

From: [gala b](#)
To: [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Incorrect Information at Wednesday 3-29-23 PTC Meeting re Ellsworth Place
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2023 7:26:05 AM
Attachments: [Incorrect Information at Wednesday 3-29-23 PTC Meeting re Ellsworth Place.pdf](#)

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

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

Dear Planning and Transportation Commissioners and Director Lait,

Please find attached a PDF of a prepared question for you regarding comments made by Jonathan Lait during the latest Planning and Transportation Commission meeting, which was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. This PRF includes photos for your reference.

Your time and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gala Beykin

Incorrect Information at Wednesday 3-29-23 PTC Meeting re Ellsworth Place

March 31, 2023

Dear Planning and Transportation Commissioners and Director Lait:

I believe incorrect information was presented at your Wednesday, March 29, 2023, PTC meeting about the protected oak tree removed from "700"/702 Ellsworth Place on October 8, 2018.

At 26:05 minutes into the meeting is this exchange,

(see <https://www.youtube.com/live/FsroM7xGmcE?feature=share&t=1565>):

Bryna Chang: "There was also a question about a tree."

Jonathan Lait: "Um, yeah, I think the tree is a prior comment unless I'm mistaken I think that was something a concern about a tree that was cut down uh, last year or sometime before, and um, then, I believe uh, that staff analysis on that uh, the conclusion was that the tree itself was not a protected tree, uh, at the time that it was cut down because it was during, it was before the last, uh, under the last set of regulations that apply to protected trees."

Bryna Chang: "Thank You. Super Helpful."

According to both Canopy's Treeplotter Inventory records and also the private survey of the apartment complex from June 2017, the oak tree removed from "700"/702 Ellsworth was protected by our then-operant tree ordinance, which can be read online from the recorded staff report of June 6, 2022:

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/public-works/tree-section/june-6-2022-tree-ordinance-staff-report.pdf>

8.10.020 Definitions. (j) "Protected" tree means:

- (1) Any tree of the species *Quercus agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak) or *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak) which is eleven and one-half inches in diameter (thirty-six inches in circumference) or more when measured four and one-half feet (fifty-four inches) above natural grade;

The tree removed was a Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) with a diameter of 17 inches at the standard height of 4½ feet per Canopy's inventory of trees in Palo Alto. For their specific record on that tree, numbered 46646 in their inventory, please see the included photo below.

The previous owner of the "700"/702 Ellsworth Place parking lot parcel, which contained the tree as a part of its landscape design, recently provided the City with a survey that was commissioned back in June 2017 and shows the same tree with a "mean breast height" or MBH of 15". The relevant portion of that survey is also below.

In light of these two independent sources, which both demonstrate that the removed tree was of a protected size, being greater than the requirement of 11.5" diameter at MBH, and also that the Canopy survey shows that it was a protected species of *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak), which was protected under our tree laws of October 2018. I ask that the City reevaluate its claim that the tree was not protected and provide the Planning and Transportation Commission and the public with an update.

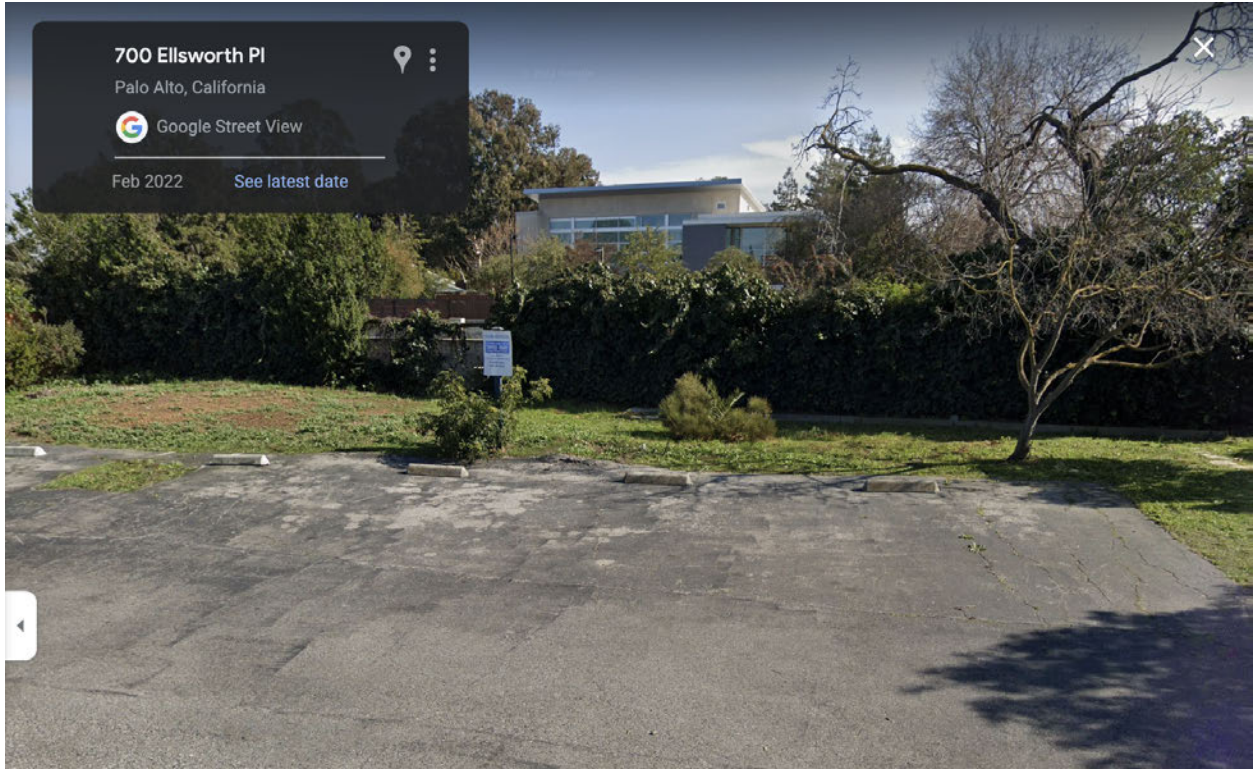
Furthermore, I ask that the City provide information on the permit application and permit issuance authorizing the oak tree's removal. Per public record requests, no such documents exist so it is unclear how the City determined that the tree was not protected.

The tree removal not only appears to have violated our City's tree ordinance of 2018, but it also violates a separate landscape plan required by the use-permit issued by the City in 1967 for the properties at 2901-2905 Middlefield Road and 701-702 Ellsworth Place. This permit clearly states, "**All plants shall be true-to-name, first-class nursery stock and shall be permanently maintained and replaced as necessary. ...**". I've included the entire permit below. Not only did removing the protected Valley Oak violate this use-permit, but so did the removal of approximately six other full-grown trees that existed at the "700"/702 Ellsworth Place parking lot parcel, none of which have been replaced. The destruction of all these trees is clear in these before/after pictures:

(Photo below is from Google Maps, Nov 2017; it shows the placement of the 6 trees which were later removed on Oct 8, 2018)



(Photo below is from Google Maps, Feb 2022, after the removal of the 6 trees)



(Photo below was taken by an Ellsworth Place Neighbor on Feb 5, 2023)



As far as the residents of Ellsworth Place are aware, the City of Palo Alto is fully aware of this 1967 use-permit and was also informed of the tree and landscape removals at the "700"/702

Ellsworth Place parking lot back on October 8, 2018, but has made no effort to enforce this use-permit.

I very much want to thank the Commission for asking about the tree problem at the "700"/702 Ellsworth Place parking lot. Trees are vital to our city and to our greater world, as is compliance with our laws and permits. We hope the City will correct its misstatements and provide accurate information about this situation soon.

