

2023 City Council Priorities

January 18, 2023, 1:35 PM

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2023 City Council Priorities

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Summary Of Responses

As of January 18, 2023, 1:35 PM, this forum had:

Attendees:	269
Responses:	136
Hours of Public Comment:	6.8

Topic Start

December 7, 2022, 3:32 PM

Topic End

January 18, 2023, 12:00 PM

QUESTION 1

How are we doing on the current 2022 City Council Priorities?

Answered	85
Skipped	51

QUESTION 2

Please rate how we are doing on the 2022 Priority "Economic Recovery and Transition"

[5 being the best]

Average	2.80
Total	221.00
Count	79
Skipped	57

QUESTION 3

What should the City be doing differently for "Economic Recovery and Transition"?

Answered	68
Skipped	68

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QUESTION 4

Please rate how we are doing on the 2022 Priority "Climate Change - Protection and Adaptation" [5 being the best]

Average	2.54
Total	229.00
Count	90
Skipped	46

QUESTION 5

What should the City be doing differently for "Climate Change - Protection and Adaptation"?

Answered	95
Skipped	41

QUESTION 6

Please rate how we are doing on the 2022 Priority "Housing for Social and Economic Balance" [5 being the best]

Average	2.26
Total	192.00
Count	85
Skipped	51

QUESTION 7

What should the City be doing differently for "Housing for Social and Economic Balance"?

Answered	91
Skipped	45

QUESTION 8

Please rate how we are doing on the 2022 Priority "Community Health and Safety" [5 being the best]

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Average	2.66
Total	229.00
Count	86
Skipped	50

QUESTION 9

What should the City be doing differently for "Community Health and Safety"?

Answered	92
Skipped	44

QUESTION 10

What other feedback would you like to share about the 2023 City Council Priorities?

Answered	86
Skipped	50

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Survey Questions

QUESTION 1

How are we doing on the current 2022 City Council Priorities?

QUESTION 10

What other feedback would you like to share about the 2023 City Council Priorities?

QUESTION 2

Please rate how we are doing on the 2022 Priority "Economic Recovery and Transition"

[5 being the best]

QUESTION 3

What should the City be doing differently for "Economic Recovery and Transition"?

QUESTION 4

Please rate how we are doing on the 2022 Priority "Climate Change - Protection and Adaptation" [5 being the best]

QUESTION 5

What should the City be doing differently for "Climate Change - Protection and Adaptation"?

QUESTION 6

Please rate how we are doing on the 2022 Priority "Housing for Social and Economic Balance" [5 being the best]

QUESTION 7

What should the City be doing differently for "Housing for Social and Economic Balance"?

QUESTION 8

Please rate how we are doing on the 2022 Priority "Community Health and Safety" [5 being the best]

QUESTION 9

What should the City be doing differently for "Community Health and Safety"?

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Individual Responses

Name not shown

in Midtown/ Midtown West
December 8, 2022, 7:22 AM

Question 1

Need more resources to meet climate change goals.

Question 2

5

Question 3

No response

Question 4

1

Question 5

Allocate more resources to reduce auto dependency and add housing.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Allow higher buildings, unbundle parking, and do more to make affordable housing cheaper to build.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Fund the police traffic team, remove on-street parking to build a network of protected bike lanes, expand the Safe Routes program to high school, initiate a similar program for adults, initiate a Cycling without Age program.

Question 10

Increasing the number of EVs in town alone will not get us to our S/CAP goals. Hire more transportation staff to implement our S/CAP mobility goals. This will serve our increasingly older population by reducing auto dependence.

Name not shown

in Old Palo Alto
December 8, 2022, 8:13 AM

Question 1

The community safety is impacting everyone who lives and works in Palo Alto. It is the bedrock of our community and it deserves a sharper focus and more efforts than it received this year.

Question 2

3

Question 3

Yes, make people feel safe to dine, shop and do business here again. The recent crimes and safety challenges at Stanford Shopping Mall scared people away. Restore the safety, then economy. Not the other way around.

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

2

Question 9

Let's begin by giving it a higher priority and the attention it deserves!

Question 10

No response

Name not available

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December 8, 2022, 9:08 AM

Question 1

Badly on housing.

Question 2

4

Question 3

More services for low income and public employees

Question 4

5

Question 5

No response

Question 6

2

Question 7

Build more housing!

Question 8

5

Question 9

Putting crime in perspective so people don't view anecdotal info and think crime is surging.

Question 10

Housing, housing, housing. And services for our low income community.

Name not shown

in University South

December 8, 2022, 9:32 AM

Question 1

Too much debate without decisions

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

4

Question 5

No response

Question 6

3

Question 7

Move ahead and make decisions

Question 8

4

Question 9

Not sure

Question 10

Please clean up the city!!! Trees need trimming and streets need repaving. Quit looking at big picture and take care of the city. Would like to see cars ticketed on street cleaning days so the sweeper can really clean the streets. Long Beach has this program in place and streets are clean. Decide and do underpasses for the trains like Embarcadero has had for years!!!

Name not available

December 8, 2022, 9:56 AM

Question 1

It seems as if council members are too stuck in their beliefs and not willing to work together. I'd like to see more cooperation on big problems of public and non-car transportation and more housing stock.

Question 2

No response

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Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

We need more public transportation options. Palo Alto should also be a model city for biking.

Question 6

2

Question 7

Poorly - we should be embracing housing targets so that our children can live in our community

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 8, 2022, 10:03 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

4

Question 3

Enhance small retail opportunity.

Question 4

4

Question 5

Go slowly on transition from natural gas. Make sure there is adequate electricity generation to supply the increased need.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Affordable senior housing should be a priority. Perhaps convert unused office space to residential.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 8, 2022, 12:02 PM

Question 1

You're ignoring MY priorities! What a waste to keep pushing the risky \$144,000,000 fiber project with your flawed surveys. And wehere did you find that retail consultant who DOUBLED the number of nail salons on Cal Aver??

Question 2

2

Question 3

Fire your idiot retail consultant who's more concerned with how many sq feet of retail we deserve and start looking at Los Altos and Menlo Park etc. for how THEY revitalize their downtowns without wasting OUR money.

Question 4

1

Question 5

Get our utility bills under control and stop pretending PA is a country unto

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its own self.

Question 6

5

Question 7

It should sue the state for its absurd housing targets and force Stanford to put housing on its land, not remove housing from PA and our tax rolls.

Question 8

1

Question 9

Hire more police.

Question 10

Force the 2 new former Stanford employees on City Council to recuse themselves on all Stanford-related decisions like you've forced members of PAN to recuse themselves

Name not available

December 8, 2022, 1:50 PM

Question 1

Fair

Question 2

3

Question 3

acknowledge that we need to provide more housing and actually take concrete steps to do that so that more people can afford to live here and support our economy. More housing -> stronger economy

Question 4

3

Question 5

Company the city uses for landscape services at all its city parks and City Hall uses gas powered blowers EVERY DAY, even though this is technically not allowed in the city. But city does nothing about it.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Not spend so much time focused on what the NIMBYs want. We need more affordable housing, for workers and for seniors who would like to stay here.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Police never enforce the gas blower ban, or the fact that bikes speed through the Cal Ave pedestrian tunnel despite the sign that says they should walk their bikes. Yet the police always claim they are "so busy". Why not put some resources towards these items as a start, to show what they are actually spending their time on.

Question 10

Many families here have working parents who cannot attend various City meetings, due to the hours their job requires, or looking after their families. So the people the City Council hears from are retirees and NIMBYs, who have an unbalanced effect on city priorities. Try to get out to hear from families more - by having a meeting at a school, or meet on weekends at a city park or somewhere these citizens are likely to be. Prioritize hearing from ALL residents, not just a few

Name not available

December 8, 2022, 2:33 PM

Question 1

Good. I think the council has been fiscally responsible while making improvements in the city.

Question 2

4

Question 3

It feels like the city is focused on solving the housing problem by focusing on the southern end of the city. I would strongly prefer a more balanced approach to include the northern transit station at a minimum.

Question 4

3

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Question 5

I appreciate that the city attempted to find out how much of our recycling is actually recycled. However, I think the city needs to do a lot more in this area or people will stop recycling.

Question 6

1

Question 7

As previously stated, new housing should be balanced throughout the main transit corridors of the city. I do not object to larger apartment/condo buildings near El Camino and the train stations/bus stations. To the extent it's possible I would prefer the neighborhoods to retain their housing character without the influx of lots of duplexes or even apartment buildings amongst single family homes. To add housing without overwhelming traffic use a smaller footprint near transit.

Question 8

4

Question 9

No response

Question 10

The city needs to accommodate more housing with much better public transit, better biking options and improvements to major thoroughfare roads. It is really worrisome that the city will have an explosion of housing without those improvements, which will only lead to gridlock. The city needs to address some additional car traffic on El Camino, University, Embarcadero, Oregon Expressway/Pagemill and San Antonio Road. This will be expensive and take longer than public transit and biking options but will be a necessary addition in the long run.

Name not available

December 8, 2022, 3:00 PM

Question 1

The priorities seem to reflect the greatest needs of the city in the current moment.

Question 2

3

Question 3

Encouraging more small, local businesses to open up shop.

Question 4

4

Question 5

Keep up the good work.

Question 6

2

Question 7

We can't have social and economic balance if renting or owning a home is limited to a small section of the population.

Question 8

4

Question 9

Sadly, I think the focus on infrequent crimes by the media colors the public's perception of safety in town. Making strides toward a more balanced income distribution and more stable, affordable housing options locally and regionally would go a long way in addressing the rare crime that occurs in Palo Alto.

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

in Duveneck/ St Francis

December 8, 2022, 9:15 PM

Question 1

OK

Question 2

3

Question 3

full recovery will take time, keep doing what you are doing

Question 4

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5

Question 5

nothing

Question 6

3

Question 7

make actions match the rhetoric

Question 8

3

Question 9

i don't really know what is being done, but the new police chief is a great start

Question 10

keep them the same

Name not available

December 8, 2022, 11:39 PM

Question 1

The city has been too fiscally conservative. More, and better quality, staff should be hired and trained to support comprehensive planning for population growth in areas that are being upzoned. If we don't get the transportation piece right, our economy will suffer. The necessary comprehensive planning and thinking just isn't being done. Grade separations are a key example. The grade separation projects seem to be considered piecemeal, rather than as a set and in context of planned growth. The consultant is not very good, and they don't seem to be well managed.

