

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [chuck jagoda](#)  
**Subject:** Just a little more background re how difficult it has been to move the city of Palo Alto to appropriately provide a safe parking program —its time we move beyond the idea of having cash poor churches run such a program and push the city to fully fund a...  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:42:30 PM

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FYI

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2013/08/02/aram-james-car-dwelling-ban-would-demonize-the-homeless/>

Shared via the [Google app](#)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**Subject:** From the archive a great article on a robust safe parking program in Santa Barbara-demographics like Palo Alto - Santa Barbara Program national model —funding comes from the city, county and grants.....must read  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:51:25 AM

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>  
> FYI: please folks please read or reread on a model for a robust safe parking program in Palo Alto  
>  
> <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/the-sharp-sudden-decline-of-americas-middle-class-234917/amp/>  
>  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Notes re a robust safe parking program for Palo Alto -funding from police department budget or money from funds for proposed new police station etc  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:47:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [January 2021 Emails.pdf](#)

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FYI:  
<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/79806>

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Cormack, Alison](#); [Greer Stone](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Council, City](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](#); [Dennis Upton](#); [greg@gregtanaka.org](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [eric.filseth@cityofpaloalto.com](#); [Kniss, Liz \(internal\)](#)  
**Cc:** [chuck jagoda](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Dave Price](#); [jodie.gergardt@cityofpaloalto.org](#)  
**Subject:** Aram James: Car dwelling ban would demonize the homeless – The Mercury News ( from the archives of Aram James (circa 2013) see link below ( P.S.) Liz is featured in my mercury piece ( see link below)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:16:51 AM

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( \*\*\*\*Please put me on the list for all future meetings re this critical civil rights issue) thanks city officials. aram

FYI: Thanks Allison and Greer ( would have copied Pat in on this e-mail but I don't have his current email address) for attending tonight's session on the possibilities of a viable, for all concerned, (the housed and the unhoused) meeting re developing a potentially robust Safe Parking Program in Palo Alto.

There will be -no doubt- much initial fear and concern re having people labeled unhoused in a substantial number of Palo Alto neighborhoods. When Chuck Jagoda and I visited the Santa Barbara Safe Parking Program ( a national model) there were valuable lessons learned:

1. A Safe Parking Program is transitional  
the goal being to as quickly as possible move those living in their vehicles into permanent housing.
2. To get community buy-in early-and often- re the requirements of the Safe Parking Program, that are many, and must be enforced- to maintain and grow credibility, and get this message out to the community....All of this to allay unreasonable fears of community members-who haven't been fully informed/ lack of out reach -re the substantial benefit of such programs -by the city.
3. As example vehicles must be properly registered. No drugs or alcohol allowed.
4. Case works assigned to each participant to assist in obtaining appropriate training for jobs, mental health counseling-to mitigate the mental health issues that often attach to those who become unhoused.
5. A zero tolerance for violence.
6. Being on lists for permanent housing mandatory.
7. No loud noises, fires etc., those who can't or won't comply -putting the entire program at risk -are asked to leave.
8. Research shows that as a general rule the folks who end up in a particular city's Safe Parking Program often lived or grew up in the community that they are now seeking to participate in a safe parking program, that the city now provides. It may have been the loss of a job, a disability that developed late in life, that made it harder to continue working, a spouse who passed away-that resulted in the surviving spouse becoming unhoused.

9. Chuck Jagoda can hopefully add to this conversation. Chuck's own story of becoming unhoused is compelling, he lived an experience I have not, and can provide a: I've lived there have been there narrative that can fill in many of the gaps I can't. Chuck worked all of his life, an extraordinary teacher-and many other jobs -yet ended up unhoused and traveled back with tenacious grit and determination to become housed again. And, along the way: he helped hundreds if not thousands to get back on their feet. Talk to Chuck. Listen to his stories and wisdom.

10. I commented at tonight's session that the onerous nature of the requirements re the City's application process reads almost as though the city designed the application process for the churches- now applying- to fail. What a scam! What a shame! We can, we must, we will do better!!!

11. Its like telling folks we are finally going to reluctantly give you the right to vote-but adding that there will be a \$600 poll tax you must pay, knowing full well, that, of course the cost will essentially act to continue their disenfranchised.

12. It felt like the city was almost trying to invite yet more litigation around yet another core civil rights issue of our day. If its not Foothills Park, if it not police violence, then it's the right of the unhoused members of our community to live integrated into the fabric of our city. Must we litigate this issue too? More money thrown down a rat hole? Really?

13. Tom & Eric's recent op-ed in the weekly seemed to suggest that we are a community of highly educated progressive people. My lived experience growing up in this community suggests that we our liberal or progressives, in our words only, but our actions speak otherwise!!! Although there may be many folks with lots of booking learning and impressive degrees behind their names, here in Palo Alto, I experience our town as provincial, segregationist, elitist, exclusionary, now and historically, as willingly and intentionally, accepting of police violence against people of color and the poor. None of these traits is suggestive to me of an intelligent community, in fact, quite to the contrary it suggests a term my dad coined in a piece in *The Nation* circa 1962: "Liberal Bigots." A community full of self-satisfied bigots unwilling or unable to view the realities outsiders see so clearly.

14. I invite anyone interested in any of the above topics to sit down and talk with me. We can do it in a dignified and measured way one fact at time. Time we pull together as community to solve these long festering social justice issues. Failure to do so will ultimately destroy the soul of this city.

Sincerely,

Aram James

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2013/08/02/aram-james-car-dwelling-ban-would-demonize-the-homeless/>

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [City Mgr](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Fine, Adrian](#); [Kniss, Liz \(internal\)](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Dave Price](#); [Sara Tabin](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Molly O'Neal](#); [Dennis Upton](#)  
**Cc:** [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org)  
**Subject:** Aram James: Car dwelling ban would demonize the homeless – The Mercury News ( from the archives of Aram James (circa 2013) see link below ( P.S.) Liz is featured in my mercury piece ( see link below)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:34:56 AM

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Sincerely,

Aram James

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2013/08/02/aram-james-car-dwelling-ban-would-demonize-the-homeless/>

Sent from my iPhone



From: Cary Andrew Crittenden  
To: Davis, Susan  
Cc: bill@sdap.org; jramirez@sunnyvaleca.gov; knguyen@sunnyvaleca.gov; cmontgomery@sunnyvaleca.gov; pngo@cityofsunnyvale.org; joe.similtian@bos.sscourt.org; yagabondinsunnyvale@gmail.com; debra.ryan@scscourt.org; sixth.district@jud.ca.gov; supreme.court@jud.ca.gov  
Subject: Re: "Consul"  
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:39:13 AM

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Hi Susan,






From what I understand, investigators have uncovered new information or obtained documentation which suggests that SVSP may have gotten tangled up somehow with the Corruption investigation into the Santa Clara County Sheriff's department & out of fear of indictment by Criminal Grand Jury, SVSP management may have agreed to work in collusion with District Attorneys office in the extortion / entrapment scandal at Vagabond Inn to cover up Grand Jury Tampering on Civil Grand Jury investigations from 2013-2015.

Additionally, someone from Civil Grand Jury investigations from 2012-2015 appears to have been deliberately planted as member of Grand Jury by county executives office & I know very little of the specific details except to say that the individual was a county employee who, like Ky Le was under supervision of County Executive's office and employed at the "Berger drive county office. This person was possibly employed by "County of Santa Clara Finance Agency Fiscal Services Division" - It is noted that civil grand jury findings incorrexctky stated that "There was no Fiscal Impact".

**WHY DOES  
THE PUBLIC  
ONLY GET  
HALF THE  
STORY?  
WHAT IS THE JUDGE  
NOT TELLING US?**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA JUDGE  
SOCRATES PETER MANOUKIAN**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY CA JUDGE BRIBED IN FORM OF BANK LOANS  
YOU DO IT, IT'S A CRIME, JUDGES DO IT, IT'S LEGAL**

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-11-23/apple-chief-security-officer-charged-with-bribery-firearm-permit>

Best Regards,  
Caru Andrew Crittenden



On January 15, 2020 at 1:19 PM, Cary Andrew Crittenden <caryandrewcrittenden@icloud.com> wrote:

Thanks Susan,

BTW, Heidi had interactions with State Department / U.S. Consul officials last night in Palo Alto & they googled her.

Was kind of funny the way it happened as 2 days ago, Heidi was outside the Apple computer store with her sign that said "Google Heidi Yauman" and [HeidiYauman.com](http://HeidiYauman.com) and the security guards told her she would have to leave or they would call police. I told them to go ahead and call whoever they wanted but Heidi was not going anywhere. I told them to leave her alone & video taped the interaction.

Later, I was approached by one of the security guards who apologised to me and he confessed that he was new and did not understand the law. He also said he Googled Heidi and learned about Markham Plaza and the Grand Jury cover up i & that he had heard from Apple employees and Palo Alto Police that Heidi's story on the internet was true. Apple Employees directed their security guards to leave Heidi alone.

She returned to the same location yesterday and the same group of security guards were present. There other guards present who we assumed were Apple Computer security guards & they were talking with Heidi about her situation after googling her & the Apple Security Guard's told the well dressed guards that they had confirmed though PAPD sand Apple Computer employees that Heidi's story was true and that Tim Cook was witness. They were all very nice and courteous to her and inquired if there was any current litigation or investigation in progress.

Then shortly thereafter, there was heavy police presence CHP officers and cars with tinted windows and US. Consul license plates. US. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo then came out of the Burma Ruby restaurant next door at 326 University Avenue next to the Apple Computer Store making direct eye contact with Heidi and he was ushered into Black Suburban SUV by security while Heidi stood there with her sign saying to “Google Heidi Yauman” and [HeidiYauman.com](http://HeidiYauman.com) and held it up Michael Pomeo. The “extra guards” then got into other vehicles with US Consul license plates and left.

I videotaped this also.