Sincerely,

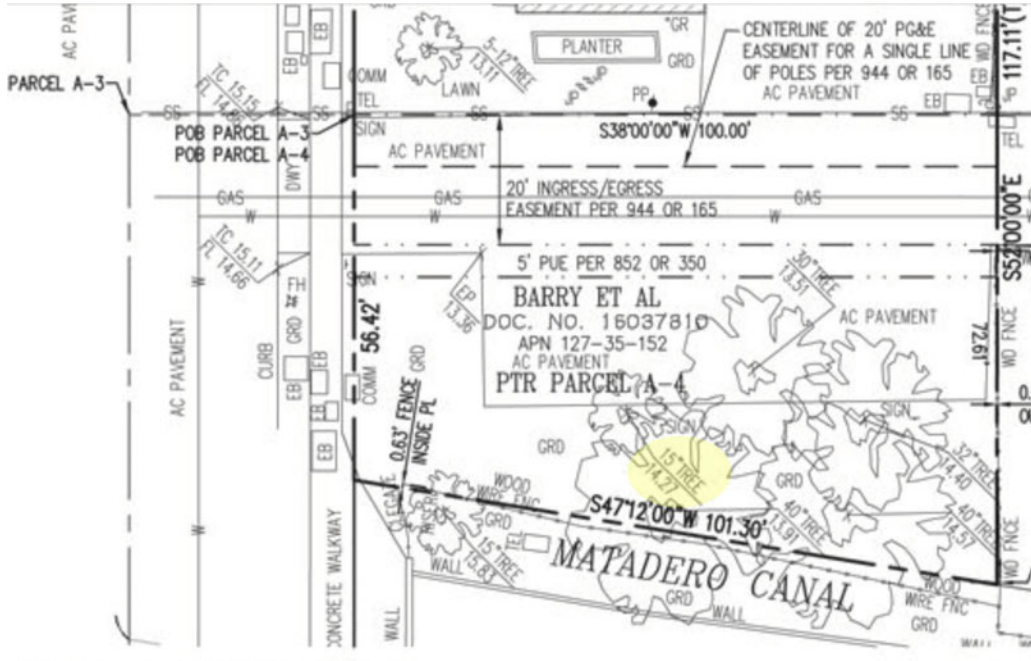
Gala Beykin

PHOTOS BELOW:

- The "700 Ellsworth Place" tree was recorded by Canopy before it was cut down as **Tree 46646 in their Treeplotter Inventory, as a Quercus Lobata, a.k.a. Valley Oak, with a DSH of 17.** (DSH stands for "diameter of a tree at standard height. Standard height is measured as 4.5 feet or 54 inches up the trunk of the tree from the ground.) It was cut down on October 8, 2018



- The private survey done of the apartments in June 2017, which the City of Palo Alto has access to, also records the tree with a "mean breast height" or MBH of 15", shown highlighted in yellow below. This is far larger than the minimum requirement of an MBH of 11.5" diameter, as outlined in the Tree Ordinance book of 2001.



- Here is a photo of a crew cutting down all six of the large trees on the "700/702 Ellsworth Place" parking lot parcel on October 8, 2018. They started with the two Oak trees, one of which was the protected Valley Oak tree 46646 on Canopy's Treeplogger Inventory.



• Additionally, the landscape plan was integral to getting the use permit for allowing the Sutter-Arms apartments to be built at what is now addressed as 2901 Middlefield Road. This permit clearly states, "All plants shall be true-to-name, first-class nursery stock and shall be permanently maintained and replaced as necessary. ...". This would indicate that all of the trees that were removed on October 8, 2018, are to be replaced per the permits allowing the Sutter Arms apartments to exist. Replacing the trees would correct the blight left behind by the clearing of six trees and additional vegetation on their parking lot, a.k.a. 700 or 702 Ellsworth Place.

2901 Middlefield Rd.
USE PERMIT
67-UP-4
Ray T. Lindsay

Use Permit No. 67-UP-4 is hereby issued to Ray T. Lindsay for the location and construction of a 12-unit apartment development at 2901-2905 Middlefield Road and 701-702 Ellsworth Place in accordance with Ordinance No. 2343 and the conditions thereof and subject to the following conditions:

1. A detailed landscape plan shall be submitted for approval. Plants shall be listed using both botanical and common names. Plant sizes, number and spacing shall be specified. No Building Permit shall be issued prior to approval of the landscape plan.
2. All plants shall be true-to-name, first-class nursery stock and shall be permanently maintained and replaced as necessary. Use and occupancy shall not be permitted prior to installation of the landscaping.
3. All construction and development shall comply with all applicable Codes and Ordinances including the Uniform Fire Code of the City of Palo Alto and with the State of California Administrative Code, Title 19, Public Safety.
4. Commencement of construction under this use permit shall be deemed an agreement on the part of the applicant, the owner, their heirs and successors and assigns to comply with all the terms and conditions of this use permit.

City of Palo Alto
May 16, 1967

James O. Glanville
JAMES O. GLANVILLE
Asst. Zoning Administrator
CITY OF PALO ALTO
RECEIVED
MAY 16 1967
DIVISION OF BUILDING

This Use Permit is granted in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article 23 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Palo Alto. Any Use Permit is transferable unless otherwise provided at the time of granting.

In any case in which the conditions to the granting of a Use Permit have not been or are not complied with, the Zoning Administrator shall give notice to the permittee of intention to revoke such permit at least 10 days prior to a hearing thereon. Following such hearing and if good cause exists therefor, the Zoning Administrator may revoke the Use Permit.

A Use Permit which has not been used within one year after the date of granting becomes void, although the Zoning Administrator may, without a hearing, extend the time for an additional year if an application to this effect is filed with him before the expiration of the first year.

From: [Lait, Jonathan](#)
To: [gala b](#)
Cc: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: RE: Incorrect Information at Wednesday 3-29-23 PTC Meeting re Ellsworth Place
Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 11:56:11 AM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Thank you for the email, Gala.

Clearly the site photos in your email suggests a different narrative than the one I reported to the PTC and it appears my understanding of the tree removal is incomplete. I will follow up with our planning and public works staff and explore the appropriateness of any related code enforcement action. Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Jonathan



JONATHAN LAIT
Director
Planning and Development Department
(650) 329-2676 | jonathan.lait@cityofpaloalto.org
www.cityofpaloalto.org

[Provide Feedback on Planning and Administration Services](#)

From: gala b [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 7:25 AM
To: Lait, Jonathan <Jonathan.Lait@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org>
Subject: Incorrect Information at Wednesday 3-29-23 PTC Meeting re Ellsworth Place

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

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Dear Planning and Transportation Commissioners and Director Lait,

Please find attached a PDF of a prepared question for you regarding comments made by Jonathan Lait during the latest Planning and Transportation Commission meeting, which was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. This PRF includes photos for your reference.

Your time and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gala Beykin

From: [Roberta Ahlquist](#)
To: [Council, City; city.council@cityofpaloalto.com; Human Relations Commission; Planning Commission](#)
Subject: 100% SERVICE SECTOR WORKER HOUSING FOR THE FRY/SOBRATO PROJECT
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 5:16:01 PM

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

Dear PA Council Members:

We need low/moderate income housing in Palo Alto NOW.

SERVICE SECTOR WORKER HOUSING FOR THE FRY/SOBRATO PROJECT:

:

We are very concerned about housing for our service sector community who drive farther to work each day, and pay more for gas, babysitters, etc. We ask that you turn the priorities around. Most housing should be for LOW INCOME tenants, not for the upper middle class. Also, this project should be ONLY for housing. Look at how much EMPTY OFFICE SPACE Palo Alto has! We badly need LOW INCOME HOUSING for our city. There should also be some form of rent stabilization for the entire rental community. Cities all around us have some form of control over exorbitant rents.

Sincerely,

Roberta Ahlquist, Co-chair PA Senior Low-Income Housing Committee

Henry.Etzkowitz, Co-organizer, Community of Oak Creek Residents....

Sandy Perry, President, Affordable Housing Network of Santa Clara County.

From: [Henry Etkowitz](#)
To: [Roberta Ahlquist](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); city.council@cityofpaloalto.com; [Human Relations Commission](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#)
Subject: Re: 100% SERVICE SECTOR WORKER HOUSING FOR THE FRY/SOBRATO PROJECT
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 6:23:56 PM

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Hi would you also like to moot my very specific proposal re transposing the market rate low income items. To that I would add, inclusion of a “third space” in support of council member Julie leithcote-Haims advocacy

In solidarity
Henry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 3, 2023, at 5:15 PM, Roberta Ahlquist [REDACTED] >
wrote:

Dear PA Council Members:

We need low/moderate income housing in Palo Alto NOW.

SERVICE SECTOR WORKER HOUSING FOR THE FRY/SOBRATO PROJECT:

:

We are very concerned about housing for our service sector community who drive farther to work each day, and pay more for gas, babysitters, etc. We ask that you turn the priorities around. Most housing should be for LOW INCOME tenants, not for the upper middle class. Also, this project should be ONLY for housing. Look at how much EMPTY OFFICE SPACE Palo Alto has! We badly need LOW INCOME HOUSING for our city. There should also be some form of rent stabilization for the entire rental community. Cities all around us have some form of control over exorbitant rents.

Sincerely,

Roberta Ahlquist, Co-chair PA Senior Low-Income Housing Committee

Henry.Etkowitz, Co-organizer, Community of Oak Creek Residents....

Sandy Perry, President, Affordable Housing Network of Santa Clara County.