Climate change, Housing and Social Economic Balance, and Community Health & Safety, to my mind, all relate to alternative transportation, particularly active transportation. The city has done very little in this area this year.

Question 2

2

Question 3

Work with businesses on a plan to spend tax dollars to serve them better IF they will support a larger business tax. They are going to be unhappy, and might move out, when they figure out how poor planning is going to negatively impact local work commutes. Failure to plan comprehensively is bad for businesses and the economy.

Question 4

3

Question 5

Too much emphasis on electric cars. Focus more on smaller e-vehicles and building heating systems.

Question 6

3

Question 7

The city has been responsive to state housing mandates with the Housing Element, but it has completely failed to plan for social and economic balance--which will be negatively impacted by failure to plan for trips and community services.

Question 8

3

Question 9

What has the city done to improve community health and safety? Really, I don't know.

Question 10

Comprehensive planning, comprehensive planning, comprehensive planning.....We need people who know how to do comprehensive planning on our staff.

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 9:10 AM

Question 1

Doing pretty well. Businesses still need more support from the City.

Question 2

3

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Question 3

Making it easier to do business in Palo Alto. Allowing a variety of businesses to come to our town and thrive.

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

3

Question 7

Don't allow more housing until services are in place

Question 8

4

Question 9

It would be good to see more police around regularly. We need help stopping all of the property crimes like stolen cars, car break ins, bike thefts etc.

Question 10

Please continue to make helping businesses thrive a priority! Without a strong business community the city suffers in multiple ways. Please budget for more police officers to help keep the citizens and visitors to our city safer and knowing help is near if needed. Thank you!

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 9:38 AM

Question 1

Housing should not be a priority. I don't want Palo Alto to turn into San Francisco

Question 2

2

Question 3

Don't impose business taxes

Question 4

1

Question 5

This is not something a city can effectively address. It would be better to leave this to the state and federal governments, and the city should focus on local issues.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Drop this priority.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Ensure criminals are prosecuted to the full extent of the law

Question 10

Palo Alto is no longer a family oriented city. It now has very expensive stores and restaurants, too much housing and not enough local retail. I can afford to move to Beverly Hills, if that's what I wanted I would move there. I moved to Palo Alto because it was a family oriented city, and I'm sad to see what it's turning into.

Nathan Szajnberg

in Greenmeadow

December 9, 2022, 9:51 AM

Question 1

Lower taxes. At least for elderly and middle class. Mortgage rates are punishing. Council can give at least temporary relief by dropping taxes

Question 2

1

Question 3

Lower taxes homeowners. Especially to attract new buyers with children and elderly

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Question 4

2

Question 5

Solar. Stop cars into schools. Parents should use bike or pub transport. Eg use the free minivans for kids to school in am.

Question 6

5

Question 7

Don't tax us further. Let wealthy owners build and use those races to support teachers etc.

Question 8

1

Question 9

We've become a theft magnet. Get more innovative policing. Eg use drones for night surveillance

Question 10

Drop taxes!

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 9:52 AM

Question 1

Don't know

Question 2

4

Question 3

No response

Question 4

3

Question 5

Focus more on active transportation. Stop prioritizing parking, parking

garages and car commutes.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Rent control and supporting transit oriented developments.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Put more funding into wellness programs that reduce reliance on car ownership.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 10:04 AM

Question 1

Please focus on criminal. Reducing theft, burglary, robbery in our neighborhood.

Question 2

3

Question 3

Please focus on criminal. Reducing theft, burglary, robbery in our neighborhood.

Question 4

3

Question 5

Please focus on criminal. Reducing theft, burglary, robbery in our neighborhood.

Question 6

3

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Question 7

Please focus on criminal. Reducing theft, burglary, robbery in our neighborhood.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Please focus on criminal. Reducing theft, burglary, robbery in our neighborhood.

Question 10

Please focus on criminal. Reducing theft, burglary, robbery in our neighborhood.

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 10:15 AM

Question 1

no idea

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 4

3

Question 5

No response

Question 6

2

Question 7

low income housing? Where!!!

Question 8

4

Question 9

Fix sidewalks and streets and prune trees and remove dead ones. Take care of local problems.

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

in Barron Park

December 9, 2022, 10:23 AM

Question 1

The City Council continues to focus on unproductive and wasteful activities.

Question 2

1

Question 3

Is the City doing anything to help economic recovery? It appears to be doing just the opposite - like supporting a tax on business. Instead doing everything possible to discourage businesses, the Council should be looking for ways to make Palo Alto business-friendly.

Question 4

1

Question 5

Everyone is an expert on climate change and many think that having Palo Alto do everything "right" (read as politically correct) is ok - it is not. We should NOT be discouraging use of natural gas - use of natural gas is a great stepping stone toward cleaner energy. We are fortunate as a country to have an abundance of natural gas that we can use to transition to cleaner energy. Instead we are cramming down technologies on to our citizens that are not yet economically viable and make housing MORE expensive and makes Palo Alto a more expensive place to live.

Question 6

1

Question 7

The City should be doing the bare minimum as the voters have abdicated

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local control of housing to the State - shameful - such laws should be repealed. California population is decreasing - for a number of different reasons - and the State is giving us no reason to think that the trend will be reversed. Whatever model the State is using....it is wrong. So, until the voters wake up - do just enough to avoid lawsuits.

Question 8

1

Question 9

There is no question that our citizens are being increasingly victimized by crime - again, our City Council is thinking more about reducing and policing our police force than supporting and increasing our police force. And as our city is forced into providing more "Housing for Social and Economic Balance", so will the need for proportionately MORE police, not less. The Council's focus is off 180 degrees.

Question 10

I cannot offer feedback to Council members that are more focused on political correctness and their political careers than the well-being of the citizens of our City - for that feedback would fall on deaf ears.

Name not shown

in Greenmeadow

December 9, 2022, 10:40 AM

Question 1

Completed 12 Priorities, ongoing 42 and dropped 11, is not a great record of completion.

Question 2

3

Question 3

Move faster. I have seen how quickly things have been able to change in Palo Alto. This has been an extremely slow year!

Question 4

2

Question 5

NOTHING has been achieved when 0 of the goals have been completed, the results speak for themselves. At least there are still 8 ongoing goals.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Again the numbers speak, 8 goals completed, 7 ongoing and 9 dropped. Come on folks, we can move faster to solve these problems.

Question 8

2

Question 9

Why is this so difficult. The citizens have spoken, the council has mandated, and the action is too little and too slow.

Question 10

Let's start making valuable progressive changes which enhance the experience of living in Palo Alto. Why do we drag our feet at every decision??

Name not shown

in Community Center

December 9, 2022, 11:05 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

Let's bring Palo Alto in line with other nearby communities in regard to closed pedestrian-friendly streets. We are missing out by not moving quickly to create closed pedestrian areas now. By creating so many requirements for parklets, we are making this very difficult and expensive for restaurants and cafes to have outside areas. Parklets are only small areas, and while they are nice, they are still missing the point -- the great benefits of closing streets. Less noise, less pollution, more attractive -- build it and people will come! The city should be more supportive of this and move on this now. The one good thing to come from the COVID pandemic was the fantastic increase in outdoor dining and seating areas, something I've always hoped for. Let's not lose that! (I am not affiliated with any businesses in Palo Alto; I'm a long-time resident.)

Question 4

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No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

in University South

December 9, 2022, 11:08 AM

Question 1

No opinion in general because it's not obvious what has been achieved.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

3

Question 5

Give highest priority to de-gassifying the utilities and adapting to less water, lowest to expanding fiber. We already HAVE fiber providers. Direct resources at the problems only Palo Alto utilities can affect.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Making it easy to build low-cost housing near transit.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Build bicycle boulevards, the cheapest, most effective encouragement to cycling.

Question 10

Besides priorities, we need public commitments to measurable goals and measurement of progress. E.g., Finish Park Bicycle Boulevard.

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 11:24 AM

Question 1

You are making good progress on some priorities. However, one area that I feel you are not doing nearly enough is "Community Health and Safety". Palo Alto has become a totally different city in terms of safety. We hear about burglaries, thefts, robberies all the time! 20 years ago these things were unheard of in Palo Alto. What has the city done to improve safety for its residents?! I am sad and disappointed!

Question 2

4

Question 3

No response

Question 4

3

Question 5

Not a priority on my mind.

Question 6

3

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Question 7

Don't want to see Palo Alto turned into a highly congested city! Don't have build houses just to be politically correct.

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

1

Question 8

No response

Question 9

Hire more police officers and have them patrol the streets more often and respond to 911 calls more promptly! Install cameras in major intersections!

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Question 10

I think the salaries and benefits provided to Palo Alto employees are too high and out of line when compared to similar jobs in industry.

larry alton

in Downtown North

December 9, 2022, 1:22 PM

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 1:34 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 1

Mixed

Question 2

No response

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 3

Well, really not much the city can do for the macro aspect of Economic Recovery. Things have bounced back, traffic picked up, people are going to restaurants, etc. If possible, put service levels back to pre-pandemic levels where needed and increase if warranted, such as the planning department.

And somehow get pension costs under control because that is sucking up way too much money that could be going to other uses.

Question 4

1

Question 4

1

Question 5

Please facilitate and accelerate the support for ev charging. It is pathetic now. I applied for an ev installation in May and have not gotten any installation yet.

The water and gas utility charges are way too high. We want to have a nice looking place with flowers, trees and fruit and it is costing us \$512 for water for the month of November including a \$218 water distribution? charge; this is much higher than neighboring cities. Gas costs are \$213 including a \$107 service charge? for November and the price per therm is up 12.2% from last year!!.

Question 5

Not discouraging solar. Your utility department seems to be taking the attitude of the large IOU's when it comes to residential solar.

Making setback changes so quiet electric heat pumps can be installed (legally as I know several put in just ignoring requirements by a foot or so) because when many of the setbacks were established in the 1950's climate change was not an issue. A little thing but keeps people like us

Question 6

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from installing said heat pumps and may need to put in a new gas furnace as ours is almost at the end of its usable life.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Banish Airbnb's. If the housing stock sucked up by the short-term rentals was put back into play bay area wide, it would make a big difference without building anything new.