Cary Andrew Crittenden. |. 408-318-1105

On Jan 15, 2020, at 12:17 PM, Davis, Susan <[Susan.Davis@ssa.sccgov.org](mailto:Susan.Davis@ssa.sccgov.org)> wrote:

Hi Cary,

If I am not here, the officer of the day will have the funds.

I appreciate the update, thank you.

Kind regards,

Susan Davis

Deputy Public Guardian Conservator

Office of Public Administrator

Social Services Agency

Department of Aging and Adult Services

P.O. Box 760, San Jose, CA 95106-0760

Email: [susan.davis@ssa.sccgov.org](mailto:susan.davis@ssa.sccgov.org)

Desk Phone: (408) 755-7621

Facsimile: (408) 755-7950

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cary Andrew Crittenden <[caryandrewcrittenden@icloud.com](mailto:caryandrewcrittenden@icloud.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 12:14 PM

To: Davis, Susan <[Susan.Davis@ssa.sccgov.org](mailto:Susan.Davis@ssa.sccgov.org)>

Cc: Royal, Carlotta <[Carlotta.Royal@ssa.sccgov.org](mailto:Carlotta.Royal@ssa.sccgov.org)>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] APPT

Hello Susan,

Heidi & I are just finishing up at court in Palo Alto & need to charge phone for about 1 hour.

We will be leaving for San Jose at around 1:30 or so and heading to Public Guardian's office so that Heidi can pick up her funds.

We expect to arrive no later than 3:00

Please let me know if this does not work for you & we can try to adjust.

Thank you,

Cary Andrew Crittenden | 408-318-1105

**From:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**To:** [Human Relations Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Aram James](#)  
**Subject:** Vandalism \*can\* be a Hate Crime FYI  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 7:34:46 PM

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Hi HRC -

Just trying to be helpful -

Virtually any crime can be a hate crime if the crime is targeted against a protective class. Assault, battery, rape, murder, vandalism, and lots of other actions that derive in the basis of casteism against a protected class. Protected classes include groups that are considered lower caste, e.g. minority groups, women, LGBTQIA+, Muslims, people belonging to other non-dominant religions, people with disabilities, and so on.

The hate crime designation in general is an aggravating factor which increases the seriousness of the crime and accordingly the penalties, rightfully so.

Thank you again for your important work.

Best,

Rebecca (with assistance from Aram)

Rebecca Eisenberg for Positive Change  
*Our Community Deserves Better*  
415-235-8078  
[rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](mailto:rebecca@winwithrebecca.com)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/eisenberg](http://www.linkedin.com/in/eisenberg)  
Twitter: [@rle](#) Facebook [@reisenberg](#)

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**Cc:** [DuBois, Tom](#); [Filseth, Eric \(Internal\)](#); [wilpf\\_peninsula\\_paloalto@gmail.com](mailto:wilpf_peninsula_paloalto@gmail.com); [Bill Johnson](#); [mark weiss](#); [Minor, Beth](#); [Dennis Upton](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jethroe Moore](#)  
**Subject:** Palo Alto HRC meeting at 7 pm tonight dec 17  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 9:39:23 PM

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12/17/2020

Hi Rebecca,

You spoke brilliantly, and on point, on numerous critical issues at the HRC meeting tonight. Thanks so much for your powerful activism, powerful words.

And the community thanks you!

Best,

Aran

On Dec 17, 2020, at 7:03 PM, Rebecca Eisenberg <[rebecca@privateclientlegal.com](mailto:rebecca@privateclientlegal.com)> wrote:

I'm on it right now!

Rebecca Eisenberg, Esq.  
Principal & Founder  
**Private Client Legal Services**  
[www.linkedin.com/in/eisenberg](http://www.linkedin.com/in/eisenberg)  
[rebecca@privateclientlegal.com](mailto:rebecca@privateclientlegal.com)  
415-235-8078

PLEASE NOTE: The information in this e-mail message is confidential. It may also be attorney-client privileged and/or protected from disclosure as attorney work product. If you have received this e-mail message in error or are not the intended recipient, you are not authorized to use, copy, or disclose to anyone this message or any information contained in it. Please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete the message. Thank you.

On Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 6:19 PM Aram James

<[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)> wrote:

FYI:

FYI: If you wish to comment re the ongoing Palo Alto city council cover up in the Zack Perron matter, the failure of the city to demand the release the 44 page DTS report allegedly covering up a DTS sexual harassment scandal, the stingiest proposed Safe Parking Program on the planet -celebrate the end of segregation & exclusion at Foothills Park after more than 50 years of exclusion ....lack of affordable housing in Palo Alto....over paid administrators in this city...a mayor that routinely violates community members 1st amendment rights -by falsely claiming speakers can't criticize individual council members....a city manager who routinely puts critical city issues on the consent calendar when the items should more appropriately be placed on the calendar as action items -and who frequently manipulates the council to vote for items against the public interest -by frequently speaking in nearly incomprehensible city manager talk -tonight is your opportunity to speak-up.

the zoom meeting begins at 7 pm.....below is the agenda for this evening.

Aram

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/79617>

Shared via the [Google app](#)

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Human Relations Commission](#); [Tanner, Rachael](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [gstone22@gmail.com](mailto:gstone22@gmail.com); [Cari Templeton](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Council, City](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [greg@gregtanaka.org](mailto:greg@gregtanaka.org); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Dave Price](#); [paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](mailto:paloaltofreepress@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** The Sharp, Sudden Decline of America's Middle Class – Rolling Stone  
**Date:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 3:33:09 PM

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As Palo Alto debates whether the city can move beyond arguably the stingiest Safe Parking Program proposal known to humankind....here is a good starter article to review re Santa Barbara's national model ...for safe parking programs. The piece is a bit dated ....but most of the points stressed are still applicable today. Let the debate begin re what Palo Alto can do in 2021 to be part of the solution...instead of an ongoing problem re solutions to homelessness.

Thanks, aram

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/the-sharp-sudden-decline-of-americas-middle-class-234917/>

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [chuck jagoda](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Raven Malone](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [eric.filseth@cityofpaloalto.com](mailto:eric.filseth@cityofpaloalto.com); [Council, City](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](mailto:rebecca@winwithrebecca.com); [Cari Templeton](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Jethroe Moore](#)  
**Cc:** [Emily Mibach](#); [Shikada, Ed](#)  
**Subject:** Talk about a poll tax-here it is on any church that wants to assist car dwellers....seems like the city can't help but invite lawsuits  
**Date:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 9:27:38 PM

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# What is Safe Parking?

Palo Alto Municipal Code Section 18.42.160 (Ordinance 5490) allows churches and religious institutions to operate safe parking programs within the city of Palo Alto. The safe parking programs provide interim assistance to households using vehicles as their residence by providing a safe place to park, access to restroom facilities, connection to social service programs, and other support to transition households into permanent, stable housing.

For more information on Safe Parking, please see [Ordinance 5490](#), the [September 10, 2019 Policy and Services Committee Staff Report](#) and the [January 13, 2020 Council Staff Report](#).

# Safe Parking Applications

12/19/2020 ( What would Jesus say)?

Hi Chuck,

Here is the city of Palo Alto's -we don't want Safe Parking Programs in Palo Alto -registration maze.

Includes a poll tax of \$610. As I said before: 10 years after we,STB, tried to enroll the city in the concept of establishing a robust safe parking programs -and finally here's is the city's response.

Not only does the city NOT want to fund a responsible Safe Park Program model, for example, like the Santa Barbara project, that the two of visited circa 2013, they want to poll tax faith organizations here in PA a fee to assist. Palo Alto has a reputation for being one of the meanest and most exclusionary cities on the planet. What's next, an iron gate around the entirety of Palo Alto?

Aram

[3373 Middlefield Road – Highway Community](#)

Submitted: November 9, 2020

Request for a Safe Parking Program permit to allow overnight parking of up to four (4) vehicles as incidental to the existing religious institution. File Number: 20PLN-00261

[3505 Middlefield Road – Peninsula Bible Church](#)

Submitted: November 9, 2020

Request for a Safe Parking Program permit to allow overnight parking of up to four (4) vehicles as incidental to the existing religious institution. File Number: 20PLN-00260

# Community Meeting

## Safe Parking Neighborhood Check-In

December 15: 7-8:30 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/j/91315751801>

Phone Number: [\(669\) 900-6833](tel:(669)900-6833) Meeting ID: [913 1575 1801](#)

The City of Palo Alto, Peninsula Bible Church, and Highway Community Church invite you to a Neighborhood Check-In meeting regarding Safe Parking. This meeting is in response to neighbor comments on the City's tentative approval of a Safe Parking program that allows four (4) vehicles at both 3505 Middlefield Road (Peninsula Bible Church) and 3373 Middlefield Road (Highway Community Church).

The meeting will be held via video conference. By using video conference, we can slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and comply with associated public health orders. You can join by following this link: <https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/j/91315751801>. You can also join by calling [+1 \(669\) 900-6833](tel:+1(669)900-6833) and

entering Meeting ID: [913 1575 1801](#)

Representatives from the City of Palo Alto, the two churches, and MOVE Mountain View (the non-profit operating the safe parking facilities), will be there to answer questions about this compassionate service that will help individuals and families find stable housing.

For more information, email [Emily.Foley@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Emily.Foley@cityofpaloalto.org) or [Jodie.Gerhardt@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Jodie.Gerhardt@cityofpaloalto.org)

# Safe Parking Application Process

All Safe Parking permit applications will be reviewed by Planning Staff for conformance with PAMC 18.42.160. A decision on the application will be made as described in PAMC 18.42.160 (2), and may be appealed as described in PAMC 18.42.160(3)-(5):

How to File An Appeal: Should you or any other resident within 600 feet of the proposed safe parking location desire to file an appeal of the permit, please follow the steps below.