From: [Shambayati, Alice](#)
To: [French, Amy](#); [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Owner's Request for Update on 2147-2149 Yale St
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 12:15:26 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon, Amy and PTC Commission,

The City Clerk's Office received a call from Firth Griffith, who is requesting an update on Item #2 from the February 22, 2023 PTC meeting: "2147 Yale: Preliminary Parcel Map with Exceptions to Subdivide Existing Parcel into Substandard Lots" regarding a consent vs action decision. Are there any updates to be given to him at this time? His phone number is 650-391-4974. I can also call him with an update, though I am not familiar with this matter.

Thank you,



Alice Shambayati

Administrative Associate III

Office of the City Clerk

P: 650.329.2363 | E: Alice.Shambayati@CityofPaloAlto.org

www.cityofpaloalto.org

From: [doria s](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Templeton, Cari](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Owner's Request for Update on 2147-2149 Yale St
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:15:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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

Dear Ms. Shambayati,

Thank you for your email regarding Mr. Griffith's request.

I wanted to first let you know that I did not participate in item #2 from the Planning Commission's meeting on February 22nd.

It sounds as if he, Mr. Griffith, is enquiring about how the City Council will handle his request when it is agendized for a City Council hearing.

I very much appreciate you including Vice Chair Chang and me on this email, but the matter is before the City Council, so I don't think the Vice Chair or myself can be of help with regards to how it will be agendized in the City Council meeting

Please let me know if I can help!

Very best regards,

On Tue, Apr 4, 2023 at 12:15 PM Planning Commission
<Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

From: Shambayati, Alice <Alice.Shambayati@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 12:15:25 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: French, Amy <Amy.French@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Planning Commission
<Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org>
Subject: Owner's Request for Update on 2147-2149 Yale St

Good afternoon, Amy and PTC Commission,

The City Clerk's Office received a call from Firth Griffith, who is requesting an update on Item #2 from the February 22, 2023 PTC meeting: "2147 Yale: Preliminary Parcel Map with Exceptions to Subdivide Existing Parcel into Substandard Lots" regarding a consent vs action decision. Are there any updates to be given to him at this time? His phone number is 650-391-4974. I can also call him with an update, though I am not familiar with this matter.

Thank you,



Alice Shambayati

Administrative Associate III

Office of the City Clerk

P: 650.329.2363 | E: Alice.Shambayati@CityofPaloAlto.org

www.cityofpaloalto.org

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Doria Summa



From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Council City; citycouncil@mountainview.gov](mailto:citycouncil@mountainview.gov); [Shikada Ed](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Stump Molly](#); [Lait Jonathan](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Jethroe Moore](#)
Subject: LifeMoves Mountain View aims to house people in just three months. Experts say that its model doesn't work | News | Palo Alto Online |
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:57:02 AM

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

https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/life-moves-mountain-view-aims-to-house-people-in-just-three-months-experts-say-that-its-model-doesnt-work?utm_source=express-2023-04-06&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=express&utm_source=Embarcadero+Mailing+List+%28including+SLJ+Members%29&utm_campaign=a2057da414-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_06_05_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ba1b002ad7-a2057da414-%5B%5D

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Richard k](#); [Rob Baker](#); [Raj Jayadev](#); [walter wilson](#); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Al Morales](#); [Afanasiev, Alex](#); [pete carillo](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Lauing, Ed](#); [Sue Dremann](#); [REDACTED]; [Bryan Gobin](#)
Subject: Fwd: testimony from Sacramento re AB 742 is on line (No police canines allow to bite, maim, kill. etc (human beings)
Date: Sunday, April 9, 2023 1:17:52 PM

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

April 9, 2023

FYI,

Here is a small portion of Sgt. Sean Allen's testimony in support of AB 742 (no police weaponized canines biting human beings, bill). Testimony giving at the state capital on March 21, 2023 in front of the Public Safety Committee. Vote was 6-2 in support of AB 742.

https://www.instagram.com/aclu_calaction/?hl=en

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Howard, Adam](#)
Subject: May Fete Parade
Date: Monday, April 10, 2023 9:50:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image016.png](#)

Good Morning Palo Alto Dignitaries,

We are excited to announce that the May Fete Children's Parade will return on Saturday, May 6th for its 99th year!

This year's theme, "Empowering Wellness through Community" honors and pays tribute to all the people and activities in Palo Alto that positively impact our physical and mental health. This year's parade will showcase the many talented youth groups in Palo Alto and everything the community has come to love about the May Fete: floats, pets, classic cars and the wonderful May Fete Fair, sponsored by Kiwanis of Palo Alto. The celebration will also see the return of a month-long Palo Alto Puzzle Hunt that the whole family can enjoy.

As a Palo Alto Dignitary, we would like to welcome you to walk in the parade to help celebrate our youth and to celebrate your great work in the community. The Parade will start at 10am at the corner of University Avenue and Emerson St. If you would like to join us, we ask that you check in at that location by 9:30am.

If you plan to participate in the parade, please RSVP to me by Friday April 28th at adam.howard@cityofpaloalto.org.

We are excited to see you at this year's parade and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you

Adam Howard

Sr. Community Services Manager, Recreation
City of Palo Alto
Phone: 650-329-2192
E-mail: adam.howard@cityofpaloalto.org
www.cityofpaloalto.org

-
-



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



From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Lydia Kou](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [REDACTED]; [Greer Stone](#); [Lauing, Ed](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Greg Tanaka](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#); [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Larry Stone](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Dave Price](#); [Emily Mibach](#); [Braden Cartwright](#)
Subject: newsom-seeks-to-punish-california-city-for-refusing-to-adhere-to-housing-laws/amp/
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 4:39:58 PM

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

Hi Mayor Kou:

Builder's remedy is here! How much more punishment is the Palo Alto City Council and the planning commission going to inflict on the citizens and community members of Palo Alto by delaying our housing element endlessly?
aram

<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/3943972-newsom-seeks-to-punish-california-city-for-refusing-to-adhere-to-housing-laws/amp/>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Stump, Molly](#); [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#); [Greg Tanaka](#); Patricia.Guerrero@jud.ca.gov; [Burt, Patrick](#); [Council, City](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Planning Commission](#); citycouncil@mountainview.gov; [GRP-City Council](#); [Lydia Kou](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Human Relations Commission](#)
Subject: Latest cal appellate decision on the need for compliance with the housing element 30 page must read
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 11:22:46 PM

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Martinez v City of Clovis cite as 2023 DJDAR 3000-approx 30 page read

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: citycouncil@mountainview.gov; [GRP-City Council](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); Council, City; Josh Becker; Planning Commission; ParkRec Commission; Rob Baker; Roberta Ahlquist; [REDACTED]; [v; Brad](#)
[Imamura](#); [Don Austin](#)
Subject: "There's No Place In Police Work For Dogs" Sgt. Sean Allen
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 12:04:47 PM

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

> FYI: Review this great video on the extreme danger of police canines. Over 1500 views thus far.
>
> Best regards, aram
>
> <https://www.youtube.com/live/Be6TS4xKRvc?feature=share>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Roberta Ahlquist](#)
To: [Council, City; city.council@cityofpaloalto.com](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Henry Etzkowitz](#); [Aram James](#); [Joyce Beattie](#); [Samina Sundas](#); [Palo Alto Renters' Association](#); [Marie-Louise Starling-Bell](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Sandy Perry-HCA](#); [Cherrill Spencer](#); [Marni Barnes](#); [Sunita de Turreil](#); [Jocelyn Dong](#); [Dave Price](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [EPA Today](#); [Eugenia \(Genie\) Njolito](#); [Gerry Gras](#); [Mary Gallagher](#); [Paul George @ PPJC](#); [HRW Silicon Valley](#); [Helen Young](#); [Iza Predmdore](#); [Gardener, Liz](#); [Robin](#); [Rosalinda Quintanar](#)
Subject: Avenidas needs to support La Comida
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:33:38 PM

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

I go to the Avenidas Senior Center nearly daily. It is like a ghost center. Avenidas has at least four empty medium sized rooms for La Comida, four empty rooms nearly every day. They pay \$1/year rent to PA. They need to step up and bring La Comida back to the Senior Center asap. Folks now stand in long lines at the First Methodist Church. They must leave. There is not any place to go to share a meal, socialize, but they pick up a tray, and then go home. No place to socialize, to share ideas, make friends, etc. AVENIDAS Senior Center on Bryant NEEDS TO SERVE THE SENIOR COMMUNITY BETTER! They are hardly serving the middle class of Palo Alto, and not serving working class folks or others who want to share a lunch with others for a small donation. Check it out for yourselves. Go there and see how vacant it is. We can do better. THEY CAN DO BETTER! Staff is pretty well paid. Let's serve seniors, ALL seniors. Sincerely,
Roberta Ahlquist
Co-chair of PA Senior Low-Income House Committee

From: [doria s](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Avenidas needs to support La Comida
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:39:53 PM

Roberta,
Thank you for sharing your email.
In addition to being chair of the Planning and Transportation Commission this year is an the newest member of the La Comida board.
Our board is very committed to serving lunch
And providing an opportunity to socialize to all Seniors!