Concentrate new housing in the downtown areas or El Camino Real or San Antonio. Convert Palo Alto Square buildings to housing. Or build another building or two of Condos there the same height as there is plenty of parking and space. Parking is needed as any fantasy of people not driving belongs to a very small minority of activists who yell loudly and seem to think everyone agrees with them.

Good luck on affordable housing as the only way is for government to fund such housing. I see no huge surplus of monies for that right now. All other funding sources make somebody else pay for "affordable housing" one way or another. And taxes in California have driven people elsewhere in the country so raising more for "affordable housing" by taxing the rest of us will further the exodus or revolt.

Question 8

2

Question 9

You (city of Palo Alto) cannot fully control people's behavior so quit trying. Health issues really belong at a higher, better funded government level and/or left to individuals. The city cannot defeat Covid. Or the Flu or RSV, etc.

Safety - E-bikes are okay if kept on paved streets, not hacked to go 35-40 mph. The not okay side, I see E-bikes going through stop signs at 25 mph on a regular basis as I live right next to a corner with a quasi-lot of residential and cut through traffic. They are a menace on trails. They should be licensed like I had to license my moped back in the early 1980's. And regular bikes need to stay in the street and off the sidewalks.

Train crossings need to be picked, funded and built. That would enhance the greater community, health, safety and livability. Don't know if I will live to see it done.

Reinstate free shuttle - the custom door to door shuttle concept is great.

Question 10

Basics of local government should be emphasized. Infrastructure, police, fire, running utilities efficiently, departments serving the public staffed and available. Our little city cannot solve the world's problems but can serve the citizens who live here well. Do that!

Name not shown

in Crescent Park

December 9, 2022, 1:35 PM

Question 1

Very badly. The recycling program continues to do significant environmental damage, and the various climate programs incentivize bad behaviors.

Question 2

1

Question 3

Eliminate the per-square foot tax on businesses! At a time when businesses are struggling to recover, this is a tragic mistake.

Question 4

1

Question 5

Stop wasting money on these totally ineffectual, symbolic gestures. Every city initiative is a waste of money that could actually improve people's lives.

Question 6

2

Question 7

Make it easy to build high-density housing near the train stations.

Question 8

2

Question 9

More visible police presence.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 2:43 PM

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Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

2

Question 7

Stop fighting the state laws! Stop imposing silly rules such as window and porch requirements to try to slow implementation of state laws. Up-zone the whole city so that at least duplexes can be built on any formerly R1 lot (4-pexes on large lots). Allow large buildings on El Camino and in commercial zones (see Creekside). Cut parks/schools fees for ADUs to be proportionate.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 9, 2022, 5:20 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

1

Question 7

Focus on below market housing and below market senior housing

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 10, 2022, 10:25 AM

Question 1

The big challenge we have is maintaining quality of life in a changing climate. Overzealous population growth policies driven by Sacramento are partially to blame, but the City and staff of Palo Alto need to push back harder. We are in an era of reduced availability of natural resources. If we want to maintain quality of life we need to reduce population, not increase population!

1) Increase space reserved for recreation and open space.

2) Reduce water recycling and conservation efforts that put environment at risk and enable population density increase.

3) Make a formal plan for population decrease in Palo Alto. World population is nearing a peak, US population is nearly stagnant, CA population is nearly stagnant, why are we planning for population density

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increase in a natural environment where key resources including water, energy and food are increasingly scarce?

Question 2

4

Question 3

Plan for population density decrease, not increase.

Question 4

1

Question 5

Climate change means reduced availability for resources including water, energy, food and open space to support both humans and the natural environment that defines "Quality of Life". With resources increasingly scarce we need to engineer towards a REDUCTION in human population NOT an INCREASE in population

Question 6

1

Question 7

Social and Economic Balance is important and an admirable goal. The root cause of social and economic imbalance though is not expensive housing and lack of housing. The root cause is California's choice to NOT invest in education for our own citizens and instead import people primarily from other US states. The people coming in from other states are primarily highly educated and well paid driving up housing prices. Result is that our own California children are leaving the state in record numbers. CA is well below median per-pupil spending at 27th up from a nadir of 47th in 2012 with HUGE imbalances by district.

Palo Alto should:

- 1) Reduce housing
- 2) Increase # of EPA students accepted in to PA schools by providing city funding to school district.
- 3) Focus on increasing opportunity not on increasing equality.

Question 8

2

Question 9

Apple store downtown PA has been broken into how many times? We hardly feel safe walking downtown after dark. Cars are routinely broken into even in otherwise quiet neighborhoods People are living in vehicles on the street.

- 1) Pass and enforce law against living in vehicles on street.
- 2) Install police cameras throughout the city and strictly enforce traffic violations
- 3) Increase police force and spending
- 4) Make our city safe again.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 10, 2022, 5:24 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

With many companies opting to give employees the option to work from home, how about looking at converting some office space for housing?

Question 4

No response

Question 5

There is much being done on this topic at the federal, state, & county levels; let's concentrate on Palo Alto's other issues this year and go along with whatever the other entities legislate/suggest.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

See suggestion under Economic Recovery above.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

I'm very concerned about safety in Palo Alto....the home & auto break-ins, robberies at local stores, number of people with guns etc. Let's make

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citizen/home safety our top priority in 2023.

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

in Greenmeadow

December 11, 2022, 3:17 AM

Question 1

poorly. Taxes are pressing our family badly, particularly with rise in mortgage rates.

Question 2

1

Question 3

lower taxes at least temporarily to help at least middle and lower classes (but preferably across the board)

Question 4

2

Question 5

more solar.
Rescind fee for charging electric vehicles in downtown garages.
ridiculously short-sighted.

Question 6

3

Question 7

lower taxes to attract middle class buyers.

Question 8

1

Question 9

theft is rampant and the police show no interest. We had four thefts in a two month period (several thousand dollars).
The police wouldn't come out unless we had video. When we showed the video, they said nothing could be done because the thieves wore masks

(covid!) and hoodies. We asked for nighttime patrols and they said no.

Question 10

lower taxes. Help us stay in community

Name not available

December 11, 2022, 4:39 AM

Question 1

N/A

Question 2

No response

Question 3

N/A

Question 4

No response

Question 5

N/A

Question 6

No response

Question 7

N/A

Question 8

No response

Question 9

N/A

Question 10

Utilities are too expensive.

Tom B.

in Charleston Terrace

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December 11, 2022, 10:30 AM

Question 1

Time to adjust the priorities as the situation has changed. Put more emphasis on prevention of residential burglaries (part of Community Health and Safety?).

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

Don't ban electric bikes on Baylands gravel roads.
Study how to protect from flooding from storm surge in the Bay (that has supposedly a higher than 1% chance of happening each year).

Question 6

1

Question 7

Build more housing near transit locations, instead of places without much infrastructure.

Question 8

2

Question 9

Time to adjust the priorities as the situation has changed. Put more emphasis on prevention of residential burglaries (part of Community Health and Safety?).

Question 10

Time to adjust the priorities as the situation has changed. Put more emphasis on prevention of residential burglaries (part of Community Health and Safety?).

Name not available

December 11, 2022, 12:00 PM

Question 1

ok

Question 2

2

Question 3

relaxing zoning for downtown and cal ave

Question 4

3

Question 5

No response

Question 6

1

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

more enclosed dog parks near or on cal ave and downtown (cogswell plaza)

Name not available

December 12, 2022, 2:27 PM

Question 1

Poorly

Question 2

2023 City Council Priorities

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2

Question 3

Support retail business. Focus housing by increasing density bonuses on downtown properties, Cal Ave, El Camino- Add 3rd floor of housing on existing 1-2 story businesses.

Question 4

1

Question 5

Too much focus on electrification. Increase support of local public transit. Density housing near jobs. Real recycling rather than the fake programs shipping waste over seas to be burned.

Question 6

2

Question 7

Increase density on El Camino and neighboring street. Add 3 story zoning to existing building to add residences near jobs and support retail. Build low cost only apartments at the dump. minimum of 5 stories high with priority to teachers, public safety employees, health care professionals, and families with 2 or more children employed in Palo Alto.

Question 8

1

Question 9

Have traffic police to ticket speeders and red light runners on university, embarcadero, page mill.

Question 10

Read above comments. In addition, focus on cutting expenses, with personel cuts, do no give money or other services to other cities. Focus on the citizens of Palo Alto only. Work on cutting regressive city service costs like utilities and other fees that impact the poor and lower middle class.

stephen levy

in University Park

December 12, 2022, 4:30 PM

Question 1

Poorly

Question 2

2

Question 3

Stop pretending the large number of vacant retail spaces will attract new retail businesses. Fill those spaces to create more customers for all businesses by allowing services and small offices. We need customers not vacant spaces
Allow more mixed use projects to get needed housing and more customers.

Question 4

3

Question 5

Realize that more housing in Palo Alto, especially near jobs, shopping and services, will reduce both long and short commutes and associated GHG emissions and pollution versus having workers drive long distances to reach job centers in and near PA.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Commit to approving a compliant Housing Element
Distribute housing for low and moderate income residents broadly throughout the city especially near shopping, jobs, services and transit/bike paths

Question 8

3

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Increase the diversity of representation on council appointed boards, commissions and working groups including more renters and residents

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with diverse views on key city issues unlike recent appointments

Name not available

December 12, 2022, 6:24 PM

Question 1

Pretty good. More focus on econmic recovery is needed

Question 2

3

Question 3

Tracking similiar cities throughout bay area and rapidly following good ideas. More analysis on economic impact of keeping Cal Ave closed vs other parts of PA and open streets in other cities. Use data

Question 4

5

Question 5

Overwighted effort in this area

Question 6

4

Question 7

Spent a huge amount of time here and did what is possible. Need to balance with other needs of city

Question 8

5

Question 9

No response

Question 10

1. Build out Fiber network - keep focus on executing well
2. Economic Development
3. SCAP execution

David Coale

in Barron Park

December 12, 2022, 7:30 PM

Question 1

Pretty well all things considered. Finally we are getting some real work done on the SCAP and addressing climate change but we have a lot to do between now and 2030 to meet our 80 X 30 goals. We will have to have climate change in the mix for next year so that we can continue this good work and transition from an Ad Hoc Committee to the next step.