1. Potential appellants must fill out the City's appeal form ([bit.ly/appealformPA](http://bit.ly/appealformPA)), and email (1) the completed form along with (2) a letter stating their reasons for the appeal to the Manager of Current Planning ([Jodie.Gerhardt@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Jodie.Gerhardt@CityofPaloAlto.org)) and Planning Support Staff ([Alicia.Spotwood@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Alicia.Spotwood@CityofPaloAlto.org) & [Vinhloc.Nguyen@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Vinhloc.Nguyen@CityofPaloAlto.org)) within 14 days of the date the notice is mailed.
2. Staff will review the appeal for timeliness and completeness. They will contact you to collect the appeal fee, which is currently \$610.50. The fee can be paid online. If the appeal fee is not paid within 5 calendar days of the appeal is denied?

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Greer Stone](#); [Greg Tanaka](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Rebecca.Tanner@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Rebecca.Tanner@cityofpaloalto.org); [Sara Tabin](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Dave Price](#); [City Mgr](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Council, City](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Winter Dellenbach](mailto:Winter.Dellenbach@WILPF.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com); [WILPF.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com](mailto:WILPF.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com); [Joe Simitian](#); [paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](mailto:paloaltofreepress@gmail.com); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Dennis Upton](mailto:dennis.upton@winwithrebecca.com); [rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](mailto:rebecca@winwithrebecca.com); [Human Relations Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Talk about a poll tax-here it is on any church that wants to assist car dwellers....seems like the city can't help but invite lawsuits ( slight edits from version version)  
**Date:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 10:08:14 PM

---

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

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12/19/2020 ( What would Jesus say)?

Hi Chuck,

Here is the city of Palo Alto's -we don't want Safe Parking Programs in Palo Alto -registration maze.

Includes a poll tax of \$610. As I said before: 10 years after we,STB, tried to enroll the city in the concept of establishing a robust safe parking programs, finally here's the city's bogus response.

Not only does the city NOT want to fund a responsible Safe Park Program, for example, like the Santa Barbara project, that the two of visited circa 2013, they want to poll tax faith organizations here in PA a fee to assist.

Palo Alto has a reputation for being one of the meanest and most exclusionary cites on the planet. What's next, an iron gate around the entirety of Palo Alto ?

Aram

# What is Safe Parking?

Palo Alto Municipal Code Section 18.42.160 (Ordinance 5490) allows churches and religious institutions to operate safe parking programs within the city of Palo Alto. The safe parking programs provide interim assistance to households using vehicles as their residence by providing a safe place to park, access to restroom facilities, connection to social service programs, and other support to transition households into

permanent, stable housing.

For more information on Safe Parking, please see [Ordinance 5490](#), the [September 10, 2019 Policy and Services Committee Staff Report](#) and the [January 13, 2020 Council Staff Report](#).

# Safe Parking Applications Received

[3373 Middlefield Road – Highway Community](#)

Submitted: November 9, 2020

Request for a Safe Parking Program permit to allow overnight parking of up to four (4) vehicles as incidental to the existing religious institution. File Number: 20PLN-00261

[3505 Middlefield Road – Peninsula Bible Church](#)

Submitted: November 9, 2020

Request for a Safe Parking Program permit to allow overnight parking of up to four (4) vehicles as incidental to the existing religious institution. File Number: 20PLN-00260

# Community Meeting

Safe Parking Neighborhood Check-In

December 15: 7-8:30 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/j/91315751801>

Phone Number: [\(669\) 900-6833](tel:(669)900-6833) Meeting ID: [913 1575 1801](#)

The City of Palo Alto, Peninsula Bible Church, and Highway Community Church invite you to a Neighborhood Check-In meeting regarding Safe Parking. This meeting is in response to neighbor comments on the City's tentative approval of a Safe Parking program that allows four (4) vehicles at both 3505 Middlefield Road (Peninsula Bible Church) and 3373 Middlefield Road (Highway Community Church).

The meeting will be held via video conference. By using video conference, we can slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and comply with associated public health orders. You can join by following this link: <https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/j/91315751801>. You can also join by calling +1 (669) 900-6833 and entering Meeting ID: [913 1575 1801](https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/j/91315751801)

Representatives from the City of Palo Alto, the two churches, and MOVE Mountain View (the non-profit operating the safe parking facilities), will be there to answer questions about this compassionate service that will help individuals and families find stable housing.

For more information, email [Emily.Foley@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Emily.Foley@cityofpaloalto.org) or [Jodie.Gerhardt@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Jodie.Gerhardt@cityofpaloalto.org)

# Safe Parking Application Process

All Safe Parking permit applications will be reviewed by Planning Staff for conformance with PAMC 18.42.160. A decision on the application will be made as described in PAMC 18.42.160 (2), and may be appealed as described in PAMC 18.42.160(3)-(5):

How to File An Appeal: Should you or any other resident within 600 feet of the proposed safe parking location desire to file an appeal of the permit, please follow the steps below.

1. Potential appellants must fill out the City's appeal form ([bit.ly/appealformPA](https://bit.ly/appealformPA)), and email (1) the completed form along with (2) a letter stating their reasons for the appeal to the Manager of Current Planning ([Jodie.Gerhardt@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Jodie.Gerhardt@CityofPaloAlto.org)) and Planning Support Staff ([Alicia.Spotwood@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Alicia.Spotwood@CityofPaloAlto.org) & [Vinhloc.Nguyen@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Vinhloc.Nguyen@CityofPaloAlto.org)) within 14 days of the date the notice is mailed.
2. Staff will review the appeal for timeliness and completeness. They will contact you to collect the appeal fee, which is currently \$610.50. The fee can be paid online. If the appeal fee is not paid within 5 calendar

days of the request, the appeal will be considered withdrawn.

3. The appeal will be assigned to appropriate staff for next steps. The item will be placed on the City Council's consent calendar. If passed on the consent calendar, the permit issuance will be upheld. If 3 members of the Council vote to remove the item from consent, another hearing will be scheduled.

[https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/news/display\\_news.asp?NewsID=5048](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/news/display_news.asp?NewsID=5048)

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Fine, Adrian](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Raven Malone](#); [gstone22@gmail.com](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Council, City](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](#); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Dave Price](#)  
**Cc:** [Perron, Zachary](#)  
**Subject:** Can we continue to be silent about the coverup by the city of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Police department of the Zack Perron matter? You be the judge. You say it can't happen here?  
**Date:** Monday, December 21, 2020 8:51:06 PM

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FYI:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/21/world/europe/germany-far-right-neo-nazis->

<https://padailypost.com/2019/05/22/cops-use-of-n-word-led-to-investigation-that-never-became-public/amp/>

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Raven Malone](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Council, City](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [greg@gregtanaka.org](#); [Fine, Adrian](#); [paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [eric.filseth@cityofpaloalto.com](#); [Dave Price](#)  
**Subject:** Vong, Perez: Youth suicide, homelessness have common solution - San José Spotlight  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 23, 2020 9:57:35 AM

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FYI: important piece!!!

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/vong-perez-youth-suicide-homelessness-have-common-solution/>

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ricky Le](#)  
**To:** [Human Relations Commission](#); [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#)  
**Subject:** Human Relations Commission Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 23, 2020 3:19:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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

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Hello,

My name is Ricky and I work for the City of Sunnyvale. We are doing a cultural inclusion study and found that the City of Palo Alto had a Human Relations Commission. I wanted to ask if your commission had an annual budget.

Any insight would be greatly appreciated.

Happy holidays!



Ricky Le  
Senior Office Assistant  
City of Sunnyvale - Department of Library and Recreation  
Services

Follow us on:



[rle@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:rle@sunnyvale.ca.gov)

Phone: 408-730-7389

[Sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities](http://Sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities)

**From:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**To:** [Council, City; Shikada, Ed](#)  
**Cc:** [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Raven Malone](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Greg Tanaka](#); [Fine, Adrian](#); [paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [eric.filseth@cityofpaloalto.com](#); [Dave Price](#); [Aram James](#); [mark weiss](#); [Curtis Smolar](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Vong, Perez: Youth suicide, homelessness have common solution - San José Spotlight  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 23, 2020 4:58:40 PM

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

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Thanks, Aram!

For [THIS EVENING'S meeting](#), I hope we will receive an explanation for this:

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/79714>

Project Cancelled/Funds Returned The approved FY 2020-21 Annual Action Plan included the funding of \$149,950 for a project by Alta Housing under the CDBG housing and public facilities rehabilitation category. This project was for the replacement of common-area flooring and stair treads at Alma Place. **In a letter dated October 6, 2020, Alta Housing informed the City that they were returning the funds because they could not secure a contractor willing to work within the Davis Bacon prevailing wage requirements,** which is a HUD requirement for all the capital Improvement projects funded through CDBG. This project was part of Resolution No. 98932 adopted by the Council on June 15th, 2020.

What the above states is that you are asking to change plans because Alta Housing claims it was not able to find a contractor willing to pay - and be paid - prevailing wage. As know, prevailing wage is a minimum. So if the offered wages were too low, why couldn't Alta Housing increase the wages? And, if paying its employees prevailing wages - a legal requirement - is not something that the contractor is willing to do, query whether these contractors usually pay wages that are below government standards? If the budget is not high enough to pay workers a living wage, then the budget needs to be increased.

This is just such an unexpected, unusual, and illogical justification for the cancellation of a project -- unless, is this typical for how Palo Alto does business?

Additionally, I did not see plans for Palo Alto to apply for the additional hundreds of millions of money available to cities in California via the CARES Act, as administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. I still receive emails every day alerting me of the City of Palo Alto's opportunities. Do you receive those emails?

Given that you failed to apply for these hundreds of millions of dollars that already were given away to neighboring cities in 2020, I expect you to act in the best interest of Palo Alto, and apply for the funding that is available this year.

Thank you in advance for your answers to these questions.

As a reminder, Christmas and New Year is the deadliest time of the year for the unhoused, home insecure, and otherwise vulnerable populations. Your job is to keep all members of our community safe. We count on you to act with integrity and courage in 2021, whether or not

you did so in 2020.

