

From: [James Stephens](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Council, City](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Kou, Lydia](#); kou.pacc@gmail.com; [Lauing, Ed](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [Stone, Greer](#); [Tanaka, Greg](#); greg@gregtanaka.org; [Veenker, Vicki](#)
Subject: Re: Regarding the Application for Amending of PC2343 - 702 Ellsworth Place and 2901 - 2905 Middlefield Road
Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:07:20 PM
Attachments: [Palo Alto City Council.docx](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please find attached my revised letter regarding the Application for Amending of PC2343 - 702 Ellsworth Place and 2901 - 2905 Middlefield Road. Please include my letter in the printed packet for the December 11th City Council Meeting.
I teach in San Francisco at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry and will be unable to present in person.
Thank you, James Stephens

James D. Stephens, DDS
Midtown Professional Building
[REDACTED]
Palo Alto, CA 94306
[REDACTED]

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On Wed, Oct 25, 2023 at 5:10 PM James Stephens [REDACTED] > wrote:
Please find attached my letter regarding the Application for Amending of PC2343 - 702 Ellsworth Place and 2901 - 2905 Middlefield Road.
Please include my letter in the printed packet for the November 6th City Council Meeting.
I will be out of town and unable to present in person. Thank you, James Stephens

James D. Stephens, DDS
Midtown Professional Building
[REDACTED]

Notice of Confidentiality: This communication and any accompanying document(s) may contain health information that may be confidential or privileged. The information is intended for the sole use of the individual named above. If you receive this electronic transmission in error you are advised that any disclosure including copying, distribution, or the taking of any action is strictly prohibited. Moreover any such inadvertent disclosure shall not compromise or waive the HIPAA compliance privilege in the communication or otherwise. If you have received this communication in error, please contact Stephens & Park, DDS 650.321.9693

TO: Palo Alto City Council

Re: Regarding: LEGISLATIVE - Amending Planned Community 2343 zoning for 2901 - 2905 Middlefield Road

11/30/2023

Dear Amy French, Mayor Kou, Vice Mayor Stone, and members of the City of Palo Alto City Council,

I am writing today to comment on the unintended consequences of the development project at Elsworth Place and Middlefield Road. My wife and I own the Medical Dental building on the corner of Middlefield Road and Sutter Avenue in Palo Alto. Known as the Midtown Professional Building, it has provided offices for neighborhood Physicians and Dentist since the late 1950's. Additionally, we both practiced dentistry in Suite #1 of the building for almost 40 years.

My concern is regarding the loss of access to parking for residents on Elsworth Place and the suggestion that they can simply park on Sutter Avenue. It is not quite that simple because Sutter is already impacted by vehicles from the residents of high density living, school and church parking and recently camper vans that regularly use the street for more than overnight parking. Over the years we have had Sutter Avenue residents forced to park in our lot which is reserved for our patients and employees. Telling the Elsworth Place residents that they can simply go around the corner to park is disingenuous as few spaces are available at any time of the day let alone afternoons and evenings. The issues around parking in the lot for the Midtown Professional Building will be significantly magnified by this near-sighted recommendation.

The result of displacement of the residents of the Elsworth Place community's parking will be a significant negative effect on the residents and businesses on Sutter Avenue and Middlefield Road. Additional demand will lead to a significant quality of life issues for the many Sutter Avenue residents who already have to search for adequate parking. I would strongly encourage the City Council and Planning Department to find a solution that allows for adequate parking on the Elsworth Place site and does not increase the demand on the already dense parking on Sutter Street that will impact the healthcare offices and the community they serve. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
James Stephens, DDS

Midtown Professional Building



From: [Star Teachout](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Planning Commission](#); [REDACTED] [Rachael Kaci](#)
Subject: Cal Ave closure, Country Sun, & Ada's
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 1:40:08 PM

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Dear City of Palo Alto council and PTC members,

I'm overdue in thanking you for making the controversial decision to keep some parts of California Avenue closed to cars, and for your future attentiveness to designing a street which optimizes retail success, pedestrian safety, and fostering community. Although there is much work to be done regarding signage (traffic flow, parking, list of retailers) and integrating cyclists, we feel confident that the end product will be of a high quality. Transitions for some who are used to prior car-focused patterns will not be easy, but we should be able to find some solutions to such things as assisting elderly who need assistance parking near to their destinations (teens receiving community service/employment?), facilitating deliveries, and possibly marketing support to offset the changes in covid buying habits. There have been many interesting comments and ideas in response to the Palo Alto Weekly Online articles. These include filling in some of the voids that exist for basic "necessities" such as a good bakery, a stationery/computer supply store, a brew pub, a practical art/craft store, a teen space, a place for community groups to gather (knitters, advocacy groups, city sponsored groups such as repair cafes), and more. Whether some of these are financially viable is to be seen.