Very Best,
Doria

On Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 1:33 PM Planning Commission
<Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

From: Roberta Ahlquist <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:33:22 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; city.council@cityofpaloalto.com
<city.council@cityofpaloalto.com>; Human Relations Commission <hrc@cityofpaloalto.org>; Joe Simitian <supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org>; Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org>; Henry Etzkowitz <[REDACTED]>; Aram James <[REDACTED]>; Joyce Beattie <[REDACTED]>; Samina Sundas <[REDACTED]>; Palo Alto Renters Association <info@paloaltorenters.org>; Marie-Louise Staring-Bell <[REDACTED]>; chuck jagoda <[REDACTED]>; Sandy Perry-HCA <[REDACTED]>; Cherrill Spencer <[REDACTED]>; Marni Barnes <[REDACTED]>; Sunita de Turrell <[REDACTED]>; Jocelyn Dong <[REDACTED]>; Dave Price <[REDACTED]>; Rebecca Eisenberg <[REDACTED]>; EPA Today <epatoday@epatoday.org>; Eugenia (Genie) Njolito <[REDACTED]>; Gerry Gras <[REDACTED]>; Mary Gallagher <[REDACTED]>; Paul George @ PPJC <[REDACTED]>; HRW Silicon Valley <hrwsv@hrw.org>; Helen Young <[REDACTED]>; Iza Predmdore <[REDACTED]>; Gardener, Liz <[REDACTED]>; Robin <[REDACTED]>; Rosalinda Quintanar <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Avenidas needs to support La Comida

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Sincerely,

Roberta Ahlquist
Co-chair of PA Senior Low-Income House Committee

--

Doria Summa



From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Roberta Ahlquist](#)
Cc: [Council, City](#); city.council@cityofpaloalto.com; [Human Relations Commission](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Henry Etzkowitz](#); [Joyce Beattie](#); [Palo Alto Renters' Association](#); [Marie-Louise Starling-Bell](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Sandy Perry-HCA](#); [Marni Barnes](#); [Sunita de Turreil](#); [Jocelyn Dong](#); [Dave Price](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [EPA Today](#); [Helen Young](#); [Gardener, Liz](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Sean Allen](#)
Subject: Re: Avenidas needs to support La Comida
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:01:57 PM

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

Hi Roberta,

Thanks for your thoughtful and detailed description of the current condition and status of the Avenidas Senior Center.

Given your description it seems like bringing back La Comida to the senior center-to serve seniors meals and to facilitate a place where seniors can socialize over a meal- is a no brainer. Maybe you could invite the city manager and a few council members to accompany you on a tour of ASC.

Best,

aram

On Apr 12, 2023, at 1:33 PM, Roberta Ahlquist <roberta.ahlquist@sjsu.edu> wrote:

I go to the Avenidas Senior Center nearly daily. It is like a ghost center. Avenidas has at least four empty medium sized rooms for La Comida, four empty rooms nearly every day. They pay \$1/year rent to PA. They need to step up and bring La Comida back to the Senior Center asap. Folks now stand in long lines at the First Methodist Church. They must leave. There is not any place to go to share a meal, socialize, but they pick up a tray, and then go home. No place to socialize, to share ideas, make friends, etc.

AVENIDAS Senior Center on Bryant NEEDS TO SERVE THE SENIOR COMMUNITY BETTER! They are hardly serving the middle class of Palo Alto, and not serving working class folks or others who want to share a lunch with others for a small donation.

Check it out for yourselves. Go there and see how vacant it is. We can do better. THEY CAN DO BETTER! Staff is pretty well paid. Let's serve seniors, ALL seniors.

Sincerely,
Roberta Ahlquist
Co-chair of PA Senior Low-Income House Committee

From: [Joyce Beattie](#)
To: [Aram James](#)
Cc: [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Council, City](#); city.council@cityofpaloalto.com; [Human Relations Commission](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Henry Etzkowitz](#); [Palo Alto Renters' Association](#); [Marie-Louise Starling-Bell](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Sandy Perry-HCA](#); [Marni Barnes](#); [Sunita de Turreil](#); [Jocelyn Dong](#); [Dave Price](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [EPA Today](#); [Helen Young](#); [Gardener, Liz](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Sean Allen](#)
Subject: Re: Avenidas needs to support La Comida
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:23:35 PM

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

Thank you, Roberta -
Well stated.

Stevenson House will miss La Comida, but it's on the south border of Palo Alto, and access is limited. We need a more central location - and Avenidas needs the lunch program to attract Seniors to come to the Center and see its programs.

You're right, our Senior Center is way underused - look at Mountain View, or Sunnyvale; alive and vibrant!

Avenidas ejected La Comida at their peril. Now see the loss!

Joyce Beattie
resident at Stevenson House

On Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 4:01 PM Aram James [REDACTED] > wrote:

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Sincerely,

Roberta Ahlquist

Co-chair of PA Senior Low-Income House Committee

From: [Kou, Lydia](#)
To: [Aram James](#); [REDACTED]
Cc: [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Council, City](#); city.council@cityofpaloalto.com; [Human Relations Commission](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Henry Etzkowitz](#); [Palo Alto Renters' Association](#); [Marie-Louise Starling-Bell](#); [chuck jagoda](#); [Sandy Perry-HCA](#); [Marni Barnes](#); [Sunita de Turreil](#); [Jocelyn Dong](#); [Dave Price](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [EPA Today](#); [Helen Young](#); [Gardener, Liz](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Sean Allen](#)
Subject: Re: Avenidas needs to support La Comida
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 5:32:01 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-1485341581.png](#)

Please get this right and do not spread the wrong message. Read this...

La Comida is operating at Stevenson House and will continue to operate their nutritious lunch program at Stevenson House in south Palo Alto.

La Comida is trying to get a second location in Downtown.

Please do not spread the wrong message! La Comida is still going to serve their lunches at Stevenson House.



Lydia Kou - Mayor

Contact Info: <https://goo.gl/BcgCQS>

From: Joyce Beattie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Aram James <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Roberta Ahlquist <[REDACTED]>; Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; city.council@cityofpaloalto.com <city.council@cityofpaloalto.com>; Human Relations Commission <hrc@cityofpaloalto.org>; Joe Simitian <Supervisor.Simitian@bos.sccgov.org>; Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org>; Henry Etzkowitz <[REDACTED]>; Palo Alto Renters' Association <info@paloaltorenters.org>; Marie-Louise Starling-Bell <[REDACTED]>; chuck jagoda <[REDACTED]>; Sandy Perry-HCA <[REDACTED]>; Marni Barnes <[REDACTED]>; Sunita de Turreil <[REDACTED]>; Jocelyn Dong <[REDACTED]>; Dave Price <[REDACTED]>; Rebecca Eisenberg <[REDACTED]>; EPA Today <epatoday@epatoday.org>; Helen Young <[REDACTED]>; Gardener, Liz <[REDACTED]>; Shikada, Ed <Ed.Shikada@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Stump, Molly <Molly.Stump@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Sean Allen <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Avenidas needs to support La Comida

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Thank you, Roberta -

Well stated.

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Joyce Beattie

resident at Stevenson House

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Roberta Ahlquist

Co-chair of PA Senior Low-Income House Committee

From: [chuck jagoda](#)
To: [Kou, Lydia](#)
Cc: [Aram James](#); [REDACTED]; [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Council, City](#); city.council@cityofpaloalto.com; [Human Relations Commission](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Henry Etzkowitz](#); [Palo Alto Renters' Association](#); [Marie-Louise Starling-Bell](#); [Sandy Perry-HCA](#); [Marni Barnes](#); [Sunita de Tourreil](#); [Jocelyn Dong](#); [Dave Price](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [EPA Today](#); [Helen Young](#); [Gardener, Liz](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [Sean Allen](#)
Subject: Re: Avenidas needs to support La Comida
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:47:03 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-1485341581.png](#)

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

Right on Roberta!

Don't people realize that someday--if they're lucky enough to live long enough-- that will be them, or their family members, or friends or all of the above? Why not make some changes so people can eat in peace and dignity. Like we all need!