Not everyone has the privilege to take vacations, so I hope you exercise humility and not complain about how the job you spent so many thousands of dollars of your friends, relatives, and supporters' hard-earned money to obtain, is inconvenient to you. Lots of us would be more than happy to replace you, should you find serving the community a burden.

Best,  
Rebecca

Rebecca Eisenberg for Positive Change  
*Our Community Deserves Better*  
415-235-8078  
[rebecca@winwithrebecca.com](mailto:rebecca@winwithrebecca.com)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/eisenberg](http://www.linkedin.com/in/eisenberg)  
Twitter: [@rle](https://twitter.com/rle) Facebook [@reisenberg](https://www.facebook.com/reisenberg)

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 9:57 AM Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)> wrote:

FYI: important piece!!!

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/vong-perez-youth-suicide-homelessness-have-common-solution/>

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#)  
**To:** [Ricky Le](#); [Human Relations Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Human Relations Commission Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 23, 2020 5:18:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Hi Ricky,

Thanks for your email and call. Our commission had a small budget of around \$1,200. That usually used to pay for any conferences that they go to, food for their annual retreat, or expenses related to any workshop that they sponsor during the year. If more money is needed it needs to come from my budget in human services. When I'm back from the holidays the first week of January I'd be happy to talk to you on the phone.

---

**From:** Ricky Le <[RLe@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:RLe@sunnyvale.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 23, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** Human Relations Commission <[hrc@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrc@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Van Der Zwaag, Minka <[Minka.VanDerZwaag@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Minka.VanDerZwaag@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Subject:** Human Relations Commission Inquiry

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

---

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My name is Ricky and I work for the City of Sunnyvale. We are doing a cultural inclusion study and found that the City of Palo Alto had a Human Relations Commission. I wanted to ask if your commission had an annual budget.

Any insight would be greatly appreciated.

Happy holidays!



Ricky Le  
Senior Office Assistant  
City of Sunnyvale - Department of Library and Recreation  
Services

Follow us on:



[rle@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:rle@sunnyvale.ca.gov)

Phone: 408-730-7389

[Sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities](https://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities)

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Filseth, Eric \(Internal\)](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Council, City](#); [roberta.ahlquist@sjsu.edu](mailto:roberta.ahlquist@sjsu.edu); [chuck jagoda](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Carl Templeton](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [greg@gregtanaka.org](mailto:greg@gregtanaka.org); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Fine, Adrian](#)  
**Subject:** Racial slur -and its cost to young lives and a community  
**Date:** Sunday, December 27, 2020 10:03:54 PM

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

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FYI: How long will Palo Alto be silent re Zack Perron?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/26/us/mimi-groves-jimmy-galligan-racial-slurs.amp.html>

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Raj](#); [Council, City](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Dennis Upton](#); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Bill Johnson](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [greg@gregtanaka.org](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Joe Simitian](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly O'Neal](#); [michael.gennaco@oirgroup.com](#); [Miguel Rodriguez](#); [eric.filseth@cityofpaloalto.com](#); [Kou, Lydia](#)  
**Subject:** Can we match Gascon's progressive agenda in Santa Clara....I certainly support such a change ASAP—must read piece ....  
**Date:** Monday, December 28, 2020 8:30:52 PM

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[https://laist.com/2020/12/28/da\\_gascons\\_push\\_for\\_shorter\\_prison\\_terms\\_runs\\_into\\_resistance\\_from\\_judges\\_prosecutors.php](https://laist.com/2020/12/28/da_gascons_push_for_shorter_prison_terms_runs_into_resistance_from_judges_prosecutors.php)

Shared via the [Google app](#)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [chuck jagoda](#)  
**To:** [Palo Alto Free Press](#)  
**Cc:** [Aram James](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Kniss, Liz \(internal\)](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Council, City](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Dave Price](#); [Sara Tabin](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Gennady Sheyner](#); [Kou, Lydia](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Lewis james](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Gail Price](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Molly.ONeal@pdo.sccgov.org](#); [Daniel Kottke](#); [Tony Dixon](#); [Bill Johnson](#); [Patrice Ventresca](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org](#); [Tanaka, Greg](#); [Raj](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org](#); [Dave Cortese](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Tomorrow's closed session re Julio Arevalo brutal beating by PAPD finest.  
**Date:** Monday, December 28, 2020 9:24:26 PM

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

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Note to Palo Alto Free Press: This matter does NOT speak for itself ESPECIally when the City Council insists on so much silence.

NEEDED: Public discussion of the state of the city police. More weapons, self-indemnification, therapy, higher pay, non-violence training== what for police, actual mandated use of body cams at all times (instead of as recreation only), more silence for complaints against police behavior, reward structure for more/less violent incidents-- what do you think?

Good to remember: Continuing to depend on people to forget about the recent and more distant complaints not only doesn't work-- it kind of adds an indictment to the list against the City and its responsibility to PROTECT the residents-- even/especially against the police their taxes pay for.

On Sun, Oct 18, 2020 at 9:56 PM Palo Alto Free Press <[paloaltofreepress@gmail.com](mailto:paloaltofreepress@gmail.com)> wrote:

The matter speaks for itself.....

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 18, 2020, at 9:09 PM, Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)> wrote:

*Dear City Council, ( Palo Alto)*

*When you are in closed session tomorrow re the brutal beating of Julio Arevalo, I suggest you settle the case ASAP. Do you really want this case to go to a jury? The tape itself of the beat down of Mr. Arevalo is all you need to know(Res ipsa loquitur).*

*I'm thinking 10 million dollars would be a good faith starting point re any settlement.*

*I'm serious -but go ahead Tom & Eric and your buddies on the city council who really believe we have no racist police in Palo Alto-and that Zack Perron is just an abbreviation.*

*Go ahead -roll the dice -with the tax payers' money. See what*



*a jury of Mr. Arevalo's peers have to say. It might be very very different then a predominantly white upper class and wealthy city council might do! Go figure!! I say pay attention to your risk assessment folks-not your egos.*

*Aram " settle it now" James*

**P.S. we can talk about the foothills park suit tomorrow. Have a good evening.**

<IMG\_8052.jpg>

--

**Chuck**

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [chuck jagoda](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Council, City](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Molly O'Neal](#); [Bains, Paul](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [eric.filseth@cityofpaloalto.com](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#)  
**Subject:** Should the Zack Perron (Caucasian) case of alleged vile racism towards a fellow officer Marcus Barbour (African American) continue to haunt the city of Palo Alto? Or is it time to release the full investigation? You decide!!  
**Date:** Monday, December 28, 2020 10:12:39 PM

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

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FYI:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/26/opinion/tulsa-race-massacre-mass-grave.amp.html>

<https://paddaily.com/2019/05/22/cops-use-of-n-word-led-to-investigation-that-never-became-public/amp/>

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*Aram " settle it now" James*

**P.S. we can talk about the foothills park suit tomorrow. Have a good evening.**

<IMG\_8052.jpg>

--  
**Chuck**

**From:** [Patel, Angeli H.](#)  
**To:** [Human Relations Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Young person interested in learning about the HRC  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 29, 2020 12:34:02 PM

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

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Hello,

My name is Angel Patel and I am a recent Berkeley Law graduate interested in the HRC. I admire the work and priorities of the Commission. I would like to get to know some of the members and ask about career advice as well as how I can contribute to your efforts. I have significant experience that may be beneficial to the Commission and to our community.

Inspired by Vice President elect Kamala Harris and so many grassroots leaders, I want to get involved in local government and start contributing to our community. The areas where I am particularly interested and where I am already doing work are police reform (working with LA PD to reform stop policies and create better community outreach programs), serving the houseless community, and environmental consciousness.

A little about me: I grew up in the rural South and am the first in my family to get a college degree. We grew up under the poverty line and could have benefited from well-run government programs were they available. But, I am a product of public education and strong communities. This is why I am passionate about the HRC and would like to speak with any one of the members.

Looking forward to a response.

Best,  
Angeli

Angeli Patel  
Law Clerk / Not Yet Admitted to Bar  
**JONES DAY® - One Firm Worldwide®**  
Silicon Valley Office  
1755 Embarcadero Road  
Palo Alto, California 94303  
Office +1.650.739.3976  
Fax +1.650.739.3900  
[apatel@jonesday.com](mailto:apatel@jonesday.com)

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**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [chuck jagoda](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Council, City](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Filseth, Eric \(Internal\)](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Molly O"Neal](#); [Raj](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [greg@gregtanaka.org](#); [Winter Dellenbach](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**Subject:** The next chapter in DA George Gascon's effort to bring a small bit of justice to our racist( slave master driven) criminal injustice system ....  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 29, 2020 6:31:46 PM

---

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<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/prosecutors-to-ask-court-to-stop-some-of-new-district-attorneys-reform-directives/2495114/?amp>

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Jeff Rosen](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Cary Andrew Crittenden](#); [Greer Stone](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Kaloma Smith](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Molly O'Neal](#); [Council, City](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [mark weiss](#); [DuBois, Tom](#); [Filseth, Eric \(Internal\)](#); [Bains, Paul](#); [Raj](#); [Richard Konda](#)  
**Cc:** [Sara Tabin](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Dave Price](#)  
**Subject:** LA DA's Union sues their boss -George Gascon -Gascon a hero to all those seeking radical reform or abolition of major portions of our racist criminal injustice system  
**Date:** Saturday, January 2, 2021 9:41:31 PM

---

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FYI:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna1252655>

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#); [Constantino, Mary](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Minor, Beth](#)  
**Subject:** Please let me know your meeting schedule for 2021 and this years priority set meeting date, Thanks, Aram James  
**Date:** Saturday, January 2, 2021 10:51:59 PM

---

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---

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Tom DuBois](#); [Council, City](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Greer Stone](#); [Raven Malone](#); [Steven D. Lee](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Cormack, Alison](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Filseth, Eric \(Internal\)](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Architectural Review Board](#)  
**Subject:** Raphael Warnock, From the Pulpit to Politics, Doesn't Shy From 'Uncomfortable' Truths  
**Date:** Sunday, January 3, 2021 2:50:18 PM

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FYI: Excellent piece -necessary reading for our council members.....and political leaders generally

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/02/us/politics/raphael-warnock-georgia-senate.amp.html>

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Minor, Beth](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Re: What is your meeting schedule of 2021 thanks aram james  
**Date:** Monday, January 4, 2021 2:36:58 PM

---

Catherine,

Thanks so much for your prompt and professional response. Do the meetings start at 6pm? With the opening of Foothills Park to all, finally, I expect it will be a busy year for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Best regards.