I don't know that you are able to do anything to help Country Sun remain on California Avenue, but I just wanted to express how meaningful this business is to some of us, and what a loss it will be should it close (there is a wee bit of hope). I've been shopping at Country Sun for 20 years ever since we bought our small house in Barron Park, and it embodies many values that appeal to me and others: it is local/bikeable, offers affordable and good quality organic produce, offers discounted special orders for large quantities (grains, legumes), carries local products (eg, Midwife & Baker, eggs, honey, turkey salami), takes a stand on GMO foods, stocks interesting beer/wines, has a large vitamin supply, offers some minimally packaged/green products, and—especially dear to me—they hire local teens, community college students, and young people trying to survive without high tech jobs. They are also incredibly kind and helpful to some of the very elderly with special needs.

I know practically nothing about city finances, but I was wondering if there are any models similar to private businesses when they encourage employees to stay on by vesting shares in the company over time? Could there be a system which provides some financial benefit the longer a business is in our community? What if there were reduced taxes the longer a business was open to offset the pressures of increasing costs from landlords? I'm also wondering if there is some intersection of a private business offering public benefits that might allow the city to offer some formal contractual subsidy which benefits both parties? For example, I've spoken with Ada's Cafe founder Kathleen Hughes who can see the benefits of having a presence on Cal Ave. Not only do we need a bakery—and Ada's is fabulous—the increased traffic in that location could dramatically increase their business profits and more deeply integrate the developmentally disabled young adults they employ. I can't speak for what changes the Country Sun staff/managers would consider—such as giving Ada's a counter in

the store— but we also have a strong effort in our schools to expand CTE (career tech education/vocational) and having business internships throughout our city could be wonderful for our teens and early 20's residents. I would be willing to put in time unpaid to investigate such a program, perhaps through our Chamber of Commerce and the PAUSD work experience program (Rachel Kaci). Anything our city could do to support Country Sun and our other Cal Ave merchants would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for any support you can offer, and for all your patience in listening to us who love that little street,
Star Teachout, resident of Barron Park

PS: I have had numerous conversations with several Country Sun employees, and should any of you wish to contact one of the long-term managers I've attached Kevin Wright's email.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Council, City; Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Lait, Jonathan](#)
Subject: some recent articles about housing
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 12:01:28 PM

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Dear Council and PTC members,

Below are three articles from the past week about housing

The first article below documents how adding housing in DTN Sunnyvale did produce an upturn in retail/dining and other activity

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/downtown-sunnyvales-housing-anchors-the-community/>

The second article below reports on how Menlo Park provided more zoning incentives for housing DTN as part of moving toward a compliant housing element.

<https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2023/11/30/menlo-park-council-votes-to-allow-development-of-up-to-100-housing-units-per-acre-in-downtown#:~:text=28%20meeting%2C%20the%20Menlo%20Park,past%20year%20and%20a%20half>

The third article below reports on how recent increases in apartments coming online have led to rental concessions/lower rental costs.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/11/30/free-rent-with-apartment-supply-increasing-landlords-turn-to-concessions/>

I encourage you to consider how these recent trends and actions can be translated into Palo Alto plans

Stephen Levy

From: [Humphrey, Sonia](#)
Cc: [Abello, Emmanuel](#); [Palacherla, Neelima](#); [Noel, Dunia](#)
Subject: LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review Final Report - Now Available
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:48:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Affected Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties:

The [Final Report for the Countywide Fire Service Review](#), adopted by LAFCO on October 4, 2023, is now available on the LAFCO website. We thank you for your time, participation, and assistance throughout the Countywide Fire Service Review project.

As a next step and as directed by the Commission, LAFCO staff will contact affected agencies and request a written response from each of the agencies on their plans for implementing the Report's recommendations and will inform the Commission of each agency's written response.

Best regards,

Sonia Humphrey, LAFCO Clerk
LAFCO of Santa Clara County
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 993-4709

SANTA
CLARA
LAFCO

60th
ANNIVERSARY
1963-2023

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [Ed Lauing](#); [Jack Ajluni](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Gardener, Liz](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Salem Ajluni](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); planning.commission@cityofpaloalto.org
Subject: Re: Will you sign the petition to say NO tax dollars to bomb civilians?
Date: Friday, December 8, 2023 6:05:26 PM

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

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 3:26 PM Palestine & Israel Alert (via MoveOn) <moveon-help@list.moveon.org> wrote:

[Sign the petition to say NO to using our tax dollars to bomb and kill civilians in Palestine!](#)

Dear MoveOn member,

Every 10 minutes, a child is killed by Israeli military airstrikes in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war on Gaza.¹ This means that every 10 minutes, there is a child who will never get to fulfill their dreams. A child who will never get to fulfill their childhood, their teenage years, or their adult years, and a family that will never get to watch their kid grow up.