Chuck Jagoda

Peninsula WILPF

On Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 5:32 PM Kou, Lydia <Lydia.Kou@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

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Contact Info: <https://goo.gl/BcgCOS>

From: Joyce Beattie [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Aram James [REDACTED]
Cc: Roberta Ahlquist <[REDACTED]>; [Council, City](#) <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; city.council@cityofpaloalto.com <city.council@cityofpaloalto.com>; [Human Relations Commission](#)

<hrc@cityofpaloalto.org>; Joe Simitian <Supervisor.Simitian@bos.sccgov.org>; Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org>; Henry Etzkowitz <[REDACTED]>; Palo Alto Renters' Association <info@paloaltorenters.org>; Marie-Louise Starling-Bell <[REDACTED]>; chuck jagoda <[REDACTED]>; Sandy Perry-HCA <[REDACTED]>; Marni Barnes <[REDACTED]>; Sunita de Turreil <[REDACTED]>; Jocelyn Dong <[REDACTED]>; Dave Price <[REDACTED]>; Rebecca Eisenberg <[REDACTED]>; EPA Today <epatoday@epatoday.org>; Helen Young <[REDACTED]>; Gardener, Liz <[REDACTED]>; Shikada, Ed <Ed.Shikada@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Stump, Molly <Molly.Stump@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Sean Allen <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Avenidas needs to support La Comida

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Sincerely,

Roberta Ahlquist

Co-chair of PA Senior Low-Income House Committee

--

Chuck

From: [Jeff Brown](#)
To: [City Mgr](#); [Council, City](#); [City Attorney](#); [Transportation](#); [PWD](#); [Building](#); [Police](#); [Fire](#); [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: editor@paweekly.com; news@padailypost.com
Subject: Serious and Longstanding Need for Safety Improvements at Intersection of Middlefield Rd and Lincoln Ave
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:20:54 PM
Attachments: [Lincoln-Middlefield Intersection 2023.04.13b.pdf](#)
Importance: High

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

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

To Whom it *Should* Concern,

First, please excuse the broad distribution on this message. But, frankly, after many people trying and failing for many years to get the City of Palo Alto to meaningfully address this matter, it seems fully appropriate.

Just over a week ago, on April 5th, there was an automobile crash at the intersection of Middlefield Road and Lincoln Avenue – just another in a seemingly endless stream of such collisions there. For those of us living (or working) within earshot of that crossing, the sound of blaring horns (many times daily), screeching brakes (at *least* weekly) and, all too often, crashing metal and glass is painfully familiar. I haven't researched the history of injuries associated with these mishaps, but I've seen ambulances and fire trucks on the scene numerous times. Tow trucks are routinely needed. And, police – often multiple units – are invariably and extensively involved. Damage has also been done, repeatedly, to both public (street lights and signs) and private (hedges and fences) property.

As a clear matter of public safety, and with the City having been repeatedly alerted by residents, over a period of many years, to the evident danger (as if the City's own accident-response records shouldn't be *enough* to raise the alarm), the City's failure to meaningfully address the issue seems inexplicable at the very least. Especially so, given that just three blocks to the south, another intersection, that of Middlefield and Kellogg Ave, is constructed in a way that could very possibly alleviate the entire problem at Lincoln.

Please examine the slides attached to this email for an explanation of what I think are the main problems at the Middlefield/Lincoln intersection and how they might, relatively easily and quickly, be remedied. This is first and foremost a safety issue. But, it's also a city budget issue (especially, I imagine, were civil liability to come into play in the case of a serious accident) as well as one of neighborhood quality of life. It requires action, now, and I hope this communication might help bring that about. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

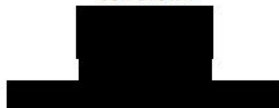
Thank you,

Jeff Brown
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

Jeff Brown



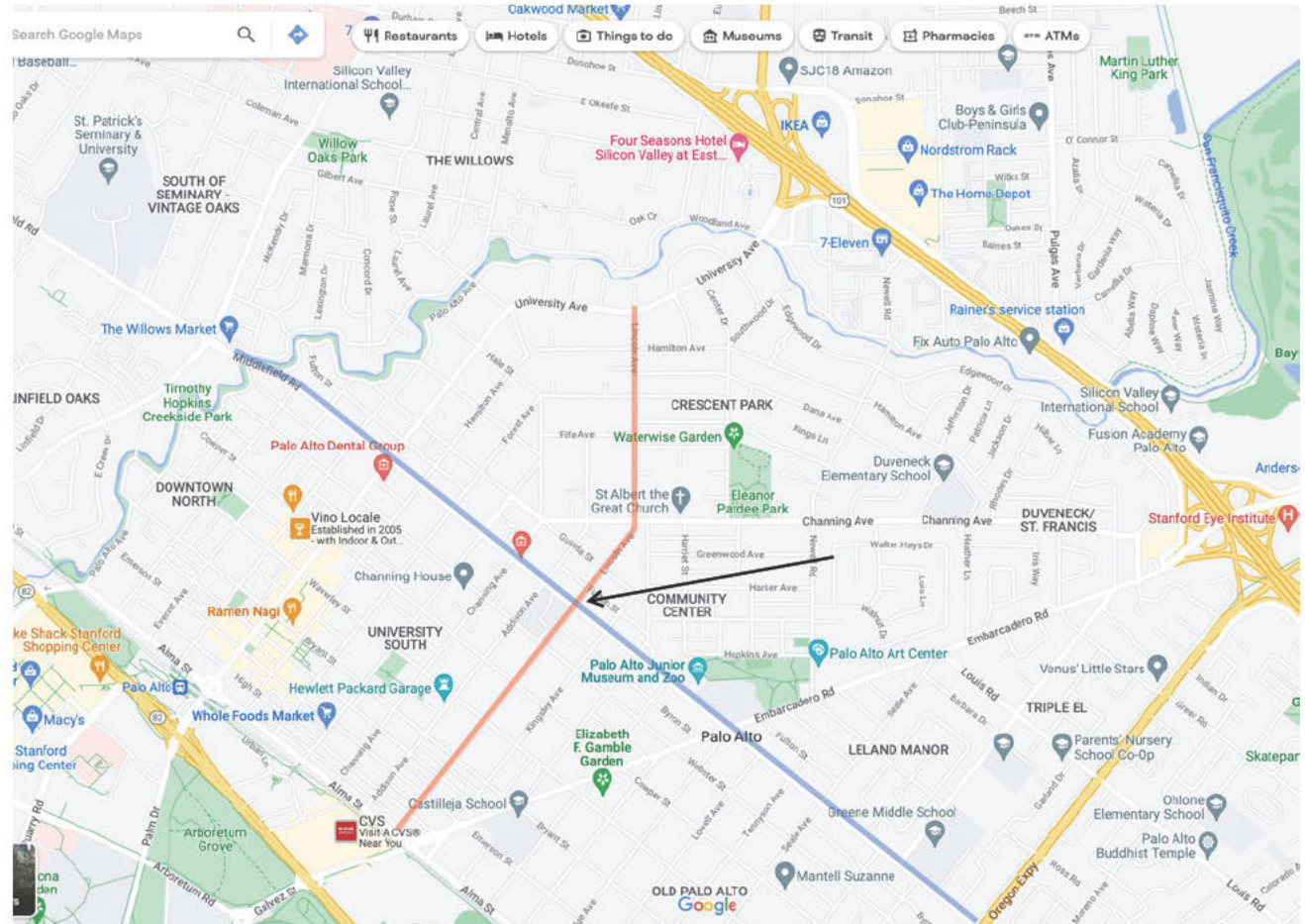
THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

Lincoln Ave (highlighted in red at right) is the only street in Palo Alto that directly connects lower University Ave to Alma St and bypasses downtown. It is a frequently-used route to Stanford University and multiple other prominent destinations for vehicles coming from Hwy 101, East Palo Alto and the East Bay, as well as from the Crescent Park and Community Center neighborhoods.

Middlefield Road (highlighted blue) is Palo Alto's main, and by far busiest, north-south thoroughfare between Alma St and Hwy 101,

The intersection of Lincoln and Middlefield (see black arrow) lies along a common bicycle and pedestrian route to Palo Alto High School, Castelleja School and Town & Country Plaza. It is also at the southeast corner of the Addison Elementary School campus, which, outside the regular school day (with its busy AM drop-offs and PM pick-ups on Lincoln), is used throughout the year for after-school care, youth athletics and summer-camp programs. **There is a longstanding and ongoing history of accidents and near misses at this intersection.**

Safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers should *always* be a top concern in our municipal traffic system. But, with an intersection like this one, it warrants an *extra*-strong focus and resolve.



THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

I believe the following are the main impediments to safety at the Lincoln Ave/Middlefield Rd intersection:

- Drivers on Lincoln who are trying to cross or turn left onto Middlefield have their view in both directions obstructed, sometimes *completely*, and are forced to “nose” out into traffic before they can proceed. This can agitate the driver (as *well* as ones approaching the intersection on Middlefield), prompting misjudgment and abrupt, dangerous action. It also increases the likelihood of a driver failing to notice a nearby bicyclist or pedestrian.
- The wide-openness of (that is, the large corner radii at) the intersection “invites” drivers who are making right-hand turns there to speed into and through those turns, often only looking left for other vehicles while failing to check to their right for pedestrians and bicyclists. At the STOP signs on Lincoln, drivers turning right often do so without reaching anything *close* to a full stop.
- The intersection is obscured – by any combination of trees, parked cars, shadows and darkness – to drivers approaching it on Middlefield, which “invites” speeding and inattention.

The good news, I believe, is that all three of these problems can be greatly ameliorated with the same design measures that have already been employed only 3 blocks to the south, at Middlefield Rd and Kellogg Ave

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

This aerial view shows the wide-openness (large crossing distances and turning radii) of the Lincoln/Middlefield intersection.

The following 12 slides depict and discuss the situation at the intersection in more detail.

NOTE: Because it was necessary to take most of the included photographs during the day and at a time of low traffic volume, one must *imagine* the presence of the parked cars, oncoming traffic, daytime shadows, nighttime darkness, pedestrians and bicyclists that are regular features there.

(NEXT PAGE)



Intersection of Lincoln Ave and Middlefield Rd

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

When stopped at Middlefield, eastbound on Lincoln, with the front of the car at the stop-line, a driver's view to the south is significantly complicated and obstructed by signage, a streetlamp and three large trees.

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking South on Middlefield, Eastbound on Lincoln at Stop-Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

The situation is greatly exacerbated by parked cars on Middlefield (a regular daytime feature) and shadows cast by the sun, on clear days, and streetlamps at night.

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking South on Middlefield, Eastbound on Lincoln at Stop-Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

The same situation exists with respect to the driver's view to the north . . .

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking North on Middlefield, Eastbound on Lincoln at Stop-Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

. . . and is, again, made significantly worse by parked vehicles, shadows, etc.

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking North on Middlefield, Eastbound on Lincoln at Stop-Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

Pulling forward through the crosswalk so that the front end of the car is at the Middlefield curb line does not greatly improve the driver's view to the north when parked vehicles (and shadows) are present, as they often are.

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking North on Middlefield, Eastbound on Lincoln at Curb Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

Nor does it for the view to the south.

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking South on Middlefield, Eastbound on Lincoln at Curb Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

And the same situation exists at the intersection for drivers who are travelling westbound on Lincoln and looking north from the stop line, or . . .

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking North on Middlefield, Westbound on Lincoln at Stop Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

looking north from the *curb* line, or . . .

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking North on Middlefield, Westbound on Lincoln at Curb Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

looking south from the stop line, or . . .

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking South on Middlefield, Westbound on Lincoln at Stop Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

south from the *curb* line.

(NEXT PAGE)



Looking South on Middlefield, Westbound on Lincoln at Curb Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

Meanwhile, to a driver on *Middlefield*, the intersection at Lincoln is almost completely hidden when parked cars are present, or at night.

Even during daytime, when there are *no* shadows or parked cars, there is no feature to the intersection that makes its presence obvious.

Partially as a result, approaching drivers are less likely to regulate their speed and be on their guard, making them more prone to being startled by, for example, a vehicle on Lincoln suddenly moving into view.

(NEXT PAGE)



Approaching Lincoln Intersection, Travelling Northbound on Middlefield

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

Even when the intersection's presence *is* clearly indicated, the movement and/or position of a vehicle on Lincoln, “nosing” into traffic for a clearer view, can disturb an approaching driver on Middlefield and cause them to react abruptly, and possibly dangerously.

The tentative driver on Lincoln, meanwhile, might suddenly, ill-advisedly, try to “beat” the approaching vehicle across the intersection.

The lack of safety is present in the potential behavior of *both* drivers and is made worse by the tendency in this scenario for their attention to be drawn completely away from nearby bicyclists and pedestrians.



Approaching Lincoln Intersection, Travelling Southbound on Middlefield

(NEXT PAGE)

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

Just three blocks to the south, however, at the intersection of Kellogg Ave and Middlefield Rd, a different street design creates a much safer situation.

Kellogg/Middlefield is only a “T” (that is, 3-way) intersection, with a far lower traffic volume on Kellogg than is found on Lincoln. However, its principal features – contoured curbs to narrow, and sharpen the turning radius at, all entrances to the intersection, together with well-marked and brightly painted crosswalks – would bring the same safety advantages to the 4-way Lincoln/Middlefield crossing.

(NEXT PAGE)



Intersection of Kellogg Ave and Middlefield Rd

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

As on Lincoln, a driver on Kellogg must pull forward of the stop line in order to get a clear view and safely turn onto Middlefield, whether looking south . . .

(NEXT PAGE)



On Kellogg, Looking South on Middlefield from Stop Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

or north. However, . . .

(NEXT PAGE)



On Kellogg, Looking North on Middlefield from Stop Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

thanks to the contoured (sometimes referred to as “bulb-out”) curbs, there’s no need to “nose” into Middlefield traffic to get a clear view to the south . . .

(NEXT PAGE)



On Kellogg, Looking South on Middlefield from Curb Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

or north.

And, with the smaller corner radii the curbs create, driver's turning right are forced, or at least strongly "encouraged," to do so at lower speed and with greater care.

Furthermore, whether on Kellogg . . .

(NEXT PAGE)



On Kellogg, Looking North on Middlefield from Curb Line

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

or Middlefield, the narrowed intersection entrances, brightly painted crosswalks and reflective signage make pedestrians, bicyclists *and* the intersection itself much more visible, during day *and* nighttime, to an approaching driver, which likely enhances the driver's overall awareness and caution.

(NEXT PAGE)



Driving Southbound on Middlefield Approaching Kellogg

THE NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINCOLN AVE AND MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

Summarizing . . .

- There is a longstanding and ongoing history of accidents and near-misses at the intersection of Lincoln Ave and Middlefield Rd
- The volume of traffic regularly seen at the intersection, including many young bicyclists and pedestrians, and its location at the edge of an elementary school, make it even *more* urgent that meaningful safety improvements be made there rapidly
- I believe there are three main factors contributing to the lack of safety at Lincoln and Middlefield:
 - The poor visibility afforded to drivers on Lincoln attempting to cross or turn left onto Middlefield forcing them to “nose” out into traffic
 - The wide-openness of the intersection, which “invites” drivers making right hand turns there to do so without proper slowing or caution
 - The relative obscurity of the intersection to drivers on Middlefield, which “invites” them to be less attentive to their speed and surroundings as they approach it
- I further believe that by implementing the same critical design features used at the intersection of Kellogg Ave and Middlefield Rd, only 3 blocks to the south, safety at Lincoln and Middlefield would be vastly improved

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Council, City](#); [Josh Becker](#); Assemblymember.Berman@assembly.ca.gov; [Sean Allen](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Cindy Chavez](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Stump, Molly](#)
Subject: San Jose housing project to shelter hundreds - San José Spotlight
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 9:20:58 AM

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

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/san-jose-breaks-ground-on-prefabricated-homeless-transitional-interim-housing/>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Greg Tanaka](#); [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Stop me if you've seen this building before
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 12:19:22 PM

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From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Sean Allen](#); [Iadoris Cordell](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Council, City](#); [Binder, Andrew](#); [Reifschneider, James](#); [Wagner, April](#); [Perron, Zachary](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Michael Gennaco](#); [Foley, Michael](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Assemblymember.Berman@assembly.ca.gov](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Javier Ortega](#); [Cindy Chavez](#); [Jeff Rosen](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Chuck Jagoda](#); [Shana Segal](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Enberg, Nicholas](#); [Angie Evans](#); [Cecilia Taylor](#); [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: The wheels are falling of law enforcement across this country-the lies and the racism just keep coming
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 4:57:40 PM