Aram James.

P.S. Any chance I can be sent a regular notice of the monthly meeting with the agenda?

Dear Aram,

The meeting schedule is the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month unless something changes it will be noted as a special meeting.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

<!--[if !vml]-->

[<image002.png>](#)

<!--[endif]-->**CATHERINE BOURQUIN**

Coordinator Recreation Programs, Open Space, Parks, Golf, and Animal Services  
Community Services Department  
(650) 496-6962 | [Catherine.bourquin@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Catherine.bourquin@cityofpaloalto.org)  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

---

**From:** Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 2, 2021 11:08 PM  
**To:** ParkRec Commission <[parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Subject:** What is your meeting schedule of 2021 thanks aram james

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

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**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#)  
**Cc:** [Minor, Beth](#); [Council, City](#); [Human Relations Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Prior notification of all 2021 HRC meetings with agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021 1:41:21 PM

---

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---

Hi Minka,

Hope 2021 is starting off well for you and your family. I have a question for you. Are you able to send me a notification of each 2021 HRC meeting before they occur along with the agenda for the meeting? Please let me know. Thanks so much.

Best regards,

Aram

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#)  
**To:** [Aram James](#)  
**Cc:** [Minor, Beth](#); [Council, City](#); [Human Relations Commission](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Prior notification of all 2021 HRC meetings with agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021 2:12:47 PM

---

Aram,

Happy New Year to you as well.

You are on the Gov Delivery distribution list for HRC meetings, therefore you receive a copy of the agenda for all HRC meetings as they become public.

Minka van der Zwaag  
Manager, Office of Human Services

4000 Middlefield Rd. T2 | Palo Alto, CA 94303

650-463-4953 | [minka.vanderzwaag@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:minka.vanderzwaag@cityofpaloalto.org)

Please think of the environment before printing this email – Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 1:41 PM  
To: Van Der Zwaag, Minka <[Minka.VanDerZwaag@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Minka.VanDerZwaag@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
Cc: Minor, Beth <[Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Human Relations Commission <[hrc@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrc@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
Subject: Prior notification of all 2021 HRC meetings with agenda

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

---

Hi Minka,

Hope 2021 is starting of well for you and your family. I have a question for you. Are you able to send me a notification of each 2021 HRC meeting before they occur along with the agenda for the meeting? Please let me know. Thanks so much.

Best regards,

Aram

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#)  
**Cc:** [Minor, Beth](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Prior notification of all 2021 HRC meetings with agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021 3:30:51 PM

---

Hi Minka,  
Great! I will be watching for HRC notices in 2021. Thanks so much! Aram

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 5, 2021, at 2:12 PM, Van Der Zwaag, Minka <[Minka.VanDerZwaag@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Minka.VanDerZwaag@cityofpaloalto.org)> wrote:  
>  
> Aram,  
>  
> Happy New Year to you as well.  
>  
> You are on the Gov Delivery distribution list for HRC meetings, therefore you receive a copy of the agenda for all HRC meetings as they become public.  
>  
>  
> Minka van der Zwaag  
> Manager, Office of Human Services  
>  
> 4000 Middlefield Rd. T2 | Palo Alto, CA 94303  
>  
> 650-463-4953 | [minka.vanderzwaag@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:minka.vanderzwaag@cityofpaloalto.org)  
>  
>  
> Please think of the environment before printing this email - Thank you  
>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)>  
> Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 1:41 PM  
> To: Van Der Zwaag, Minka <[Minka.VanDerZwaag@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Minka.VanDerZwaag@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
> Cc: Minor, Beth <[Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Human Relations Commission <[hrc@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrc@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
> Subject: Prior notification of all 2021 HRC meetings with agenda  
>  
> CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.  
> \_\_\_\_\_  
>  
> Hi Minka,  
>  
> Hope 2021 is starting of well for you and your family. I have a question for you. Are you able to send me a notification of each 2021 HRC meeting before they occur along with the agenda for the meeting? Please let me know. Thanks so much.  
>  
> Best regards,  
>  
> Aram  
>  
>

> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**To:** [Aram James](#); [ParkRec Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Van Der Zwaag, Minka](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Minor, Beth](#); [Council, City](#); [Anderson, Daren](#)  
**Subject:** RE: What is your meeting schedule of 2021 thanks aram james  
**Date:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 10:42:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Dear Aram,  
You are most welcome. Yes, it will probably be a very busy year for the Commission. The meetings start at 7pm.

Have a nice day.

### **CATHERINE BOURQUIN**

Coordinator Recreation Programs, Open Space, Parks, Golf, and Animal Services  
Community Services Department  
(650) 496-6962 | [Catherine.bourquin@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Catherine.bourquin@cityofpaloalto.org)  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

---

**From:** Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 4, 2021 2:37 PM  
**To:** ParkRec Commission <[parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org)>  
**Cc:** Van Der Zwaag, Minka <[Minka.VanDerZwaag@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Minka.VanDerZwaag@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Human Relations Commission <[hrc@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:hrc@cityofpaloalto.org)>; Minor, Beth <[Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: What is your meeting schedule of 2021 thanks aram james

Catherine,

Thanks so much for your prompt and professional response. Do the meetings start at 6pm? With the opening of Foothills Park to all, finally, I expect it will be a busy year for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Best regards.

Aram James.

P.S. Any chance I can be sent a regular notice of the monthly meeting with the agenda?

Dear Aram,

The meeting schedule is the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month unless something changes it will be noted as a special meeting.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

[<image002.png>](#)

**CATHERINE BOURQUIN**

Coordinator Recreation Programs, Open Space, Parks, Golf, and Animal Services

Community Services Department

(650) 496-6962 | [Catherine.bourquin@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Catherine.bourquin@cityofpaloalto.org)

[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

---

**From:** Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, January 2, 2021 11:08 PM

**To:** ParkRec Commission <[parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org)>

**Subject:** What is your meeting schedule of 2021 thanks aram james

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**From:** [Neilson Buchanan](#)  
**To:** [Council, City: Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** fine tuning parking policy  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 9:03:26 AM

---

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---

Neilson Buchanan  
155 Bryant Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

650 329-0484  
650 537-9611 cell  
[cnsbuchanan@yahoo.com](mailto:cnsbuchanan@yahoo.com)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Neilson Buchanan <cnsbuchanan@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Shikada Ed <ed.shikada@cityofpaloalto.org>; jonathan.lait@cityofpaloalto.org <jonathan.lait@cityofpaloalto.org>; Philip Kamhi <philip.kamhi@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Cc:** Winter Dellenbach <dellwinter@gmail.com>; Pat Burt <patburt11@gmail.com>; Zelda Bronstein <zjb1731@comcast.net>; Rick Hall <rclistad@gmail.com>; Carey White <carey.white@livablecalifornia.org>; Jill Stewart <jilltepleystewart@gmail.com>; Chris LeGras <chris.legras@gmail.com>; Carol Scott <cscott@crossfieldllc.com>; Wolfgang Dueregger <wolfgangdueregger@gmail.com>; Ed Lauing <evlauing@yahoo.com>; Doria Summa <doria.summa@gmail.com>; Gabrielle Layton <strop@redjuice.com>; Asher Waldfogel <asher@waldfogel.us>; J T Gusilin <jgusilin@gmail.com>; Allen Akin <akin@arden.org>; Tom DuBois <tomforcouncil@gmail.com>; Eric Filseth <efilseth@gmail.com>; Andrew Fetter <andrewfetter@hotmail.com>; Meg Barton <megbarton@me.com>; Patricia L. Devaney <devaney@stanford.edu>; Jean H. Chu <jean.chu@stanford.edu>; Chris Robell <chris\_robell@yahoo.com>; Rebecca Sanders <rebsanders@gmail.com>; Greer Stone <gstone22@gmail.com>; Lydia Kou <lydiakou@gmail.com>; Karen Holman <kcholman@sbcglobal.net>; Anita Enander <anita@atanda.com>; Lynette Lee Eng <lynetteleeeng@gmail.com>; Patti Fry <pattifry@gmail.com>; Greg Schmid <gregschmid@sbcglobal.net>; Jennifer Chang Hetterly <jchetterly@gmail.com>; Malcolm Roy Beasley <beasley@stanford.edu>; Jocelyn Dong <jdong@paweeekly.com>; Bill Johnson <bjohnson@paweeekly.com>; Penny Ellson <pellson@pacbell.net>; Jon Mays <jon@smdailyjournal.com>; Cari Templeton <cari@caritempleton.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021, 09:01:22 AM PST  
**Subject:** fine tuning parking policy

Good Morning, Ed, Jonathan and Philip,

Many of the upcoming affordable and market rate housing projects have inherent parking requirement minimizing onsite parking.

Many of these projects will be parking "light" during the mid-term with the assumption that car ownership will be reduced in the future. Parking demand in our sub-regional will probably exceed supply for the foreseeable future. Tenants and owners in these development may reduce vehicle ownership but the change will be slow with



extremely fragile public transit and very high job turnover.

One policy reform: How will *on-site parking access* be allocated to residents residing in parking "light", mixed-income developments? This is particularly important in truly affordable housing developments with wide range of tenant/owner incomes. Will parking be allocated on-first come, first-serve? Or will parking be allocated to the highest bidder? Or assigned by type of housing unit such as number of bedrooms, occupants or income level?

Now is the time to think about the lower income tenants/owners who have the greatest challenges to optimize their earning power. Last year, almost exactly a year ago, I spent 4 days visiting a wide variety of Los Angeles neighborhoods. I heard one theme repeatedly.