Children represent the bulk of deaths in this latest violence—whether by Israeli military bombs and heavy artillery or Hamas's violence on October 7.

And it's not just children. More than 17,000 Palestinians (70% of whom are women and children) have been killed and tens of thousands injured in Gaza by Netanyahu's escalating military campaign of airstrikes (and violations of international law) targeting and bombing civilians in refugee camps, hospitals, homes, mosques, churches, and schools.^{2,3}

Aram, our U.S. taxpayer dollars are being used to fund the relentless bombing of Palestinian civilians.⁴ It's heartbreaking *and* wrong, and we can do something about it.

[Will you join in solidarity and sign the petition to say NO to using our tax dollars to kill and bomb Palestinians?](#)

Our leaders must stop sending unconditional military aid to support PM Netanyahu's war of aggression and bombardment of Palestinians. Together, we say NO TAX DOLLARS FOR BOMBING CIVILIANS!

Sign the petition

Netanyahu and his far-right government, the farthest right in Israel's history, are leading a

campaign of indiscriminate bombardment, breaking international law both by targeting civilians and using white phosphorus on civilian populations.⁵ These attacks have exacerbated the existing humanitarian crisis caused by the Israeli government's air, land, and sea blockade that has caused catastrophic loss of life.⁶

The reality is that the U.S. government is Netanyahu's largest supplier of weapons, and Congress has already passed legislation to send Israel \$3.8 BILLION every year for the next five years.⁷ And on top of this, the Biden administration proposed sending an additional \$14 billion of taxpayer dollars in military aid, which will include military weapons such as bombs and tens of thousands of 155mm artillery shells, which have been the Israeli military's weapon of choice on the ground in Gaza.⁸

[Instead of using taxpayer dollars to bomb Palestinian civilians, our leaders should be calling for a ceasefire now. We must come together to say no tax dollars for bombing civilians!](#)

More than 1,200 Israelis were killed and more than 240 taken hostage in the Hamas attacks on October 7. And the brutal response and incessant airstrikes launched by Netanyahu following Hamas's attacks have not only escalated the violence and failed to prioritize the return of those held hostage, they have created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with 1 in 200 Palestinians killed in Gaza since October 7.⁹ Entire multigenerational Palestinian families have been killed and erased from the registry. Entire lineages have been wiped out.

Nearly half of Gaza's residents are under the age of 16, and 65% are under the age of 25, effectively meaning that Palestinian children are bearing the brunt of the Israeli government's collective punishment.

[This unacceptable, inhumane, unjust, collective punishment is also a violation of international law. It must end now. Sign the petition to demand that our tax dollars not be used to bomb civilians.](#)

Despite the fact that the Israeli government has cut off fuel, water, and electricity from people in Gaza, doctors and nurses are still doing the best they can to treat their patients. Unfortunately, though, more than half of the 30 hospitals in Gaza have been forced to close, and many have run out of necessary medical supplies such as anesthesia and painkillers.¹⁰ And many hospitals have been targeted and bombed by Israeli military airstrikes.

50,000 pregnant women and people are at great risk in Gaza too, with miscarriages, premature births, and stillbirths tripling.^{11,12} One mother, Hind S., almost gave birth to her baby under the rubble in the aftermath of an Israeli airstrike before she was dug out and rushed to a hospital, where her baby was born with a broken leg from the airstrike.¹³

[Aram, these are only some of the horror stories that have come from PM Netanyahu's bombardment of Palestinians. We have to stop this. Will you sign the petition?](#)

A United Nations human rights expert has confirmed that Palestinians are facing mass ethnic cleansing at the hands of the Israeli government and occupation forces.¹⁴ United States leaders have the massive power to step in and stop it.

If we come together, we can make a huge difference. Our collective calls for a ceasefire are working, and demanding that our tax dollars won't be used to bomb civilians is another big step that we can take. And the time is NOW to come together and demand it.

[Click here to add your name to this urgent petition, and then pass it along to your friends to spread the word.](#)

Thanks for all you do.

–Mana, Kenia, Melissa, Mona, and the rest of the team

Sources:

1. "One child killed in Gaza every 10 minutes on average, says WHO chief – video," *The Guardian*, November 11, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185449?t=9&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

2. "Gaza reports more than 11,100 killed. That's one out of every 200 people," *The Washington Post*, November 13, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185455?t=11&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

3. "Gaza: After two months of war, women last to eat and children first to die," OCHA Services, December 7, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185456?t=13&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

4. "Israel's War in Gaza, Subsidized by the USA," *The Nation*, November 10, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185454?t=15&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

5. "Israel: White Phosphorus Used in Gaza, Lebanon," Human Rights Watch, October 12, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/184716?t=17&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