Question 2

3

Question 3

Hiring more staff to get City programs going, especially in the area of transportation and staff needed to upgrade the electrical grid.

Question 4

4

Question 5

More actions faster. Put the Palo Alto process aside and meet the challenge head on. Climate change is not waiting around for Palo Alto to get it perfect.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Some how shorted the cycle from project to building.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

City priorities

1) Climate change with a focus on electrification and transportation. This would include grid upgrades for electrification and updating the Bike-Ped plan and putting this in to place. With the very successful Ad Hoc

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committee's work, it is essential to see this through to the next step, commission or otherwise to ensure this vital work continues.

2) Transportation: Rail crossings and bike/ped infrastructure. This will dovetail into item one to get people out of their cars to reduce our fossil fuel use and make for a more livable city, less dependent on car travel of any kind. This would be guided by a Safe Systems approach for transportation planning at all levels where safety comes first. This includes three cross-town bike/ped crossings of Alma and the train tracks at Seal Ave, Matadero creek and south Palo Alto before the rail crossings go in.

3) Housing for all. This also includes items one and two above and should be integrated as such. If Palo Alto can help house the people that work here and have safe ways of getting to work without a car, we will all be much better off; healthier and happier.

While these priorities have come up before in many ways, a truly integrated approach between all three with the goal of addressing climate change is what we need to make the city the best that it can be. The vision of a city that houses our teachers, city workers and essential workers in livable, walkable neighborhoods with vibrant town centers an easy bike ride away, all the while cohabiting our planet in a way that will ensure a livable Earth for generations to come is a vision I think we can all get behind.

Arnout Boelens

in Midtown/ Midtown West

December 13, 2022, 11:25 AM

Question 1

Reasonably well

Question 2

3

Question 3

Overall, Council cannot do much about the economic climate.

Considering the City budget, I would have liked to see a higher business tax.

Question 4

3

Question 5

Good progress on home electrification.

However, no significant progress on reducing transportation emissions, which is the largest source of GHG emissions. I would like Palo Alto to be more aggressive in reducing car dependency and discouraging car usage.

Question 6

3

Question 7

I would like to see increased housing density all over Palo Alto instead of only South PA where there are no facilities and amenities. Abandoning free parking requirements would also be great.

Question 8

1

Question 9

Not sure what Council has accomplished.

Question 10

I would like Council to focus on increasing road safety for all road users, adopt a Safe Systems policy, and make funding available to fix all our hazardous roads.

Neilson Buchanan

in Downtown North

December 15, 2022, 9:00 AM

Question 1

i am not sure. Need some sort of dashboard

Question 2

4

Question 3

Too early to know. The Dow today is bouncing down 700+ points for investors. This region usually does better but who knows. State and local government tracks the general markets eventually.

I am impressed with PA budgeting and caution. The outgoing Council has demonstrated reasonable balance between optimism and caution. Most

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other councils seem to be in similar frame of mind but it is difficult to determine with greater newspaper analysis.

Question 4

3

Question 5

I really know know the composite budget and actual spending for past years or next year. Plans are at least a 5. Ability to implement is much lower.

Question 6

3

Question 7

The debate about affordability lacks focus and is not reaching many voters. The next Council will face the reality of what any city can accomplish. There are at least three levers. #1 Capital entering the stratas of housing markets. #2 Capital from government support sources to support non-market rate housing for complex layers. Funds to operate this housing is a hurdle too. #3 Zoning changes None of the local cities have been open about the private and public market timeframes to build and open hundreds of new housing units. The infrastructure investment to support this housing will remain unaddressed. Similarly public transportation will snarl up any form of "rationalized" housing growth.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Traditional healthcare is acceptable to good for most people. Lower income citizens and their provider system are always at risk. This risk is growing due to cost of living pressures on providers.

Adequate mental health and social service support has always been seeking funding and providers. These will be shakier until post-covid needs abate.

Question 10

Limit priorities and focus on programs within PA's ability to make a marginal difference. PA Council tends to over-commit and spread resources too thinly.

Examine the potential for intercity programming for health and social

needs. In general the narrow neck of the Peninsula has smaller cities and towns without economies of scale. Sequoia Hospital District understands how to address limited resources and has innovative results. Smaller city governments in the US do not have strong track records with health and social services.

Name not available

December 15, 2022, 10:57 AM

Question 1

I wish there were more focus on biodiversity which is a global crisis. Palo Alto should be a leader in preserving species since it has so many resources.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Please prioritize nature in the urban and open spaces. Also, there are opportunities to restore degraded areas, such as wetlands, in order to build natural protection from sea-level rise.

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Sharon Lee-Nakayama

in Charleston Terrace

December 15, 2022, 1:00 PM

Question 1

Fine

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

5

Question 9

The effort and recognition of Altaire Walk 's crime problems made by Mayor Pat Burt, Council Members Greer Stone, Eric Filseth were commendable. Special attention and support was given to us by Council Member Greg Tanaka and retired PAPD Chief Jonsen. Since last January , we had gone from near weekly thefts of mail, packages, bikes, electronics to only one attempt this month. Thank you. We hope to continue open lines of communication between the newly elected Council members and Chief Binder. It has helped.

Question 10

See above.

Name not available

December 16, 2022, 7:44 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

2

Question 3

Have more open streets events and community events. Get people out and about, spending money and seeing their neighbors. Build more housing near Stanford, Cal Ave, and University (our economic engines)! Office jobs are likely to never come back fully given current remote-work trends. This creates a a spiral where businesses will never recover, property values will dip, and the city's bottom line will bleed. Building A LOT more housing puts residents where the office workers were, increases property values, facilitates more interesting retail and service opportunities (more foot traffic), and makes us a stronger community.

Question 4

2

Question 5

Facilitate more bike and transit trips (more than half of our GHG emissions are transportation-related) with better/more infrastructure, slower streets, lower car parking requirements (i.e. ELIMINATE PARKING MINIMUMS LIKE OTHER CITIES ARE DOING), more bike parking all over the city, and rezone sites immediately to build lots of high-density housing near Stanford, Cal Ave, and University - so people don't have to drive.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Rezone sites, eliminate density maximums, eliminate parking requirements, adopt a compliant Housing Element (we are very very far from that right now).

Question 8

3

Question 9

Take back on-street car parking (a private good on a public street for free

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is madness) and use it for safe bike lanes so people of all ages can bike and be healthy and safe. 60% of folks say they would like more but don't feel safe. I can think of no other traffic improvement that would remove 60% of vehicle traffic from roads than building safe bike lanes. Palo Alto used to be a leader on this front, we have so lost our way. Lets be a leader again!

Question 10

Adopt and implement a compliant housing element, including significant rezoning of areas of the city where density is appropriate (i.e. near transit). Though at this point, I will take housing even where it makes no sense (out near 101 in the Bayshore area).

Name not shown

in Professorville

December 16, 2022, 10:22 AM

Question 1

Ok on Sustainability, not good on housing and economic recovery.

Question 2

2

Question 3

Provide a pedestrian friendly - event centric University Ave. Provide for more entertainment options (things we can't get online).

Question 4

4

Question 5

Have specific plans on how we're going to meet our 80x30 goal with annual benchmarks. Need better communication of goals to residents and get them engaged more. Residents don't understand why sustainability is important on a personal, household level.

Question 6

2

Question 7

Make sure the Housing Element is compliant and SPEED UP THE permitting process for new housing. Utilize parking lots for housing.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Engage more with residents on diversity - promote diversity of ages, ethnicities, incomes. Provide more for low-income residents.

Question 10

Many times the Priorities are a lot of talk and no action (esp on housing). Hope the new Council can eliminate the Palo Alto Process. Too many older, conservative and retired people have undue influence - they do not necessarily speak for the community yet are the ones who show up as they have the time and resources. So easy to say "no" and gum up the works. We need PROGRESS!

Name not available

December 16, 2022, 3:56 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

Encouraging more self-powered transport by making walking and biking safer - more bike lanes, more raised intersections, more traffic circles instead of 4-way stops, no more one-way streets in downtown Palo Alto

Question 6

No response

Question 7

Build more housing. Allow residential to be built in commercial areas. Build more housing in parking lots. Allow business to build higher, such as the BMW dealership on Alma and Homer

Question 8

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No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 17, 2022, 9:57 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

build more housing near public transit (train station, bus transit center).

Question 8

No response

Question 9

Reduce crime rate (especially burglary). Palo Alto is not as safe as before.

Question 10

No response

Mary Beth Train

in Palo Verde

December 18, 2022, 12:06 PM

Question 1

Middling. Seem to spend more time on easily decided issues.

Question 2

4

Question 3

Cluster small shops and service businesses together, separate from restaurants so that they are easier to get to, when buildings are being remodeled. Maybe have easier to identify parking for accessibility.

Question 4

3

Question 5

Encourage car subscriptions, like Zipcar, with more visible parking spots. Same for bicycles and scooters. On-demand shuttle = great! Expand shuttle idea for schools, to prevent parents' driving & idling. Be careful about building in flood zones, or else houses on stilts. Finish Caltrain crossings; it's dragged on for seemingly 30 years. Special parking places for vanpools in business areas. Same-day package delivery service, partly subsidized, for shoppers who drive because they need a car to carry the purchases home.

Question 6

2

Question 7

Housing element work to identify places for more housing picked the obvious places; that's good, but it took a long time. Consider more mixed-use buildings on main streets, e.g. Middlefield in south Palo Alto, El Camino, Arastradero, Charleston. Some of these streets are already on bus lines. Airbnb restrictions are good. I'm a landlord for a single-family house, and I don't see a sign-up for a registry.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Unsure. Support for PAUSD's beefing up counselors, etc. though I don't

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know how.

Question 10

Put the contentious items first on the council meeting agenda. Are the speakers' comments repetitive? Should there be some yes/no boxes for agenda items on the speakers' forms - though preparation would be labor intensive. Should print copies of council packets be made available in libraries again, or if they still are, have a sign at the libraries' information desk that they are available for check out for an hour with 1 renewal. Also put packets in cooperating coffee houses, though most are closed by 5 or 6pm

Name not available

December 19, 2022, 12:32 PM

Question 1

Ok

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

3

Question 9

Please take into consideration the increased airplane traffic over Palo Alto.