Despite LA's transportation system lower income workers were greatly dependent upon vehicle ownership and SOV. Their access to the best job markets (construction jobs, seasonal cycles, multiple part-time opportunities, for example) are often not compatible with public transit. The reality of this mobility and income optimization can be built into city ordinance(s) which could assure lower income owners/tenants' reliable access to their fair share of onsite parking in affordable housing developments.

Please consider and initiate refined Palo Alto parking and development ordinances.

Neilson Buchanan  
155 Bryant Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

650 329-0484  
650 537-9611 cell  
[cnsbuchanan@yahoo.com](mailto:cnsbuchanan@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Sukhi Nagesh](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Concern regarding development plan in College Terrace  
**Date:** Sunday, January 24, 2021 10:55:43 AM

---

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Dear Palo Alto Planning Commission members,

I am writing to you as a concerned long-term Palo Alto resident regarding a planned multi-story apartment dwelling on the corner of College Ave and Wellesley in the College Terrace neighborhood. My family has lived in this neighborhood for nearly a decade and, as you know, this neighborhood is inhabited by mostly working class families in compact and highly-dense single family homes.

A wealthy San Francisco based investment company (Cato investments run by a Jeffrey Colin of Baker Street Advisors) recently bought a couple of lots in this neighborhood that is specifically zoned for single family homes and wants to convert this small piece of land to 24 apartments. While supportive of the need for more housing in the Bay Area we find this proposed plan as a complete anti-thesis to the intent of Palo Alto residents. The motives behind this plan seem to us to be purely profit driven. One can possibly understand if the empty lot and small home was converted to a 2-3 new single family houses. But 24 apartments certainly seems excessive. College Terrace is already a very dense neighborhood.

If the city's planning commission and the council changes the zoning for College Terrace then we would see a slew of such changes in all parts of Palo Alto. All Palo Alto neighborhoods will be fair game for these types of profit driven developments (potentially right next to your own home). If zoning from R1 is changed for this project, why not include other less dense areas such as Old Palo Alto, Professorville, Crescent Park, Barron Park, mid-town etc? An alternative would be to permit many of the lots on El Camino for mixed use like the recently announced project near the Ventura neighborhood.

We urge the Planning Commission to send a strong message by completely rejecting this plan by this deep-pocketed investment firm who is willing to spend a lot of money through surveys and other means to push more families out of Palo Alto.

Look forward to hearing back from you.

Sukhi Nagesh (College Terrace resident)

**From:** [Matthew Bryant](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Cc:** [vacationcandy@yahoo.com](mailto:vacationcandy@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** 2951 El Camino Real - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:48:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [PA city council letter re 2951 ECR - Matt Bryant and Candy Tsourounis.pdf](#)

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Attached, please find the comments for tonight's meeting.

Thank you,  
Matt Bryant

January 19, 2021

Dear City of Palo Alto council members,

We would like to express our concern regarding the development plan for 2951 El Camino Real Boulevard. While we appreciate the need for housing and development, this project proposal violates Palo Alto building codes and will significantly impact our neighborhood. Please consider the following points:

- The project requires rezoning of two R-1 residential housing properties to commercial zones. This is unheard of, not reasonable and would set a precedent across Palo Alto that allows any residential property to be rezoned to a commercial property. Allowing commercial properties in the middle of a residential zone disregards the original intent of planned city zoning for residential, commercial, and industrial areas.
- As a 5-story building at 58 feet tall, this large project violates the current building codes which limit commercial building height to 35 feet within 150 feet of an R-1 zone. When considering the exorbitant height, the walls next door to the residential houses exceed building code heights. The out of compliance height will impact the next door residential solar roof panels by casting shadows on the roofs. In addition, it will impact the gardens in the neighboring yards.
- Residents in the Olive and Pepper Avenue neighborhoods bought houses here based on the existing development plan. Changing the zoning and allowing illegal buildings may negatively impact the value of the neighborhood. Imagine adding a commercial building directly next to any private residence in Crescent Park or other residential zoned neighborhood. This would never be allowed to happen.
- The developers will be taking 3 commercial properties plus 2 residential properties and combining them to build the 119-unit residential, commercial and retail building. One of the residential properties is owned by an elderly, retired City of Palo Alto employee who initially had no idea that his home would be rezoned and included in this development plan (R-1, 132-37-028, Steve Alban). The other residential property has a large structure on it that has been out of zoning compliance for years and the City has yet to collect the fines for the out of compliance property (R-1, 132-37-029, Agramonte Property).
- The proposed building encroaches on required setbacks of commercial buildings next door to residential homes. As stated above, loss of sunlight and shadows cast by this tall building will impact our gardens and solar roof panels.
- The new building results in a loss of privacy for neighbors' since it has multiple windows and balconies that look directly into the neighboring homes.

- The North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan (NVCAP) has a long-term plan for the neighborhood which designates Pepper and Olive Avenues as residential zones. The plan has been vetted by the City Council and members of our community. We should follow our development plans with residential zoning as is and not change the recommended community plan.
- The building is much larger than other new buildings along El Camino Real near California Avenue. There should be a consistent building code applied to every project in Palo Alto and along the El Camino Real Boulevard corridor.
- Our director of the Palo Alto Planning department, Jonathan Lait, indicated during the first discussion of this project that there is enough commercial zoning in downtown Palo Alto to meet the Palo Alto housing needs as required by the State of California. We should utilize the existing City zoning and plans for this commercial zone area and others before we consider proposals that change and violate building codes with this project.
- The environmental impact on the Ventura neighborhood should also be considered. This 119-unit residential, office and retail building will significantly impact traffic and street parking. Today, many drivers including cars, trucks and commercial vehicles cut-through Olive and Pepper Avenues to Ash Street to avoid the traffic light at El Camino Real and Page Mill Avenue. Residents have to keep an eye out for speeding cars that cut-through our streets to save time from waiting at a traffic light.
- Our Pepper and Olive Avenue residential neighborhood already share the neighborhood with commercial and light manufacturing nearby. More than half of the area in our neighborhood is comprised of commercial and light manufacturing, so if we continue to remove any more residential lots, there will be no more families in our neighborhood. The new building offers a majority of studio and 1-bedroom rental units that do not accommodate or attract families.
- There is also an environmental impact of construction pollution and noise pollution given many projects underway along El Camino Real. There needs to be careful consideration of the environmental impact of street and sidewalk closures in addition to construction employee parking on the nearby streets.
- Many approved projects along El Camino Real were approved, however developers have stopped these projects. The City Council and Planning Staff should work with these existing approved projects to provide pull-through before approving new projects that violate existing building codes and require illegal rezoning such as this project.

Thank you City Council members for hearing our concerns. We invite you to personally visit Pepper and Olive Avenues to see for yourself how our residential neighborhood would be

negatively impacted by this large commercial building that violates the City of Palo Alto building codes.

Best regards,

Drs. Candy Tsourounis and Matt Bryant  
471 Pepper Avenue, Palo Alto  
415-846-1239

**From:** [Suzanne Keehn](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Shikada, Ed](#)  
**Subject:** 2951 El Camino  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 3:07:18 PM

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

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Greetings to All of You!

I am writing to you about my, and many others, concerns about the potential structure, at 2951 El Camino.  
It violates of the City's Zoning Code.

It violates OUR Comprehensive Plan to change zoning this way.  
Exceeds the 35ft Height Limit within the 150 ft. of a Low-Density Residential Neighborhood.

It exceeds other height limits, from 35ft to 58ft. It exceeds, other height limits, floor area, allowed foot print, and eliminates the current ban on underground garages.

The up-zoning along ECR disproportionately affects Residences in South Palo Alto. Since upzoning is not allowed in other neighborhoods, why would it be allowed here? Are these homes, not as 'valuable' as those in other areas of the city?

I would hope that our Council would consider, strongly the livability, and diversity of our city, not providing developers with massive giveaways. It does not solving the need for more affordable housing, because these giveaways drive up the prices of land.

2951, does not abide by our laws but makes it harder to supply the amount of affordable housing we need.

Please deny this proposal, it will start a trend, with developers wanting more and more.

We need to think about NOT covering up all the land, forgetting trees, water/drought, etc. for somebodies short term gain that does NOT solve our housing needs.

Thank You,

Suzanne Keehn  
94306

**From:** [slevy@ccsce.com](mailto:slevy@ccsce.com)  
**To:** [Council, City; Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Megan Kirkeby](#); [Dave Vautin](#); [Kevin Kane](#)  
**Subject:** Mercury News article on Embarcadero Institute report  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:27:18 AM

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

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<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/01/18/palo-alto-based-nimby-think-tank-says-bay-area-housing-goals-are-wrong-others-call-it-propaganda/>



**From:** [Angie Evans](#)  
**To:** [North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan](#); [Tanner, Rachael](#); [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** NVCAP next steps  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 12:31:18 PM

---

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

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Hi,

I spoke during the recent PTC meeting about NVCAP. And as you may know, I've been talking to Palo Alto residents about NVCAP and how it could fit into improving the affordability and equity throughout Palo Alto. I wanted to follow-up to understand the staff direction moving forward. If I understand correctly, staff is going to work on updating alternative 3 to expand the number of homes for a specific AMI target through increasing the inclusionary requirement. I'm not sure this is really going to get Palo Alto or NVCAP to where residents or advocates are asking. I'm a huge affordable housing advocate but changing inclusionary zoning to 20% and requiring a specific AMI may not yield those homes - which are deeply needed in Palo Alto and the region. I wonder if what was meant - or what might be more effective - is to incentivize more standalone affordable housing through density, height, and/or parking amendments for 100% affordable developments on certain lots? The best way to increase deeply affordable housing in an inclusionary zoning policy is to allow for the flexibility that enables the greatest number of homes at the deepest levels of affordability. So if we just increase the percentage and requirements without considering changes that enable it - I think we'll be at a loss.

