

From: [Richard Corny](#)
To: [Council, City; Kou, Lydia](#)
Subject: The state of Cal Ave and the economy
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:16:21 AM

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Hello and thank you for your time as always

Cal Ave is a business district but the offices are mostly empty and there are many businesses that have already closed down.

Seeing the SVB bank debacle and the lack of startups starting up it looks like we might be headed for a recession. We barely made it through the 2008 financial crisis with all the offices full in the area and an open street.

We also barely made it through the street remodel that happened about 9 years ago. I don't think we will survive a big recession as many businesses wouldn't as well. Opening the street is crucial to Cal Ave's survival including our business.

There is no reason for people to come and hangout on Cal Ave because too many businesses and offices are closed. That's the bottom line.

Let's look at some pros and cons shall we

Pros of Cal Ave being closed

1. A few restaurants have the ability to triple their dinner revenue so they don't have to open for lunch.
2. Starbucks employees get to go home early lol as they close at 2:30 and is the SLOWEST Starbucks in the whole Bay Area

It's bad when a big corp business can't survive

3. A few pedestrians and their kids get to enjoy walking around and shop at the 3 stores on the street that are open
4. We can have some live music
5. The cyclist and scooters get to have a whole street to ride on even though they're supposed to walk their bikes

And now the Cons

1. Our business and many others have suffered tremendous loss
2. The street and businesses are not handicapped compliant and are liable for lawsuits
3. There is no foot traffic during 90% of the time making it difficult to make money as people only come during the farmers market
4. Some of the buddings look absolutely depleted
5. We are completely surrounded by construction
6. Our customers call everyday, they can't find our business and it's the same for a lot of businesses and we lost a lot of our older customers that have limited mobility
7. The empty spots aren't getting filled
8. The tech industry is in a down cycle and we don't expect a big boom in businesses and office space rental. Therefore hurting our local economy

Cal Ave has really been neglected for many years now. It's sad

We'll see what happens next but hopefully you will make the right decision and save Cal Ave by reopening the street

A lady got hit by a guy on a scooter who took off on her. She broke her finger or something

Thank you.











Sent from my iPhone

From: [John McNellis](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Guagliardo, Steven](#); [Dave Price \(dp-2006@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [CHop Keenan](#); [roxy@roxyrapp.com](#); [Jon Goldman](#); [Mike Powers](#); [Beth Walter](#)
Subject: Parklets/Street Closures
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 1:16:25 PM

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Ladies and Gentlemen—

We own a number of properties in Palo Alto, including two on University Ave and several within a block or so. We have been in the retail business for over forty years.

We are in favor of parklets if and only if: a) they do not block traffic; b) their length is limited to the frontage of the restaurant they serve (i.e., they do not block the frontage of adjacent tenants); and c) they are professionally designed and constructed. Our recent storms have shown how poorly designed parklets have contributed to street flooding.

Also, by giving away public property—our parking spaces—to certain restaurants, allowing some to effectively double their seating capacity rent-free, you are giving these restaurants an enormous competitive advantage, thereby dooming other restaurants to failure. At a minimum, the city should charge fair market rent for the parklets.

Finally, California Avenue is an absolute disaster. Closing that street benefitted a handful of restaurants at the expense of nearly everyone else, particularly the poor retailers counting on foot-traffic to sell their wares. We would urge you to reopen the street as swiftly as possible.

Thank you,



John E. McNellis

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From: [Richard Corny](#)
To: [Council, City; Kou, Lydia](#)
Subject: Cal Ave is surrounded by construction. No one wants to come down here
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:47:28 PM

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Hello and thank you as always

On Cal Ave we are surrounded by construction and empty depleted buildings and it brings no one to Cal Ave.

As you know we at the Cobblery have been dealing with a lack of customers on our closed street for 3 years now.

I believe that the restaurants have had a chance to make up some of their lost income by having 3 times more seating than before and good for them for making millions more

But that only benefits a few businesses and is a slap in the face to a business like us.

The old NuttHouse looks like crap and is very dirty at their entrance. The Hotel California looks like it's been in a war lol

As a tourist coming down Cal Ave to check out the Hotel California WOW

What a joke.

Our street is empty and depleted and the only remedy is to open it up to cars. We'll see how the next meeting goes but my hopes that the city will do the right thing dwindles on a daily basis

It would be nice if you sped things up for your devoted voters

Thank you

Rich from the Cobblery



















Sent from my iPhone