (They also should be taken off traffic enforcement. Why does an enforcer need to be armed with a gun when they arrest a driver for speeding?)

I am disappointed and saddened that Redwood City did not do better for the Hart Family. I wish Ms. Hart all of the success in recovering justice from Redwood City. I say this even though I know that no amount of money will bring back her husband -- a man who would be alive today if not for the horrific violence of an armed police force that killed a man who only sought their help to live.

On behalf of the Hart family, I hope we can work together to ensure that no other human being has to suffer this tragic, avoidable fate -- and that no other family needs to be torn apart by trigger-heavy officers whose only strategy entails shooting to kill.

Rebecca L. Eisenberg Esq.
www.linkedin.com/in/eisenberg
www.winwithrebecca.com
rebecca@winwithrebecca.com
415-235-8078

On Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 4:04 PM Aram James <abjpd1@gmail.com> wrote:



News Break

OVER 10 MILLION PEOPLE USE

Open APP

Redwood City: Family sues over 2018 police killing of teacher Kyle Hart

East Bay Times

REDWOOD CITY — The family of a beloved Palo Alto middle school teacher has filed a federal wrongful-death lawsuit over his 2018 shooting death by a Redwood City police officer, arguing that police should have treated him as someone in the throes of a suicidal mental-health crisis instead of resorting...



[Click to read the full story](#)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Randy Mont-Reynaud](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Allow Reasonable Construction in College Terrace, and elsewhere
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:00:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I rented in College Terrace for 30 years, and live nearby. And, like so many, I have appreciated the nature, character of the neighborhood -- as so many have cited as worth preserving.

That being said, it seems to me that housing in the style of the apartments RIGHT across the street, on the corner of College and Wellesley, should be considered.

--The needs for housing, affordable housing and below market rate rental units need to weigh in more strongly than simply going along with the Landed Gentry. Simply put, these property owners need to realistically assess their concerns and community needs, need for diversity.

---In that vein, the Landed Gentry could be reminded that all this, too, shall pass -- neighborhoods will change, and even Rome fell once, I heard.

Please reconsider development proposals in this light.

--

With warmest regards,

Randy Mont-Reynaud, PhD

Our 501 c-3 is "If Pigs Could Fly - Haiti" Visit us here:

PLEASE HAVE A PEEK? If Pigs Could Fly Haiti, Fall 2020 Newsletter:

<http://www.qmmunicate.org/HaitiFall20.pdf>

My blog: <http://www.haitinextdoor.com/>

www.ifpigscouldflyhaiti.org

From: [s.colbert](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: paloaltorenters@gmail.com
Subject: Palo Alto's Planning Commission will discuss renters rights
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 5:51:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

To whom it may concern,

My family has been renting in Palo Alto for 17 years. We are 2 working parents and 2 children attending local schools.

Our jobs are among the less fancy service industries - (hairdressing, bar & wait staff, shop and grocery attendants, teachers, nurses, part-time help, handyman, painter etc) that at the back-bone of Palo Alto and Silicon Valley. We sadly feel even Palo Alto City counsel does not recognize or appreciate the contributions of this service/support workers, as reflected in past Commission discussions, and unsuccessful votes Not to create layers of rental protections. This is kind of funny as the concept of Affordable housing is kicked around, but keeping housing Affordable is not seen, but the obvious!

Hundreds of local businesses rely on staff to make them work. For example a hair-salon needs staff to provide service to Silicon Valley's over 15k/month plus earners. The Assistants are hired by a salon in an apprenticeship situation where they earn minimum wage while getting valuable experience and hands-on training before qualifying with a Cosmetology license and themselves before stylists in the trade. For the past 5 years it has been almost impossible to fill these positions because of local rental cost increases, and if an assistant is not living with a parent, the 2 hour commute in morning traffic from affordable housing in the Bay area. Low-income housing is important, but so is Mid-income affordable housing for these service works needed by local businesses, needed by Palo Alto in which this Commission should help to keep these businesses, and therefore living here viable.

My family and I, and importantly all Palo Alto renters have experienced stress and anxiety by the constant threat that our landlord can evict us and/or raise the rent beyond our financial reach. Our children attend schools, have friends, play local sports, and contribute to this Community in ways that Start-ups, and dot.com businesses do not. These Companies may bring money, but they also bring transient workers with their a constant flow of boom and bust ideas, techies with huge pay packets come for a couple years then move out as their company changes. This feeds the capitalist need for housing pushing the Value of housing in false ways, and undermining the service workers.

There is a clear misunderstanding of what "market rate" rent is in this city, and what even a Fair market rate is. Any real estate company can advise that this rental market is largely driven by 2 main forces - an algorithm that quickly calculates how many properties are available, and plays with the count of click "interest" from internet sites like Zillow etc; and oversees investment buying up like a machine, just for investment to either (and not to live in, leaving vacant) or ensure their overseas family can get access to Palo Alto amenities. Some of this housing is bought with Cash!! This is Not a true reflection of the Value (but greed!) as it is artificially inflated by algorithms and our of reach by vacant investors. How does this help a future Affordable housing problem?

Currently our apartment property manager company Kylex is implementing their For-profits plan of systematic displacement of long-term renters. This is done by harassment, maintenance negligence, implementing new small minded rules that tenants need to constantly fight against, and in some cases get legal advice at cost just to avoid further hardship. A rent increase was implemented when Kyle took over, and a huge increase came in 6 months before Gov. Newsom acted with AB 1482 limiting rent increases to 5% + 2.5 % cost of living. But this too will soon build a mountain of rent. Kyle's plan is to make apartments unaffordable to current renters and open them up for profits. We have learned part of the plan is to have a bunch of apartments rented permanently by Google, Apple, or other Corp. like a retainer, to remain vacant but be available on call for a visiting VP or other as temp housing

during relocation. These Retained apartments, going for upwards of \$8,000/month don't cost the Corps much, just another tax deduction, the cost of doing Billions in business, but directly effect the displaced renters, and the algorithm on Zillow.

How can we, the service works compete? Does the Palo Alto Planning Commission recognize these local workers? and the contributions they make to the local economy, feed the schools and clean up after the techies? Do they see the need for Mid-income housing as a sustainable aspect of Palo Alto? One Palo Alto counsel member once said that putting a rent hold in Palo Alto would mean less diversity (I paraphrase..). How do you have diversity if only a few can live there? And the displaced are diverse too.

Please take what you can from my ramblings but note this is Real for us. Renters need protections, not just the landlords and Corps. Businesses need workers, workers need homes, so kids have schools, and Palo Alto has a community.

thanks,
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