We all want to see Palo Alto thrive and I know it will require compromise. I appreciate that this has been a long process and everyone is working very hard! If you can provide any insight on what the plans may be to work this out it would be helpful.

Thanks so much!

Best,  
Angie Evans  
Crescent Park Mom

From: [Angela Dellaporta](#)  
To: [Planning Commission](#)  
Subject: Creative Thinking for NVCAP  
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:29:37 AM

---

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

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

I appreciated hearing your thoughts and ideas at yesterday's meeting. From my discussions with Tim Steele (NVCAP representative from Sobrato's), I sense that the only way to create affordable housing in Palo Alto (other than the relatively ineffective tax breaks and other "incentives" for developers) is to find some way for the city to purchase land or subsidize the housing in some way.

The Working Group did come up with a list of creative possibilities that I urge you to consider. Below is a summary of our suggestions, all of which have been successful in other communities, even during very difficult financial times. (A full list, with descriptions and links to examples, is available at [this link](#), beginning in the middle of page 7). I am sure that more can be added to this list.

Surely Palo Alto, which has some of the wealthiest individuals and companies in the world, can find a way to include middle-income and low-income residents.

**A. Limited Equity Cooperative**

**B. Business Tax**

**C. Commercial Linkage Fee**

**D. Establish More Housing-Focused Development Standards**

**E. Publicly-Funded Low Interest Loans**

**F. Community Land Trust (CLT)**

**G. Deed Restrictions to Cover "Missing Middle" Housing**

**H. Create Fundraising Program for Affordable Housing**

**I. Establish a Special Assessment Tax to Subsidize Affordable Housing Development**

**J. Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)**

**K. PC - Planned Community District Zone**

**L. Funds to Support Affordable Housing - Facebook Catalyst Housing Fund, Housing Trust Silicon Valley's TECH Fund,**

**M. Jobs-Housing Linkage Policy**

**N. B. Office Conversion**

Thank you for exploring this list of ideas, which was compiled with great effort on the part of the Working Group and the planning staff.

Angela Dellaporta

**From:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**To:** [Clerk, City](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Cari Templeton](#); [Nguyen, Vinhloc](#)  
**Subject:** Denial of Public Comment- for no reason and inappropriate  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:47:07 PM

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The agenda did NOT state who was being nominated for Vice Chair. Therefore I had no opportunity to speak to it. It was unlawful and wrong to deprive me of comment.

This subjects your decision to challenge, and I reserve my rights to do so.

Also, as a reminder, I have a right to rebut Michael -- "I mean Commissioner Alcheck"'s accusation of me as lying. I stated the facts and law correctly and I would and have stated as such under penalty of perjury, with the fact that I have far more years of legal practice than Michael "I mean Commissioner" Alcheck.

I would note, for instance, that in my demand that Commissioners disclose financial interest, I am not referring to the filing of Form 700. Form 700 does not ask sufficient questions to provide a true analysis of conflict. And, to the extent that it did - which it does not - the City Clerk and City Attorney's Office knows well that no thorough analysis or concerted fact-checking is done based on Form 700's minimal disclosure requirements.

As one example, Form 700 does not ask if any Commissioners have familial connections with applicants like Michael Alcheck has with Castilleja. As a reminder, Alcheck's family are significant financial backers of Castilleja. Additionally, Alcheck's sister attended Castilleja. And, Alcheck - according to reliable sources - hopes to send his own daughters to Castilleja. Michael Alcheck has not rebutted this conflict because it is the truth.

I am disappointed and frankly in disgust of how you continue to deprive the community of participation. It is anti-democratic.

If you wonder why Commissioner Riggs could not take this any more, look in the mirror. He was the most qualified and high integrity of all of you, as much as my ears bleed hearing Michael-I-mean-Commissioner Alcheck state respect for his superior colleague whom he so successfully squeezed out of the opportunity to participate. Alcheck is neither sorry nor surprised to hear of Riggs's retirement.

I question your judgment, today and unfortunately, always.

Warm regards,  
Rebecca Eisenberg

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**From:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Clerk, City](#); [Cari Templeton](#)  
**Subject:** If my comment is Rebutted, then I have the right to rebut the rebuttal, which I demand.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:15:50 PM

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Under bylaws, California law,. and Robert's rules,

Commissioners do not have the right to argue against public comment

and if they do "correct" them -- then the public speaker is entitled to rebut.

Given Commissioner Lauing and Alcheck's statements,

as well as Chair Templeton's - I just heard "correct the record" -

I demand the right to rebut as I am entitled to under law.

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**From:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Clerk, City](#); [Nguyen, Vinhloc](#); [Cari Templeton](#)  
**Subject:** If the public wants to comment, there is no public interest in denying public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:00:36 PM

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The Planning Commission has no reason to deny the public from commenting on chair appointments.

I would like to comment and believe that denial of this opportunity violates the Brown Act.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Eisenberg Esq.  
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**From:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Council, City](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Shikada, Ed](#)  
**Subject:** Statement in support of NVCap Alternative 3 - with the best of Alternative M  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:36:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [ALTERNATIVE M.pdf](#)

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Hello PTC and PACC,

Given the importance of this issue currently before the Planning Commission, I wanted to share my full comments on the matter I would have given tonight if there was time. I also wanted to reshare Alternative M for your consideration, which is attached. Thank you in advance for giving this matter appropriate attention.

Alternative 3M

- Alternative 3 is the clear best option here because it maximizes both open space and housing - a win win.
- I recognize that the huge amount of commercial space could be a detriment to this Commission supporting alternative 3.
- Alternative 3 also has the negative impact of exacerbating the jobs - housing imbalance, which actually is 7 to 1 for the lowest income earners. That means: 7 lowest income workers competing for one home in PA that they can afford.
- The staff report is unsatisfactory in providing essential affordable housing, largely because the Staff report is based on flawed and incomplete economic analyses.
- The staff report rests on the false assumption that the only way to fund affordable housing is through commercial development, because that is the only way that Palo Alto has been funding affordable housing in recent years.
- But that is a falsehood. The truth is that there are a multitude of ways of funding affordable housing, and one may just look at our neighbor cities for examples.
- A variety of these methods was also discussed in the well-conceived and researched Alternative M, which the City and this Commission continues to ignore despite its clear superiority to existing choices.
- The sources of funding proposed by Alternative M and used by neighboring cities include commercial bonds (rather than residential), land trusts, nonprofit organizations, and the more than one billion dollars of affordable housing grants that the state has been offering and will continue to offer to municipalities that apply for the funding.
- As a reminder, Palo Alto is one of the few cities that has NOT applied for this funding. This is money available for the taking yet Palo Alto has not even asked for this funding. That is irrational and suspect.
- Of particular concern is Staff's reliance on an incomplete and flawed "strategic economic study" which excludes the best and most effective sources of housing funds utilized by peer cities. This analysis must be re-done to include a broader range of revenue opportunities.
- The Staff report also fails to acknowledge the well-established fact that zoning changes are a zero-cost opportunity to incentivize housing by mandating residential development. As a reminder, zoning changes that further the public interest - including housing development - do not implicate the Takings clause of the US or California constitution, meaning that the US and California Supreme Courts have established that commercial developers are not entitled to compensation when land is rezoned to residential use.
- As a reminder, because Palo Alto is the \*only\* city in California (if not country) with a business presence that lacks a business tax, it is inaccurate to analyze the impact of commercial development here in Palo Alto in the same way that it is analyzed in our neighboring cities. For example, because Mountain View has a robust large business tax, when Google expands its large presence in Mountain View, Mountain View's housing budget increases as a direct consequence. That is the opposite of the case here.
- That means that commercial development RAISES funds for neighboring cities, but it depletes funds from Palo Alto's general fund.
- The only realistic way to solve this problem is to seek alternative financing for housing. Commercial development is not the way. It has not succeeded and will not succeed. For evidence: look at our current

housing fund, which is at zero.

- The City Staff MUST urgently explore alternative means of funding housing. Failure to do so constitutes extreme error, incompetence, and irresponsibility.

Why are we in this situation?

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- There are valid questions regarding the several members of the Planning Commission whose livelihoods are dependent on commercial development. Their opinions - including tonight - continue to further their own financial interests over the best interests of the community by pushing for the maximization of commercial development, and arguing - falsely - that commercial development is the only means of funding housing.
- Much of this problem would be remediated if the Commissioners were required to disclose financial interest via Forms 700 or similar documents. The community is entitled to full information about potential, perceived, and actual conflicts of interests, as is required in most other cities.
- It is time for the city's leadership to come clean on personal financial interests. Commissioners must be required to act on behalf of the public, rather than on behalf of their family business or law firm.
- The city must look past the financial interest of its commissioners and largest campaign contributors, by diversifying sources of funding for affordable housing beyond commercial developers.
- At very least, the City must direct city staff to create a more honest and fact-based report analyzing alternative funding for affordable housing. Failure to do so is a breach of the Commission's fiduciary duty on behalf of the city, and is an inexcusable act of irresponsibility and incompetence on behalf of the City staff.

Alternative M is attached for your consideration.

Council and Commission: a neighborhood with ample housing and almost no traffic is achievable. If you believe that a better city is not achievable, why did you seek to serve in public office?

