



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

City Council At Places Memo

From: Council Members Burt, Reckdahl, Stone

Meeting Date: February 24, 2025

Item Number: 8

TITLE

Proposed revised resolution submitted by Council Members Burt, Reckdahl, and Stone.

CONTEXT: This Resolution is a draft alternative to the February 24, 2025, Item 8 Colleagues Memo

TITLE

Proposed Resolution Reaffirming Palo Alto's Commitment to Its Core Values and Supporting Valued Government Programs

BACKGROUND

The Palo Alto City Council, a non-partisan body under state law, has previously adopted guiding values, and this resolution reaffirms our steadfastness in upholding these principles. Protecting the rights of our residents and advancing city interests require proactive governance. This resolution reaffirms our commitment to these values and effective advocacy.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT

Staff does not anticipate any direct resource impacts due to the proposed Resolution. Should subsequent actions be required following adoption, staff will return for City Council approval, as needed.

Recitals

- A. The Palo Alto City Council has previously adopted a set of values to guide its actions, which can be summarized as:
1. Ensure the City's current and future revenues and expenses remain balanced.
 2. Ensure environmental sustainability for future generations.
 3. Integrate equity into our decisions, recognizing diverse impacts on residents.
 4. Maintain a healthy, safe, and welcoming community for all.
 5. Safeguard public trust through transparency and open communication.
 6. Embrace innovation to improve City services and governance.
- B. NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Palo Alto RESOLVES as follows:

SECTION 1. The Council reaffirms its commitments to:

- The Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of California, and the Charter of the City of Palo Alto;
- Transparent governance and the rule of law, including respect for court decisions;
- Protecting federal and state funding that is vital in supporting local services, including public safety, housing, environmental protection, and infrastructure;
- Collaborating with critical federal and state agencies that support essential services to Palo Alto;
- Advancing environmental sustainability, ensuring clean water, air quality protections, and climate resilience. Also ensuring these protections are provided to all residents regardless of income or demography;
- Safeguarding confidential information and data of residents and businesses;
- Supporting scientific research to guide evidence-based policy decisions and funding prioritization;
- Protecting the legal rights and human rights of all residents and workers, regardless of their social status. Ensuring all residents are treated with dignity and valuing their contributions to our community;
- Ensuring equal opportunities, fostering a diverse and inclusive community, and striving to be a place of belonging for all;

SECTION 2. In furtherance of these positions, the City will:

- Communicate with residents about changes to government policies or actions that may impact Palo Alto;
- Ensure current City policies and procedures are consistent with our values;
- Share this Resolution with our State and Congressional representatives and advocate for policies that align with our city values;
- Collaborate with other cities and counties to advocate for and support policies that reflect our common values;
- Seek Council approval for policy advocacy or legal actions as needed to protect the interests of the city, its residents, and workers;

- Amend the City Council Procedures and Protocols for a joint request of three Councilmembers to request a closed session Council meeting for the purpose of discussing and taking potential action that would authorize the city attorney to engage in litigation deemed appropriate to safeguard the interests of the City or the rights of our constituents.

SECTION 3. The Council finds that the adoption of this resolution does not meet the definition of a project under Public Resources Code Section 21065, thus, no environmental assessment under the California Environmental Quality Act is required.