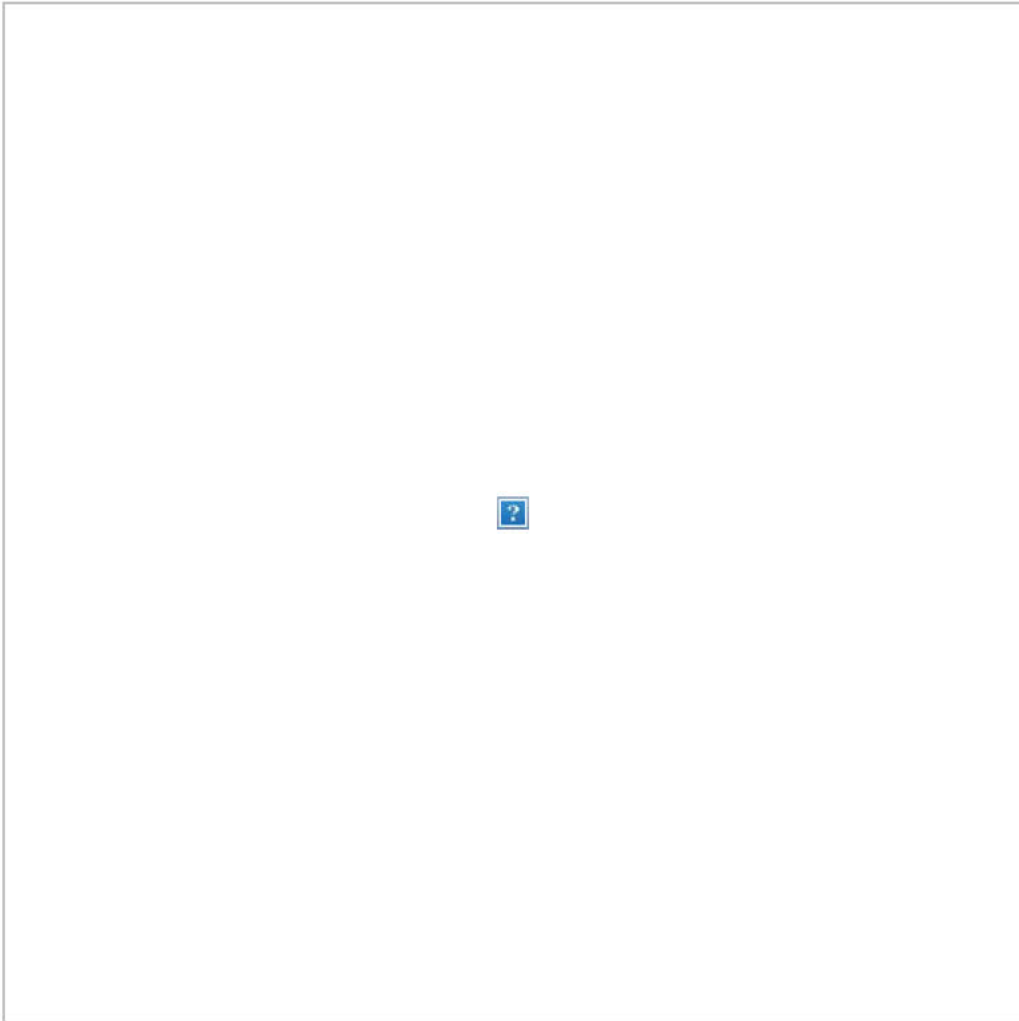
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<https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2023/04/18/us/mccurtain-county-oklahoma-officials-recording/index.html>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [Josh Becker](#); [Salem Ajluni](#); [Assemblymember.Berman@assembly.ca.gov](#); [Jack Ajluni](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: The Tzedek Report: IJV's April 2023 newsletter
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:13:54 PM

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Dear Aram,

April has been a challenging month so far. Early on in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, horrifying images of Israeli forces brutally beating worshippers at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem went viral. These acts of aggression then led to an escalation of violence in the region.

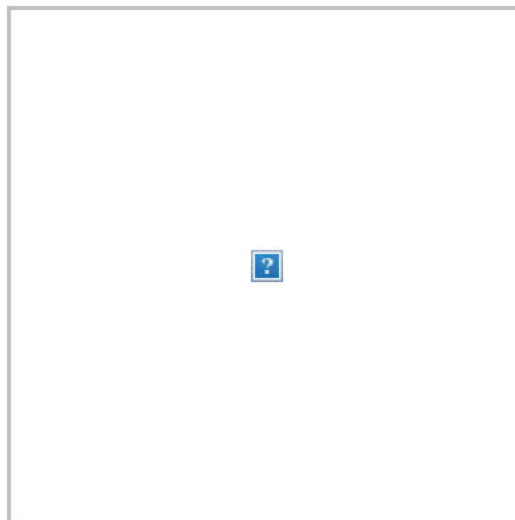
Sadly, such Israeli attacks during Ramadan and Passover have

become commonplace. But the Israeli government is getting more and more brazen and openly fascist with each passing year.

If there is a glimmer of hope, it's that we saw some of the strongest condemnation of Israel's actions from the Canadian government than ever before. We know there is an opening, and we must all seize on this moment to open the floodgates of freedom for Palestine.

In this email:

- 1. IJV is hiring a Data & Fundraising Systems Coordinator**
- 2. IJV in the news**
- 3. Waterloo screening of "Seeing Through the Wall"**
- 4. Keffiyeh Kids Canada campaign**
- 5. Save the date! IJV national conference and AGM (June 16-18 2023)**
- 6. What's on Your Bookshelf?**
- 7. What's in Your Headphones?**



1. IJV is hiring a Data & Fundraising Systems Coordinator

Do you have a knack for organizing databases, a flair for fundraising and a passion to help grow the Jewish left and the Palestine solidarity movement in Canada?

Then apply now to work for
Independent Jewish Voices!

IJV is hiring a Data and Fundraising Systems Coordinator to manage our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database, and play a leading role in fundraising for our organization.

This is a full-time remote position open to anyone legally permitted to work in Canada. **To apply, please send your CV and cover letter to personnel@ijvcanada.org no later than May 5th, 2023.** Click the button below to see the job description and salary.

**More info on this job
opportunity**

2. IJV in the news

I'm happy to report that our work has gotten major mainstream media coverage this month.

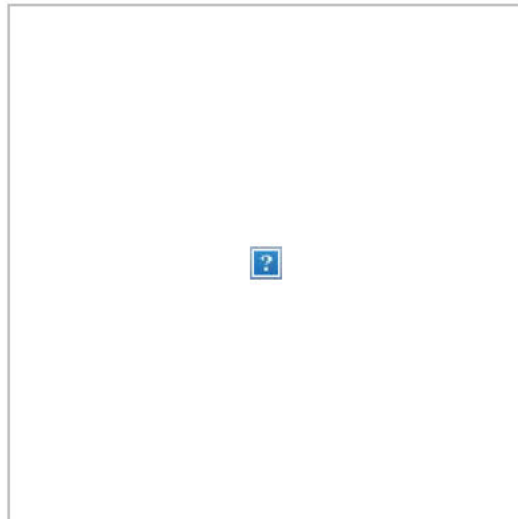
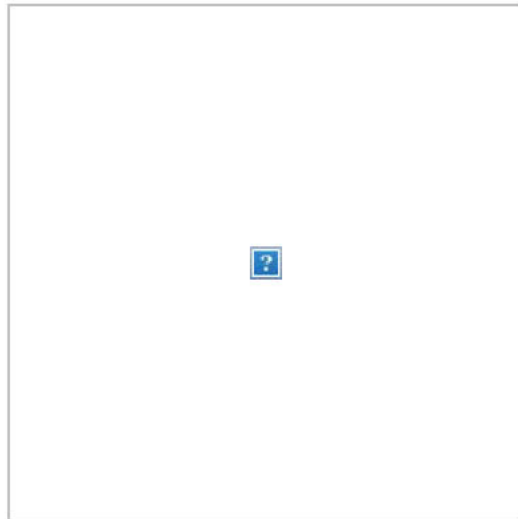
Following Israel's attack on Al-Aqsa earlier this month, IJV was featured prominently in a [Yahoo News article](#). Unfortunately, the article was recently removed due to pressure from pro-Israel groups. I encourage you to email Yahoo Canada's news editor, [Farah Syed](#), and politely but firmly ask that the article rightfully be put back online.

Earlier this month, IJV co-signed a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urging the UN to reject the IHRA antisemitism definition. Not only did this initiative receive [broad international media attention](#), but it was also covered in an excellent article by Richie Assaly in [the Toronto Star](#), which profiled Canadian signatories including IJV.

Our work is helping shape the

conversation on Israel/Palestine in Canada, and helping to shift public opinion towards more support for Palestinian freedom. If you want to increase our impact, please consider making a [donation today](#).

Help us win hearts and minds! Donate now



3. Waterloo screening of "Seeing Through the Wall" (Apr 26)

If you're in southern Ontario or the Waterloo area, don't miss the upcoming screening of the fabulous documentary "Seeing Through the

Wall" at the Princess Twin Cinema on April 26th!

The film follows 18 Americans and Jews visiting Israel and Palestine, as they seek to understand what life is like in Occupied Palestine and in East Jerusalem. The journey becomes an intense encounter with the people they meet and also with their own preconceptions - an experience that for many of them is transformative.