We've been working on this issue for over 7 years and are hoping that you'll be able to work with the FAA on this issue. Please keep up the pressure.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 19, 2022, 1:21 PM

Question 1

I want to see progress on eliminating nighttime flights over Palo Alto that disturb our sleep and having the planes fly at higher altitudes whenever possible to reduce noise and pollution.

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 4

4

Question 5

No response

Question 6

3

Question 7

No response

Question 8

2

Question 9

Reducing airplane noise at night and having planes fly at higher altitudes whenever possible. This is a health concern for adequate sleep and the ability to work in my garden without airplane noise overhead.

Question 10

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No response

Name not available

December 19, 2022, 1:22 PM

Question 1

Hard to evaluate. The "Jet Noise" over our Santa Cruz property is still overwhelming.

The FAA apparently is deaf to its' own citizens complaints.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Not sure about these other questions but Sky Posse isn't getting the job done.

Name not shown

in Duveneck/ St Francis

December 19, 2022, 1:42 PM

Question 1

The priority should be adjusted to address the top issue, Community Health and Safety, which is significantly challenged by the AIRPLANE NOISE. Palo Alto is the city that suffers the most from airplane noise - airplanes landing in SFO concentrate in the same route that is just above Palo Alto. It's an issue that directly threatens residents and hard to be ignored. I urge the city council to focus on this real problem in the new year.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

1

Question 9

Airplane noise, in particular the 60-day Statute of Limitations on FAA actions, needs to be on the top of Council's agenda. Airplane noise has been around all day till late night and start from early morning, especially during summer time. With the pandemic relieved and travel recovering, density of the airplanes would continue to increase. If we continue to do nothing, Palo Alto would be a place that is no longer suitable for living.

Mental and physical health of local residents is significantly challenged - lack of a peaceful living environment is a very dangerous factor to people's wellbeing.

Ask for resident input on alternatives to what has been presented by City consultants at the recent Airplane Study Session. Sky Posse's suggestions are here:

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<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jeja3ChmrnDCohqNaHz13mH-XzGpLSFI/view>

PACC needs to engage residents early in the year to more robustly explore options to address the issues. There are more alternatives than what the City's consultants presented at the study session.

Community priorities:

1. Address unfair concentration of routes and "Fly at Higher Altitudes!"
2. Eliminate night time noise
3. Need new Metroplex re-design team and resources to work for communities.

Question 10

Airplane noise should be the first priority and much much more important than all other priorities. If not addressed, the community would perish very fast!

Bob Moss

in Barron Park

December 19, 2022, 3:02 PM

Question 1

very good

Question 2

4

Question 3

Too many retail vacancies downtown and California Avenue. Work to bring in more retail stores, a few more restaurants.

Question 4

5

Question 5

Greater efforts to have homeowners change from gas appliances to electric. Offer incentives for solar panel installation.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Land cost and construction are expensive. City can't cover costs but4 may be able to convince big employers to fund housing.

Question 8

4

Question 9

Do more to get people vaccinated and boosted, especially lower income and Hispanic people.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 19, 2022, 3:03 PM

Question 1

Fair

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 4

4

Question 5

Businesses should not water greens.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

Stop ADUs and Stop chopping up large parcels.

Question 8

2

Question 9

2023 City Council Priorities

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Fight airplane noise and pollution!
Nothing allowed in the sky but airplanes... not flying cars! not drones!

Question 10

Encourage high tech companies to move out of the area - they are our housing and traffic problem!

Nathaniel Sterling

in Research Park

December 19, 2022, 3:36 PM

Question 1

Not so good, with respect to airport noise.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

Airport noise needs to be addressed more aggressively. I would forget FAA and go directly against the offending airlines, in particular Korean Air. True, FAA determines the flight patterns. But FAA doesn't require Korean Air to fly into SFO in the middle of the night, using the loudest possible equipment. That is a decision Korean Air makes for its own profit, and they should pay for the consequences of that decision.

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

outside Palo Alto

December 19, 2022, 7:35 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

2

Question 3

The city has plenty of money to do what most residents want: a nice place to live. Instead, it caters to loud interest groups who don't represent the rest of us. The result has been a hash of non-coordinated policies that don't please anyone.

Question 4

2

Question 5

This should be a lower priority for the City. Climate change is more properly a state or federal issue. A lot of what the city does feels more like expensive virtue signaling than it does intelligent policy.

Question 6

2

Question 7

A lot of diddling around with no clear direction or results. The city should make sure we keep our suburban feel before recklessly building more housing that will overstress our infrastructure and lower the quality of life for those already here.

Question 8

1

Question 9

The City has been working on airplane noise for close to a decade with no visible results. This is something that affects quality of life as well as health and safety. It should be moved higher on the priority list.

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Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 19, 2022, 8:42 PM

Question 1

Airplane noise over Palo Alto still not addressed even after all the SFO Roundtable meetings the last few years.

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

Address airplane pollution over Palo Alto (and over the Bay Area in general) brought about from NextGen air traffic changes since 2015. How can we claim to be addressing climate change when SFO is ADDING new airlines and new flight routes year by year??? One airplane's exhaust releases how many emissions as compared to how many cars? (a lot more)

Question 6

3

Question 7

No response

Question 8

1

Question 9

We need to address airplane noise and airplane pollution i.e. particulate matter (in addition to CO2 emissions for the climate change topic above) from Nextgen which has planes since 2015 fly lower (to save fuel) and exposing the city to air pollution that residents like you and me are breathing in.

I am not against airplanes and don't want to sound like a radical but we need them to fly more over bodies of water, fly higher and fly more dispersed and further away from communities. FAA needs to innovate and come up with Nextgen 2.0 as the current version is a health hazard in the making.

Airplane pollution effects on health news articles:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pubs.acs.org_doi_full_10.1021_es5001566&d=DwMFaQ&c=clK7kQU TWtAVEOVIgvi0NU5BOUHpN0H8p7CSfnc_gI&r=l2KCljWm1GRdWfXVv ddwxA&m=FCXNQaFeBWAc6-oTMMsrW4YWEE3OiWHyMFVvb8V6p2E&s=qhKOQyQdTrN4-JJiHJ16cZpKiHVhwBVaWLuG-7tnjAw&e=

<https://www.wgbh.org/news/local-news/2019/09/24/air-pollution-from-logan-airport-harms-surrounding-communities-research-shows>

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 20, 2022, 8:31 AM

Question 1

I'm pleased with initiatives to make biking safer, but disappointed in how much louder and frequent the plane noise is. I know part of it is the return to pre-covid plane travel, but it seems to be all the time and is especially disruptive when trying to sleep.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

2023 City Council Priorities

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Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 20, 2022, 10:30 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

Dear Council,

Thank you for holding a study session on Airplane Noise. We would like to reiterate Council's

priorities for 2022 - Economic Recovery, Climate Change, Housing, and Community Health

and Safety. Public speakers and requests from citizens during Council's Priority setting off

site was largely to address noise and air quality health concerns.

Noise, and particularly night and early morning jet noise, have serious quality of life and

productivity repercussions. Thus, the impact on the well being of current and future residents

is significant to Palo Alto's resilience - especially for families with our older and youngest

residents, and to many who increasingly want to work from home. When the FAA rolled out

the Nextgen program in 2014 the response from Palo Alto residents and neighboring

communities was swift and unequivocal - noise from poorly designed Nextgen procedures is

"brutal" and "unbearable."

1

"

The FAA's quest

2

to reduce separation between incoming planes meant air traffic was shifted

lower and concentrated over communities. While the FAA and airports have focused on

obscuring noise problems, and spend more time highlighting Nextgen "benefits," in actuality

the partnership between FAA and the airline industry is expensive and dysfunctional with

benefits that cannot be traced. During a May 2021 Update

3

to Congress on Nextgen, the

Inspector General plainly stated that the FAA's original benefits analysis was based on

"optimistic assumptions." In the same hearing, it was made clear that Congress has yet to

identify a baseline to understand Nextgen benefits or any metrics because the program was

launched with none. Environmental costs have not been quantified, and we already know

that the FAA's assumptions about noise are wholly flawed.

In 2016, the FAA began to tell Congress that noise is a "shared responsibility" with local

governments.

4

In truth, the FAA has sole responsibility for noise assessments as required by

NEPA in order to determine appropriate mitigation measures. The agency has also failed to

2023 City Council Priorities

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improve community outreach in spite of testifying to Congress about their efforts, which takes decades to implement and inadequately serve the public or not at all. Lately, the FAA brings industry folks to talk at Roundtables about how airlines and community interests are "aligned," ignoring public complaints about noise, health, and environmental issues. In almost nine years of observation, the FAA's community outreach ultimately misleads the

4 FAA Report to Congress on Lessons Learned from Nextgen Projects
3 May 18, 2021 Air Traffic Control Modernization Update Roundtable
2 New FAA Procedures Reduce Separations at Major Airports
1 Petition to Elected Representatives - Reduce Aircraft Noise over Palo Alto and Neighboring Communities

Sky Posse Palo Alto

public, policy makers, and regularly reinterprets laws as is happening with the 2018 Ombudsman law.

5 This law was initiated by quiet skies grassroots groups for the FAA to communicate with community groups, but the money to fund this law is not being used for its intent. Please consider in your study session, Status of National and Regional Airplane Noise Initiatives, the following three Sky Posse requests: 1) address the jurisdictional and legal issues that prevent progress; 2) explore a city jet noise complaints app, 3) address the unanimous Select Committee recommendations that can help the MidPeninsula.

1. Jurisdictional and legal issues of FAA's Community Outreach Policies and

Practices

ASK TO PACC:

Please task the City Attorney to explore and propose a petition for rule change

6 with

the FAA about FAA's Community Outreach practices to address the interests of actual communities by recognizing the current dysfunction of the FAA partnership with airports in managing noise concerns. The City needs to engage advisors who have a strong environmental practice, in government ethics and

compliance, and not

advisors that derive most of their profits from airports.