Surveys make it clear that residents and small business owners want housing and don't want the traffic, pollution, and housing deficits caused by commercial development. It is time to prioritize our community over the pocketbooks of commercial developers and campaign contributors.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Eisenberg

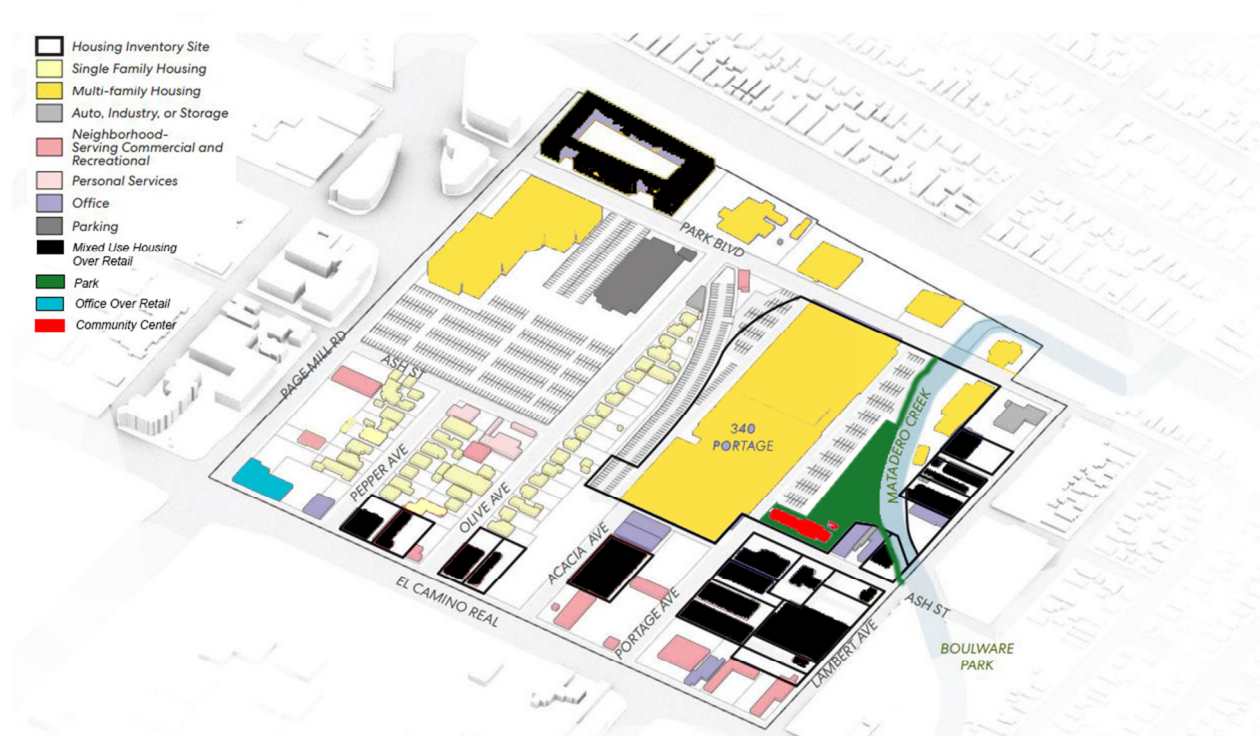
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# ALTERNATIVE M

## Focused on Community Needs

- Welcomes teachers, seniors, people with disabilities, first responders, city workers, and other community members with approximately 400 below market rate housing units
- Provides up to approximately 770 other housing units through office phase-out and focused zoning
- Reduces peak hour traffic
- Improves job/housing imbalance
- Offers more space for community-serving retail, local services, and health providers
- Creates new community center and parkland
- Reduces cut-through traffic
- Beautifies streets
- Preserves all existing residences with no displacement of owners and tenants
- Fully parks all new buildings to prevent impacting neighbors and streets
- Preserves historic Fry's site building via adaptive reuse
- Widens bike lanes on Park by eliminating street spaces for parked cars
- Does not rely on developer incentives to provide key benefits
- Treats Ventura the same as other Palo Alto neighborhoods by not increasing allowed density



This alternative comes from NVCAP Working Group Members Keith Reckdahl and Terry Holzemer and Ventura Neighborhood Association Moderator Becky Sanders, with consultation from others experienced in affordable housing and local zoning.

## Adaptive Reuse of the Fry's Site

The site has been zoned for housing since the 1980s but the City Council granted it a special exemption for office and retail use so as to support Fry's Electronics. The owner, Sobrato Organization, has said housing wouldn't be profitable for it and wants to keep the present office uses. However, the office tenants are high-tech firms not serving the local community.

With Fry's now gone, we think it's time the site became housing, just as the city's zoning and housing inventory intended. Rather than providing incentives for the developer that inevitably increase traffic and density, we propose the City purchase the site and convert both the major building and the newer office building at 3250 Park Boulevard to below market rate housing. The wooden office building at 3201-3205 Ash will become a community center. Converting the major buildings from office to housing reduces parking requirements, enabling about three acres of new publically-owned parkland per our estimates.

Adaptive reuse of buildings is environmentally-desirable and enables the historic preservation of two buildings constructed by Chinese-American immigrant entrepreneur Thomas Foon Chew (pictured below), who created the third-largest fruit and vegetable canning company in the world in the early 1900s. Our city's Historic Resources Board determined that the buildings need to be preserved after an extensive historic review by an expert firm. Reuse of historic sites is common in cities other than Palo Alto, with architects creating wonderful modern interiors filled with light and open space.



### Why Below Market Rate Housing?

It's by far our greatest housing need. Virtually all of Palo Alto's unmet RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) 2015-2023 goal is for low-income housing, with about 2/3 being for people earning 80% or less of the Santa Clara County median income. For-profit housing projects create very few, if any, below market rate units and will never provide enough directly or through in-lieu fees to meet our RHNA goals. Rather than falling further behind, we propose to prioritize below market rate housing to serve teachers, seniors, people with disabilities, first responders, city workers, and other community members who are being priced out of Palo Alto.

### How Do We Pay for the Site?

As is common for cities, Palo Alto can offer 30-year municipal bonds to finance the purchase of the Fry's site. Interest rates on such bonds are very low. Bond payments will then be covered partially by tenant rents and a portion of the revenue from the business tax revenue favored by many in the community and likely to return once the economy recovers. This will create no financial burden on Palo Alto residents nor on City finances.

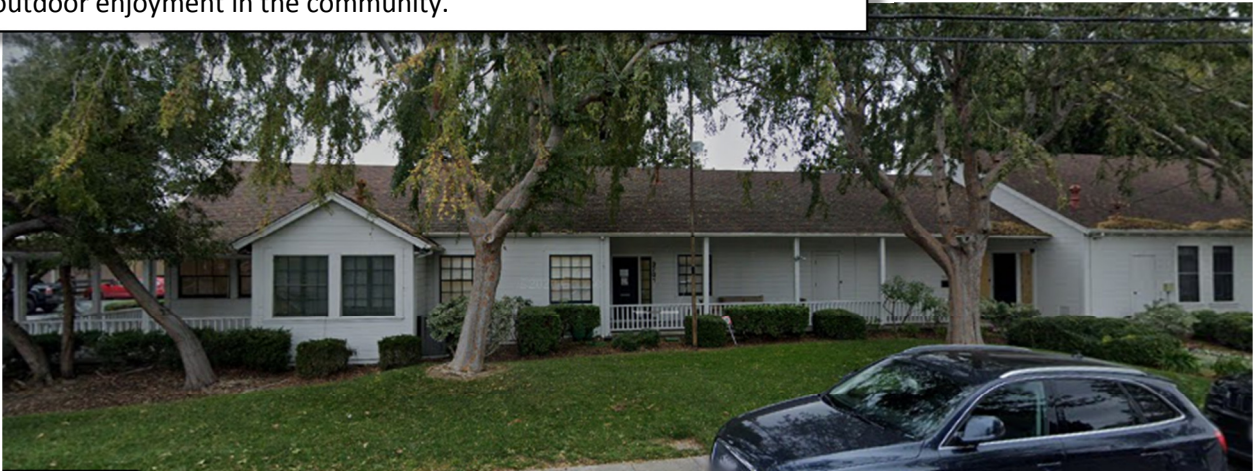


## **A New Community Center and Parkland**

Because the City will own the Fry's site, the historic building at 3201-3205 Ash (see below) that's part of the site can become a wonderful new community center. We envision the center housing a non-profit operating a small eatery, similar to Ada's Cafe, where residents of all ages will find comfortable and friendly service.

The center can also house community meetings, a historic display about the Fry's site and Thomas Foon Chew, and social events.

Adjacent to the community center can be new parkland, enabling indoor-outdoor events. The new parkland could also connect up with Boulware Park and its recent expansion to form a wonderful area for outdoor enjoyment in the community.



## **Safer Bike Travel on Park Boulevard**

Commercial buildings on Park Boulevard are supposed to provide parking for all workers and visitors, yet cars are parking on the street. We should prevent on-street parking in bike lanes to improve the safety of one of our city's busiest bike routes.

## **Zone for the Community, Not High-Tech Offices**

Over the years in Ventura, the City has allowed high-tech firms to replace local retail and community-serving offices such as health providers. These firms increase peak-hour traffic, price out local businesses, and mean we must go further to shop, dine, and get professional services.

We propose to end this trend by converting the zoning along El Camino and other streets in Ventura to allow only housing and true local-serving businesses. This will benefit residents, open up new housing opportunities, and benefit many local firms priced out of our community. It encourages walking and biking and helps convert North Ventura from an office park back into a neighborhood.

Without any increase to allowed density, we estimate this can add 349 to 431 housing units to the community with full parking.

We also envision converting office buildings along Park to housing through creative reuse. We estimate this can add 238 to 340 additional housing units. Sufficient parking already exists on these sites

As noted, all new housing will be fully parked. Much of Ventura suffers already from overcrowded streets. Underparked new housing will only create more problems so we have avoided it.

## **Beautify, Don't Densify**

Building office and housing towers in Ventura will create an enormous burden on one small neighborhood. We believe that no upzoning (increased density) is needed whatsoever to achieve significant community and environmental benefits.

We envision new street trees providing shade and cooling, a beautiful community center on the historic Fry's site, new parkland, new local shopping and services, and housing for people of all incomes.





**From:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Clerk, City](#); [Cari Templeton](#)  
**Subject:** Can you please post a list of speakers to give speakers notice?  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:48:44 PM

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Planning Commission and Vinh (whose email address I cannot find):

Can you please post a list of community member speakers to give advance notice?

Tonight right now is Back to School Night at Paly High School, so some of us are juggling both meetings.

Thank you in advance.

Best,  
Rebecca

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