[Click here for tickets and more info](#)

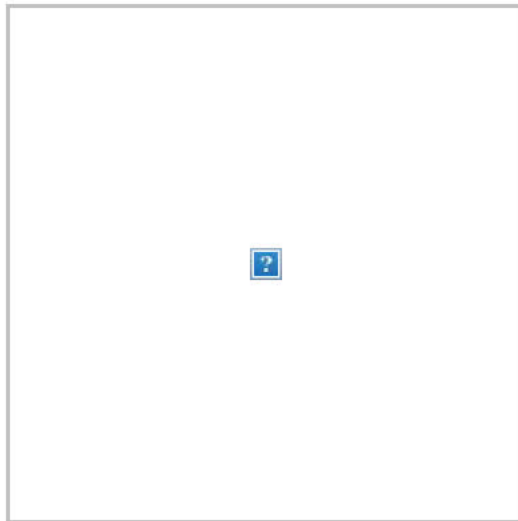
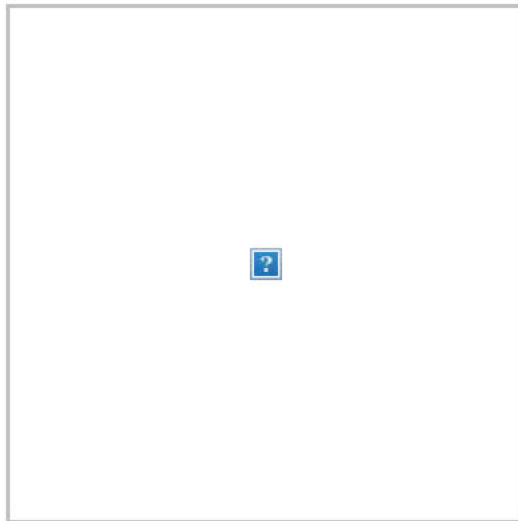
4. Keffiyeh Kids Canada campaign

Celebrate Palestinian culture and stand against anti-Palestinian racism! Participate now in the Keffiyeh Kids Canada campaign by sending a message of support to Palestinian students in Halifax who were recently attacked for expressing their culture.

This campaign is a celebration of culture and action of solidarity with the Palestinian-Canadian community and children. It is a free-form and unscripted opportunity for educators, parents and kids to create and submit a message to be mailed to Halifax students.

The campaign toolkit also contains an excellent resource for educators and parents. No student should ever be shamed for expressing their culture and heritage. Sadly it happens all too often to Palestinian students in Canada.

[Get the campaign toolkit here](#)



5. Reminder: IJV national conference and AGM (June 16-18 2023)

Organizing towards IJV's 15th anniversary conference is moving ahead at full-steam! We can't wait to welcome you in Toronto June 16-17 for "Anti-Racist Solidarity and the Fight for Justice in Palestine".

And for IJV members, don't forget that our AGM will also be happening June 18th in Toronto (with an online participation option for those who can't make it in person).

We'll be launching the conference registration page and preliminary

speaker details by May 1st at the latest, so stay tuned for that here or on IJV's social media.

6. What's on Your Bookshelf?

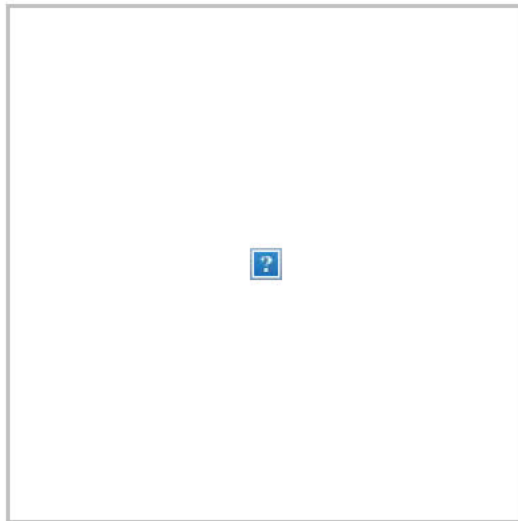
Earlier this month, we marked the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, a definitive moment of bravery in Jewish history. I just finished reading "Five Years in the Warsaw Ghetto", a memoir by Bernard Goldstein, an organizer of the uprising, and a leader in the Jewish Labour Bund.

This is a heavy but crucial read. Some of the scenes that Goldstein witnessed during and after the war in Warsaw are unimaginably apocalyptic. But he notes towards the end that one of the few things driving him to survive was the hope that one day future generations would learn the stories of the war and the Holocaust.

I would highly recommend this book for anyone looking for a powerful first-hand account of the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII.

(If you have a book you want to recommend to IJV members, please email me at aaron@ijvcanada.org)

[Click here to order your copy from the publisher](#)



7. What's in your headphones?

And finally, this month's music and podcast recommendation comes from IJV-Montreal member Rafi Silver.

Rafi recommends a recent episode of The Dig podcast featuring Edo Konrad and Joshua Leifer on how Zionism's long-running contradictions led to the current political crisis in Israel. Edo is the editor-in-chief of 972+ Magazine, and Joshua Leifer is an editor at Jewish Currents.



Listen to The Dig here

And that does it for this month's newsletter. With April almost at a close, one of my favourite days of the year, May Day, is almost here. I love May Day for many reasons, among them the coming of spring, and a chance to reflect on the rich legacy of Jewish labour radicalism. So on that note, I want to leave you with some words from the late Yiddish anarchist poet, David Edelstadt:

"You may destroy us, tyrants! 'Twill be vain.
Time will bring on new fighters strong as we;
For we shall battle ever, on and on,
Nor cease to strive till all the world is free!"

Happy (early) May Day, and may all the April showers bring May rebellions for freedom.

In solidarity,



Aaron Lakoff,
IJV Communications and Media Lead
aaron@ijvcanada.org

Donate to IJV or become a member!

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1500 Woodbine Avenue
Toronto, ON M4C 5J2
Canada

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From: [joe.garofalo](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Train Horn Noise
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 8:55:31 PM

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

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Hello,

I have been a homeowner and occupant at [REDACTED] for the past 10 years. We are within the noise radius of the Charleston and East Meadow crossings. The horns start blowing before 6am and we have recording freight horns at 2am. While it is encouraging to see electrification of the corridor, this will actually only increase the train noise problems - with likely more frequent train passings.

Are there any shorter-term plans by the Commission to abate this disturbance? For example, Menlo Park is investigating "quite zones". Another possibility might be active noise cancellation.

If not already on the commission's radar, how can I formally propose that this be studied.

Regards,
Joe Garofalo

From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Greg Tanaka](#); [Council, City](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Snider: Relocatable homes can solve homelessness in Santa Clara County - and California - San José Spotlight
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:36:50 AM

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<https://sanjosespotlight.com/snider-relocatable-homes-can-solve-homelessness-in-santa-clara-county-and-california/>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [doria s](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Train Horn Noise
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:09:44 PM
Attachments: [PTC 4.26 Agenda Packet.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Mr. Garofalo,

Thank you for your email to the planning commission.
I am Doria Summa, current Chair of the planning and transportation commission.

I have attached the commissions agenda for this coming Wednesday, 4/26.
As you can see we have a study session on train Quiet Zones which is currently defined as a north Palo Alto issue; Palo Alto ave crossing and the need to synchronize with Menlo Park.

I think concerns about the south Palo Alto crossings is important and would encourage you and others to bring this to the attention of the city in our meeting this Wednesday.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do now.

Very best,
Doria

On Wed, Apr 19, 2023 at 8:55 PM Planning Commission
<Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

From: joe garofalo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 8:55:14 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org>
Subject: Train Horn Noise

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Are there any shorter-term plans by the Commission to abate this disturbance? For example, Menlo Park is investigating "quite zones". Another possibility might be active noise cancellation.

If not already on the commission's radar, how can I formally propose that this be studied.

Regards,
Joe Garofalo

--

Doria Summa



From: [Aram James](#)
To: [Julie Lythcott-Haims](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Jethroe Moore](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Council, City](#); [Human Relations Commission](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Greg Tanaka](#)
Subject: - South Bay land trust steps up for families
Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 8:51:14 AM

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South Bay land trust steps up for families

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Sent from my iPhone

From: Roland Lebrun
To: [Wayide Commission](#)
Subject: Wayside horn alternative to quiet zone
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 6:42:51 PM

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Dear Commissioners

Is there any reason why wayside horns were not considered as an alternative for a fraction of the cost?

Wayside Horns

The train horn rule also provides another method for reducing the impact of loud locomotive horn sounding when trains approach public highway-rail grade crossings: A wayside horn may be installed at highway-rail grade crossings that have flashing lights, gates, constant warning devices (except in rare circumstances), and power out indicators. The wayside horn is positioned at the crossing and will sound when the warning devices are activated. The sound is directed down the roadway which greatly reduces the noise footprint of the audible warning. Use of wayside horns is not the same as establishing a quiet zone although they may be used within quiet zones.
<https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2020-06/quietzonebrochure.pdf>

Thank you

Roland Lebrun