The most problematic issue about FAA's Community Outreach is the idea of using airports

and airport roundtables as the regulator's public outreach

representatives. While airports are

regulated by federal laws, they are owned and operated by cities and counties whose

interests are in conflict with the interests of communities impacted by Nextgen. And the

stakeholders that profit from airports carry no accountability for issues outside their

jurisdiction. As profit-making businesses, airports cannot speak for communities and should

not be "one" with the FAA or treat the public as the FAA Western Administrator called the

public - "external stakeholders." The FAA is wrong to try to outsource their noise

responsibilities while fighting the public in court, to ignore noise.

The SCSC Roundtable and its eventual demise is a case study where a "seat" at the table

for Palo Alto also did not help. Funded with our local tax dollars, the SCSC was launched

with an agreement between the FAA and Members of Congress who decided what the

regional table could or could not talk about. In San Diego, an airport community table

initiative seems proud to say that they begin work with communities with an understanding

that airport capacity issues are off the table. This is not at all consistent with what the FAA

says it wants to do - share responsibility, and it's an illustration that the FAA is regressing

from the first time their leadership met with us in Palo Alto City Hall, or is deeply misguided

in carrying out its job as a regulator.

In 2016, when airports were not leading community discussions, and with the FAA at the

table, citizens did put capacity up for discussion. Please see the unanimous Select

6 <https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/rulemaking-process#rulemaking>

5 <https://quietskiesconference.org/2018-reauthorization>

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Committee Recommendation 3.4, on balancing airport capacity and impacts on health. This

was a process that involved 12 members and 12 alternate high level elected officials from

Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz Counties in nearly 20 meetings over six months.

2023 City Council Priorities

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The growth projections from 2016 need review in light of the IG's comments. Recent airline cancellations are not because of new traffic growth:

Capacity Limitations

The Select Committee understands that the growth in air traffic for the Bay Area is

projected to increase by approximately 2 percent per annum. While overall capacity

limitations have not been reached at San Francisco International Airport, the

availability of additional daytime flight capacity is limited, and it is anticipated that

future traffic growth can only be accommodated during nighttime hours.

The impact

of additional flights during overnight hours is significantly greater to those on the

ground, and requires stricter nighttime regulations to avoid sleep interference, as

discussed further in Item 2.4 in this Report (Overnight Flights). Longer term,

increased traffic levels may necessitate implementation of capacity limitations,

such as longer in-trail spacing between aircraft or assigned gate slots.

Recommendation: The Select Committee believes these capacity issues should

be considered by any successor committee, as recommended in Item 3.1,

Recommendations 1 and 2, in this Report (Need for an Ongoing Venue to Address

Aircraft Noise Mitigation).

(Vote: __12__ Aye, __0__ Nay, __0__ Absent or Abstain)

The Select Committee also had something to say about "who makes recommendations to whom" and aptly described the FAA's process as "fundamentally backwards."

Who Makes Recommendations to Whom

In the face of widespread concern about aircraft noise over portions of three

counties, the Select Committee was empaneled to provide recommendations to

Members of Congress on appropriate measures to eliminate or mitigate noise where

practicable. The Committee members understood and accepted that assignment,

and this Report represents the Committee's best effort to offer such recommendations.

That being said, the mitigation of aircraft noise is a highly technical matter. The

Committee was wholly comprised of (elected) lay people. Charging a group of

elected lay people with the responsibility for making recommendations in

this area

seems less than ideal, particularly when the FAA has the requisite expertise and

responsibility to manage aircraft traffic in the public interest.

Simply put, notwithstanding the FAA's good faith effort to provide technical expertise

to the Committee, the Committee's view is that the process is fundamentally

Sky Posse Palo Alto

backwards – the FAA should be going to Members of Congress and their affected

constituencies with proposals for review and comment, not the other way around.

Recommendation: Should a similar process be employed here or elsewhere in the

country in the future, the Select Committee recommends that, to the greatest degree

possible, the FAA be charged with the responsibility for identifying and proposing

solutions to mitigate noise concerns, and that community groups and elected officials

be consulted for review and comment, and to offer additional suggestions.

(Vote: __12__ Aye, __0__ Nay, __0__ Absent or Abstain)

Any rule change to address the FAA's Community Outreach practices must review how

NEPA is being abused; environmental effects of Nextgen and all FAA actions are subject to

NEPA disclosure and potential mitigation agreements before implementation, which the FAA

evades. Please see our Special Report, The Role of Local Officials in FAA's NEPA Practices.

2. Explore a new City jet noise complaints app

ASK TO PACC:

Building on Santa Cruz citizen Adam Worrall's <http://stop.jetnoise.net> app that shares

anonymized data with airports, academics, citizen researchers, please explore

establishing a new City jet noise app.

City complaint numbers exist for abandoned vehicles, shoreline noise, fireworks, etc.

Reporting aircraft noise requires something like a smart phone app that can identify specific

flights and elevations in order to have meaningful data to be collected, archived, and shared

in a way that is considerate of the various parties that can use the information. Citizen noise

reporting fulfills a communication role that goes beyond airport uses and

2023 City Council Priorities

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they need to be handled better than the Airport/FAA status quo. SFO has been working to replace Adam's app, but with unreasonable constraints. Mayor Burt will recall that prior to Nextgen, impacted citizens did not have contact with SFO's noise office. Council's reaction to resident concerns when we approached Council in April 2014 was - how could there be a problem if there aren't any complaints at SFO? Our early observations, in 2014, about noise complaints to the airport are described here. Citizen reporting data is best managed independently from federal and airport contractors who have conflicts of interests with FAA and airport business - and as has been proven by Adam's innovation done at his own personal expense. Palo Alto is affected by three international airports and other GA airports, including its own - all with different and cumbersome systems. Our area counts on brilliant researchers and engineers who can advise on a City app. Please work with community experts to modernize the various data and information systems that inform you and for future leaders.

Sky Posse Palo Alto

3. Implement the Select Committee's Unanimous Recommendations

ASK TO PACC:

Please take the responsible parties of Nextgen national infrastructure to task for implementing the unanimous recommendations of the Select Committee relying on lawful cumulative impacts analysis or fair data capture (not just looking at the footprint of one plane) and relevant metrics. There are several, and these should be considered in GBAS assessments..

☐ Southern Arrivals – rec. 2.5.5 to assess a procedure for Southern Arrivals

that does not “simply result in noise shifting”

☐ Flights from the North – rec. 2.2. to utilize the so-called East leg (over the

Bay) as much as possible"

Recommendation 2.5.5 follows Sky Posse advocacy for a Full Length of the Bay route to have aircraft at high altitudes when going over populations, and with noisy descents over water. The FAA has for too long been neglecting the SC process and its own two offers to the Select Committee for night time noise reduction for the MidPeninsula

- voluntary programs and/or what FAA leadership described as infrastructure changes such as a new route. Please note that new route or flight path development is only as good as their eventual appropriate and balanced usage. The FAA recently presented in LA about “Option B” processes
7
to address usage which is critical and does not need to wait for the work with

GBAS.

The Select Committee was formed in response to citizen complaints with the support of elected representatives, to address Nextgen noise. Private citizens devoted thousands of hours to the effort, working with the FAA and members of Congress at their direction, on their terms. In the end, the FAA ignored the committee's recommendations, effectively thumbing their noses at the entire effort. We expect better, and need PACC to be more proactive in advocating to reduce air traffic noise impacting Palo Alto neighborhoods.
Thank you,

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

in Charleston Terrace

December 20, 2022, 3:09 PM

Question 1

Poorly. Housing is key to success on all of the Council's professed priorities. The Housing Element draft released on November 7 conspicuously missed the opportunity to use housing production to advance all of these goals.

Question 2

1

Question 3

I attended the Cal Ave community meeting in December. It felt like the presenter was trying to condition us to accept eventually closing the street to pedestrians to combat commercial vacancies. So it's hard to imagine the city feels it's doing great on this front. Obviously online retail,

2023 City Council Priorities

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likely exacerbated by the pandemic, has been awful for many small businesses. In 2022 we had the opportunity to choose to colocate housing growth in business districts that desperately need customers to encourage walkable shopping.

Instead, the city intends to put most of its planned upzoning on its border with Mountain View. These new Palo Altans will shop at Mountain View businesses in Rengstorff Center and San Antonio Shopping Center. Midtown, Cal Ave, and University will see few of their dollars.

Question 4

2

Question 5

The city is choosing to place the vast majority of its new density from upzoning in the South Palo Alto transit desert, maximizing the car dependency of future development, and missing an opportunity to bolster the financial viability of regional mass transit. Outside of South Palo Alto, the city is trying to use spot zoning to gerrymander its way to barely meet RHNA. This will continue to displace housing development into supercommuter towns.

Three people doing construction work in my complex wake up at 4 AM in Los Banos, commute to Palo Alto, and are home at 10 PM. They make this trip every day. That's 600 vehicle miles of daily travel from those three people because communities like ours do not build adequate housing. Palo Alto surely measures its emissions in ways that avoids admitting responsibility for those emissions, but climate change doesn't care which emissions we choose to acknowledge.

Palo Alto has a mild climate. We are a major job center, as measured by our jobs:housing ratio. We have two Caltrain stations. If we cared about climate change we would be luring people throughout the region into low-VMT housing that requires relatively modest energy for heating and cooling.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Build housing throughout the city, especially in places where relatively lower car-dependency will enable people who make somewhat less money to be able to live here.

We should also find ways to encourage more development in R-1 zones. A good start would be exempting SB-9 and ADU projects from the tree ordinance and slashing our exceptionally high fees, to accelerate bringing missing middle housing into our most affluent areas. Obviously this would represent a 180-degree reversal from policies enacted as recently

as 2022.

Question 8

3

Question 9

The pandemic showed how having unrelated people forced into crowded housing by economics can accelerate the spread of disease. Creating more housing units is in the interest of both personal dignity and basic public health.

The city's police department is also a safety risk, as Joel Alejo and Gustavo Alvarez would surely tell you. Academics studying police misbehavior have coined the term "bluelining" to describe the tendency of Police to commit abuse in areas coded for ethnicity [1]. In Palo Alto we might extend this idea to relative poverty, and it might apply to our trailer park, McDonald's, or a shack behind someone's house. Yet Palo Alto's Council has, in recent years, been narrowly focused on creating 100% affordable housing developments --and putting them as far out of sight of affluent R-1 areas as possible. We might as well draw a bright blue line around them and get ready to write more settlement checks.