6. "UN expert warns of new instance of mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, calls for immediate ceasefire," Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, October 14, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/184711?t=19&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

7. "Israel's War in Gaza, Subsidized by the USA," *The Nation*, November 10, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185454?t=21&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

8. Ibid.

9. "Gaza reports more than 11,100 killed. That's one out of every 200 people," *The Washington Post*, November 13, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185455?t=23&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

10. "What It's Like to Give Birth in Gaza," *The Intercept*, November 8, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185468?t=25&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

11. Ibid.

12. "Doctors in Gaza hospital forced to remove premature babies from incubators as supplies run out," CNN, accessed December 8, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185469?t=27&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

13. "Giving birth as bombs fall in Gaza: 'My girl came to the world broken,'" NBC News, November 14, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185470?t=29&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

14. "Gaza: UN experts call on international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people," Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, November 16, 2023

<https://act.moveon.org/go/185465?t=31&akid=370994%2E28470342%2EuD-Ct->

You're receiving this petition because we thought it might interest you. It was created on MoveOn.org, where anyone can start their own online petitions. You can [start your own petition here](#).



Want to support MoveOn's work? Together, we must work to end the filibuster, codify abortion rights into law, and defend our freedoms, our families, and our futures. We can accomplish all this and more, but only if we work together.

Will you start a monthly donation right now to power our critical work?

[Yes, I'll chip in \\$5 a month.](#)

[No, I'm sorry, I can't make a monthly donation.](#)

Contributions to MoveOn Civic Action are not tax-deductible for income tax purposes. MoveOn.org Civic Action - PO Box 96141, Washington, D.C. 20090-6141. This email was sent to Aram James on December 8, 2023. To change your email address or update your contact info, [click here](#). MoveOn's privacy policy was recently updated. To read our new privacy policy, [click here](#). To remove yourself from this list, [click here](#).

From: [REDACTED]
To: Council, City; board@pausd.org; "PABAC"; Planning Commission
Subject: Regularly getting outdoors has many benefits, including developing better eyesight.
Date: Sunday, December 10, 2023 3:06:11 PM

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Something to think about... https://www.wsj.com/tech/personal-tech/our-eyes-really-are-getting-worse-heres-how-to-save-your-kids-vision-de16d592?mod=series_famtechjulie

Walking and biking to school provides many benefits for children, as you know. This Wall Street Journal article taught me about a health benefit I hadn't known about.

Thank you for your forward-thinking, ongoing support of Safe Routes to School. Our community's children are healthier, happier, learn better (and now we know they see better) when they are given the opportunity to move about safely, freely and regularly outdoors.

Happy Holidays! I hope you can get out to enjoy a walk or bike ride during this time. What's good for our children is also good for us!

With gratitude,

Penny Ellson



Virus-free www.avg.com

From: [Elizabeth Fama](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Fwd: 949 Scott Street (public comment)
Date: Sunday, December 10, 2023 6:59:22 PM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image010.png](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Please see below for a public comment about 949 Scott Street.
Happy holidays!
Elizabeth

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sauls, Garrett** <Garrett.Sauls@cityofpaloalto.org>
Date: Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 10:41 AM
Subject: RE: 949 Scott Street (public comment)
To: Elizabeth Fama <[REDACTED]>
Cc: John H. Cochrane <[REDACTED]>

Hi Elizabeth,

Thank you for reaching out and providing your input on the project. I believe that the agenda/staff report should be published either tonight or tomorrow for you to review. Please be sure to check back and let me know if you can't access it by the end of day tomorrow. I would also recommend sending your feedback to the PTC so that they can see it as well: Planning.Commission@CityofPaloAlto.org.

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

Best regards,



Garrett Sauls
Planner
Planning and Development Services Department
(650) 329-2471 | Garrett.Sauls@CityofPaloAlto.org



Provide feedback on Planning Development and Administration services

[NEW Parcel Report](#) | [Palo Alto Municipal Code](#) | [Online Permitting System](#) | [Planning Application Forms & Handouts](#) | [Planning Applications Mapped](#)

From: Elizabeth Fama <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:18 PM
To: Sauls, Garrett <Garrett.Sauls@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Cc: John H. Cochrane <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 949 Scott Street (public comment)

You don't often get email from fama.elizabeth@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mr. Sauls,

(I'm sending this to you because as of this moment the agenda and staff reports are not yet available on the link that the City provided on the notification postcard.)

I live within 600 feet of 949 Scott Street, and I'm writing to encourage you to allow the variances to go through at 949 Scott Street.

We should be delighted that people want to pay \$2 million for a tiny lot in our neighborhood, and build a family home on it at great expense to themselves. Also, the immediate neighbors already have natural buffers of a side yard for one, and a driveway for the other.

It's my opinion that you should let the new owners build what they want on their property.

Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth Fama