It would be much safer to create more inclusively zoned communities. I know some of my neighbors are in subsidized housing. But if I didn't know which townhouse was owned by a tech executive versus a teacher, it wouldn't be obvious. They all look the same --both to me, and to Palo Alto Police. That's where our focus should be on subsidized housing.

[1]

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3746717#

Question 10

My wife is from Kyiv. She came here as a refugee decades ago. I am gladdened that many of our neighbors have been helping a new wave of Ukrainian refugees come to the United States. Please consider what you can do to make this a less economically hostile place for people starting a new life. Our new neighbors will need both jobs and housing. Constraining the former will not help them with the latter. So please reconsider the appropriateness of using an office cap as a solution to the housing crisis.

If not for refugees, then perhaps for our children.

Name not available

December 21, 2022, 10:18 AM

Question 1

Airplane noise isn't on your priority list.

2023 City Council Priorities

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Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

1

Question 9

Do something about jet planes overflying Palo Alto! Sue the FAA. Sue the San Mateo "airport noise NIMBYS". My house is ground zero for the noise, outdoor gatherings are intruded upon and friends comment about the noise. My quality of life in PA sucks! I like to be outside and to have windows open weather permitting and noise makes that painful. Come visit 876 Boyce Ave and listen for yourself. Yes, this is a health issue. If your consultants don't think so (especially after hanging out at 876 Boyce Ave (Sunday evening is worst)), get some new consultants.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 21, 2022, 5:44 PM

Question 1

Mixed. Pleased on decision to move forward on Fiber.

Question 2

4

Question 3

Too much money spent on PA transit bus idea. Cheaper to give vouchers for UBER/LYFT instead of having empty buses driving around - need to seriously look at the number of people who use bus transport. Palo Alto is not going to get the downtown workers back in pre-COVID volume. Need to re-envision and support restaurants more to be successful and recognize it will not go back to the busy days of office workers - University Avenue. Help us have a thriving downtown with the change in business (not like it was pre-COVID). The parklet decisions don't seem to support downtown, changing rules means increased costs to businesses to redesign/build existing parklets.

Question 4

2

Question 5

Need more objectivity in goals and performance. Feel good goals and slides but not really substantive. I recommend you have someone critique what PA is doing so there is more objectivity. Palo Alto is not being progressive enough to make a difference. Too hard to electrify and do solar in Palo Alto - this must be fixed. Instead there is a lot of marketing about Palo Alto's programs to support electrification and solar -- it is marketing without substance. Contractors don't want to work with Palo Alto and citizens come out of the process not happy (to difficult to do the right thing, this is bad). More substance and less promotion of subpar programs. It isn't true if you asked citizens who have gone through the process or used the programs. It is a bit embarrassing. Great job on zoom meetings - more accessible and no commute time.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Would be good if there were quantitative goals. There seems to be lots of plans and meetings but not so clear on what has been actually built/completed.

Question 8

2

Question 9

It seems to be politically incorrect to not support the gym. Why should the City be spending money on this project when it benefits a few. Shouldn't citizens pay to use a gym. It wasn't a priority until a private donor was giving funds and that is no longer the case. What about the dinosaurs? Palo Alto keeps spending money on low priority items but it is not palatable to say "no". We must get out of this cycle.

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Question 10

Must continue "Community Health and Safety" in 2023. Airplane noise continues to be an issue and is a long term effort that spans multiple years. We must not give up! The Council should reflect on what worked and what doesn't work from a process and decision making perspective. We need a learning culture to be more effective and efficient.

Name not available

outside Palo Alto

December 21, 2022, 11:10 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

1

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

No response

Question 6

1

Question 7

There is not enough housing being built. Not just affordable housing, all housing. We need more housing.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

I have seen so many almost accidents with all of the two way stop signs we have in downtown Palo Alto. Most of these should be four-way stops.

Also, what happened to Car free streets on University Avenue? We need more space that is off-limits to cars. I know you guys don't control the Caltrain, but it really needs to come more frequently and go faster.

Adam Schwartz

in University South

December 22, 2022, 10:47 AM

Question 1

I am disappointed that Palo Alto is not building MUCH MORE housing. I'd like to see fourplexes going up everywhere. And 4+ story apartment buildings going up within blocks of University Ave., California Ave., the San Antonio Caltrain station, and Camino Real.

Question 2

1

Question 3

We should be transitioning to a society where people can live where they want. Many people want to live in California's bay area, because it is home to jobs, a tolerant culture, and great weather. We should welcome them -- by building more housing. Also, long-time residents are getting squeezed out. My adult kids want the opportunity to live near me, but might not be able to.

Question 4

1

Question 5

The best thing Palo Alto can do for climate change is build more housing. A lot of it. Otherwise, we will continue the current pattern: people driving excessive distances from lower-priced homes at the distant periphery of the bay, to the many jobs here in the bay.

Question 6

1

Question 7

We should be building much more housing. The vast majority of people cannot afford to live here, because of the artificial scarcity of homes created by excessively strict zoning rules. If we build more homes, at all price points, we can bring down the price of homes.

Question 8

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No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

December 22, 2022, 1:58 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

1

Question 7

Eliminate zoning requirements and build more housing aggressively, above and beyond what is required by the Housing Element

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Eric Nordman

in Old Palo Alto

December 23, 2022, 9:33 AM

Question 1

Going slow. Good that Palo Alto is not adding office space that counters any increase in housing. Progress seems slow on the rail crossing decision. Not much activity to promote active transportation

Question 2

4

Question 3

Actions seem reasonable.

Question 4

3

Question 5

Greater push to support active transportation and TMA.

Question 6

4

Question 7

Not sure. This is a difficult task.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Staffing issues need to be addressed to allow speed enforcement and code compliance.

Question 10

No response

Andrea Allais

in University South

December 23, 2022, 3:47 PM

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Question 1

Poorly. The scarcity of housing is at the root of all the priority issues, and the regulations that restrict the production of houses have not changed.

Question 2

1

Question 3

Allow more people to move to Palo Alto by permitting the construction of more houses. Palo Alto is a high opportunity location, but too few people can take advantage of the opportunity because there are no homes for them.

Question 4

1

Question 5

Permit infill construction near train stations and other transit location, not just near the highway exits. Abolish parking mandates. Driving is a major driver of climate emission, and allowing more people to live near transit is part of the solution.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Upzone, including the wealthiest areas. Restrictions on housing density is a major driver of economic inequality.

Question 8

1

Question 9

Prioritize pedestrian and cyclist over car traffic. Remove crosswalk "beg buttons". Use leading pedestrian indicators. Close to car traffic the downtown section of University avenue. Car collisions kill people, and car tires release particulate matter that causes serious health problems.

Question 10

No response

Name not shown
in Barron Park

December 23, 2022, 5:30 PM

Question 1

Good progress on climate. Please keep it up! Some but not enough progress on housing. Don't have the information to comment on economic recovery of community health and safety.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

Don't have the information to comment.

Question 4

4

Question 5

Take a 'whole of government' approach to climate change to ensure that all parts of the City government are aligned and measured on helping meet the City's climate goals. Very pleased about the new heat pump water heater turnkey program and look forward to the development of new programs for electric stoves and heat pump heater/coolers as soon as the engineering resources are available.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Figure out how to rescale or adapt housing proposals instead of rejecting them completely. For example, the Creekside Inn project was a supersized project, but could've been rescoped to a medium-large size project, and achieved good results for the community.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

Don't have the information to comment.

Question 10

No response

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Name not shown

in Barron Park

December 23, 2022, 6:33 PM

Question 1

Good job on housing. Need to accelerate work on grade crossings

Question 2

3

Question 3

Not close California Ave to bicycles

Question 4

4

Question 5

Make it easier for residents to get a level 2 charger for EV

Question 6

5

Question 7

nothing - good work on the Housing Element

Question 8

3

Question 9

Accelerate efforts on Air Plane Noise and Cal Train crossings

Question 10

In 2023 the Council should make Decide on Caltrain Grade Crossings a priority. Citizen groups and a Council committee have reviewed the Grade Crossing possibilities for several years. It is time to make DEFINITE DECISIONS so that the City can obtain grants and funding.

Name not available

December 24, 2022, 12:44 AM

Question 1

Safety is and must be the first priority.

Question 2

1

Question 3

Focus on making our community safe and supporting police, fireman, schools and traffic safety. Please do not just focus on politically hot topics - as a citizen of Palo Alto, we care about our community, and if our safety are not guaranteed, we will lost our residents.

Be more business friendly, look at how many businesses have left Palo Alto? Please don't take business for granted, once a business moves away, they usually don't come back.

Question 4

2

Question 5

Focus on what we can do as a small city to leverage infrastructure, focus on planting more trees, be more strict with enforcing rules of cutting down city trees, I've seen so many city tree being cut down for no obvious reasons.

Question 6

4

Question 7

There's overly large focus on housing for economic balance, instead, please focus on building efficient and effective housing policy and be economically viable so the policy can be successful e.g. build multi-unit with mixed use so you can build community, and make it economically feasible instead of just opportunity for developer to make more \$ by taking advantage of government policy. Be fiscally responsible and nimble, we are a small city with limited budget and we aren't Google or Meta, please be fiscally responsible, and learn how other similar cities have become much more successful and effective in solving the same kind of problems.

Question 8

1

Question 9

The city's safety has gotten worst and worst in safety, many residents move away because our safety issues. IF this is not address, Palo Alto will be like SF.

2023 City Council Priorities

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Question 10

Prioritize for safety, spending responsibly, and over focused nor influenced by any specific political party or policy. Please focus on local residents' priority first and foremost.

Name not shown

in Community Center

December 29, 2022, 9:35 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

KEEP Health and Safety in 2023!!

How can this NOT BE a city priority!

In particular, jets, roaring with noise and dropping fine-particles is a serious community health concern.

Ask residents for alternatives to what was presented at the Airplane Study Session. Some of our residents are national leaders in this area.

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

in Charleston Meadows

December 30, 2022, 1:50 PM

Question 1

I followed the link to your webpage for "council priorities" but found it difficult to get a succinct, clear summary of what was accomplished in the past year.

Question 2

2

Question 3

Be more clear about what was accomplished in the past year in this area.

Question 4

2

Question 5

Work with the state as climate change is an important issue and should be addressed at a broader level than the city level. I don't think it's effective for individual cities to be investing in standalone costly programs. For example, for reducing emissions from transportation, the state should impose an additional gasoline tax rather than the city funding very costly bus programs, etc.

Question 6

3

Question 7

1) Be more clear about what was accomplished in the past year in this area.

2) It seems that building inspections are having very slow turnaround time this year. Hiring more inspectors would decrease the cost of building and help with the housing problem.

Question 8

4

Question 9

2023 City Council Priorities

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Thank you for being so prompt to clean up graffiti!
Regarding leaf blowers: the renewed ban on gas blowers is a decent gesture but I think that an ordinance limiting decibels (loudness) may be helpful also... although difficult to enforce.

Question 10

Please focus on core quality of life and cost-of-living issues and less on pet social issues which are better handled by independent organizations.

Name not available

January 1, 2023, 7:45 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

4

Question 3

It would be good to have more vibrancy downtown. There are so many empty buildings. And I wish we could close University Ave to traffic permanently. Castro St in Mountain View is so much more fun

Question 4

3

Question 5

We know we need to strengthen our infrastructure to adapt to climate change. Our roads flood in the rain, our power grid is under serviced for the demands of electrification and permitting is a chokehold.

Question 6

1

Question 7

We need more housing of all kinds. Let's make downtown multiuse and raise the height limit to put in housing above retail.

Question 8

5

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 1, 2023, 11:18 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

2

Question 3

Many stores are closed along El Camino Real, the whole stretch of El Camino Real looks from Oregon ave to Charlestone st looks abandoned and mismanaged. Also, lots of rusty RV parked along El Camino Real making it even worse.
Please restrict overnight parking of oversized vehicles along El Camino Real.

Question 4

3

Question 5

-

Question 6

1

Question 7

Please restrict overnight parking of oversized vehicles along El Camino Real.

Question 8

1

Question 9

I often see homeless people along El Camino Real and neighboring streets. Many of them obviously have mental health and substance abuse issues. I saw many times how homeless person stole goods from Real

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Produce Market. I often see mentally ill people on the intersection of Stanford Ave and El Camino Real. We bike with my daughter to Escondido school and have to watch how mentally ill person randomly yell. This is unacceptable. I afraid for the safety of my kids

Question 10

please make homelessness and safety the top priority and act fast. We can't afford to wait many years to make it fixed. Few suggestions:

1. Restrict overnight RV parking on El Camino Real and neighboring streets
2. Restrict any camping in public areas. I saw an encampment popped up recently on Homer ave and Alma st intersection, next to the underpass, in the bushes
3. Add visible police presence and foot patrol in the downtown area. I often see mentally all people in Lytton plaza area

Suggestions nonrelated to safety:

1. Please repave more streets. Currently, street conditions in Palo Alto are pretty bad. Examples: Cambridge ave from El Camino tp Park ave, Leland ave from El Camino to Park ave, Park Ave from El camino to Leland, Stanford ave from Park ave to Escondido road
2. Obviously whole El Camino real should be fixed. I know it's a state owned road and it should be fixed in 2023. So looking forward to it

Anton Isko

in Evergreen Park

January 1, 2023, 11:21 AM

Question 1

-

Question 2

2

Question 3

Many stores are closed along El Camino Real, the whole stretch of El Camino Real looks from Oregon ave to Charlestone st looks abandoned and mismanaged. Also, lots of rusty RV parked along El Camino Real making it even worse.

Please restrict overnight parking of oversized vehicles along El Camino Real.

Question 4

3

Question 5

-

Question 6

No response

Question 7

Please restrict overnight parking of oversized vehicles along El Camino Real.

Question 8

2

Question 9

I often see homeless people along El Camino Real and neighboring streets. Many of them obviously have mental health and substance abuse issues. I saw many times how homeless person stole goods from Real Produce Market. I often see mentally ill people on the intersection of Stanford Ave and El Camino Real. We bike with my daughter to Escondido school and have to watch how mentally ill person randomly yell. This is unacceptable. I afraid for the safety of my kids

Question 10

please make homelessness and safety the top priority and act fast. We can't afford to wait many years to make it fixed. Few suggestions:

1. Restrict overnight RV parking on El Camino Real and neighboring streets
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2. Obviously whole El Camino real should be fixed. I know it's a state owned road and it should be fixed in 2023. So looking forward to it

Hamilton Hitchings

in Duveneck/ St Francis

January 2, 2023, 10:40 AM

Question 1

Some good progress made this year but much more work needed.

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Question 2

4

Question 3

I give it a 4 because we needed to pass Measure K & L to make up for lack of revenue from recovery. Did we really need a Palo Alto History Museum? Not necessarily anyone's fault and partly due to telecommuting but we did not get back to our pre-Covid economic activity level.

Question 4

2

Question 5

We need flood protection now! It's been 25 years since the 1998 and the city continues to plod along on replacing the Newell Bridge. They are able to build a \$100 million police station within a few years. Let's see that same level of progress for Newell Bridge replacement and to actually begin construction in spring of 2024 instead of continuing to delay.

The city also gets low marks for their sea level rise plan because they insist on sticking with only raising the levees 3 feet even though the estimated sea level rise keeps increasing for 2100 and thus the lifespan of the cities proposed project keeps shrinking. NOAA currently says that unless emissions are brought under control world-wide, sea level rise could be 3.5 to 7. The city should be proposing a 5 to 7 foot increase in the levees.

The Hot Water Heater Program gets an A+ or 5 out of 5. However, residential zoning regulations, the permitting process and high fees continue to block and discourage many residents from electrifying. It's critical the city pass less restrictive zoning for installing outdoor: heat pumps for HVAC and hot water heaters, electric home batteries (ESS) and electric car chargers. Note, the Planning Department is working on this. Also, faster permitting on solar.

Question 6

4

Question 7

The city was able to identify sites for their RHNA quota of 6600 housing sites in their new Housing Element for the next 8 years, which many folks thought would not be possible because it is 3 times the last cycles housing. This also includes low income housing above parking lots. The city is building a new transitional housing site on North San Antonio for homeless, which has the capacity to cycle all the existing homeless in Palo Alto through it within a few years. Homeless from the surrounding areas will also use it as capacity becomes available. Wilton Court low income housing opened, teacher housing near California is being

constructed and other projects are in the pipeline. The residents also passed Measure K which allocates another 3 million per year for affordable housing, which when combined with matching state and federal funds, could provide substantial funding. However, the state is essentially providing a 1 billion dollar unfunded mandate with the current unrealistic RHNA numbers for 3800 affordable housing units and no density cannot deliver these. Deducting 1 star for state pushing fabricated RHNA numbers that even the state's own auditor found to be based on a flawed methodology.

Question 8

5

Question 9

Crime is up, especially violent crime. However, with Measure K passing, we are able to restore police staffing back to pre-Covid levels and now have leading mental health response, relative to almost every other city in the United States (shout out to other leaders like Portland). City did a good job with Covid.

Question 10

Prioritize Climate Adaption for 2023 including replacing the Newell Bridge (so then Chaucer can be replaced), raise the target height of levees for sea level rise to six feet and relax residential zoning requirements for electrification.

Name not shown

in Leland Manor/ Garland

January 2, 2023, 2:33 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

I don't have the data to rate the City's efforts.

I wished that University Avenue had remained pedestrian as it made the downtown area much more amenable for people instead of cars. Cars are not necessary on University Avenue: there is plenty of free parking in garages right nearby, and plenty of other streets that drivers can use. People with disabilities can also be dropped at the corner of the intersecting streets.

Parking in front of a restaurant or a shop to avoid walking one or two blocks is a very old model that many cities around the world have decided

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to abandon, and they are doing very well.

Question 4

No response

Question 5

I don't have the data to rate the City's efforts.

Continue to promote renewable energy, less consumption of petroleum products (for instance, why are there plastic bags in farmers' markets instead of paper bags?), use of public transportation or walking and biking (electric cars are better but the recycling of batteries is still a major issue), re-use of materials, and water conservation.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

I don't have the data to rate the City's efforts.

Without relieving some constraints such as height limitations, there is limited potential for making a dent on that problem. Also consider housing developments that provide small apartments (< 500 square feet, with 1 or 2 bedrooms) --billions of people around the world, including in world class cities, live in much smaller places than the typical apartments built in our area.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

I don't have the data to rate the City's efforts.

I appreciate the City's continuing efforts on the problem of airplane noise.

Question 10

See comments above.

Airplane noise must remain a priority.

Name not shown

in Green Acres

January 2, 2023, 2:48 PM

Question 1

Not great because there is not close to enough housing. Mountain View is doing much better than us.

Question 2

1

Question 3

Make it much much easier to build way more housing. Make it prohibitively expensive to leave land in Palo Alto undeveloped

Question 4

1

Question 5

Build way more housing so people can live closer to where jobs are and aren't spending hours in traffic jams on freeways.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Build way more multi family housing so people of different ages and incomes can live here. Palo Alto is turning into a retirement community.

Question 8

1

Question 9

Strengthen bike infrastructure. Increase public transit. Make it harder for cars to speed.

Question 10

Make it easier to build build build housing. There should be construction cranes everywhere. The building height limit needs to increase also. We aren't taking advantage of land value with artificially low height limits. Height limits also incentivize uglier buildings.

Name not available

January 2, 2023, 4:49 PM

Question 1

Palo Alto needs to approve much more housing at all levels, including market rate. This is the main issue facing the City and everything else flows from that.

2023 City Council Priorities

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Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

The City is not serious about climate change if it is not a city that builds housing for all that want to live here. Otherwise, it just outsourcing long commutes for the workforce. It would also be good to continue to improve the bike infrastructure.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

Approve multifamily housing without delay. The more housing the better.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 2, 2023, 7:27 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Please do flood control on San Francisquito Creek, including replacement of Pope Chaucer Bridge and Newell Road Bridge.

Name not available

January 3, 2023, 9:51 AM

Question 1

Don't know

Question 2

No response

Question 3

Don't know

Question 4

No response

Question 5

Don't know

Question 6

2023 City Council Priorities

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No response

Question 7

Don't know

Question 8

No response

Question 9

The city should be more proactive in its efforts to address airplane noise.
a) There's no reason for planes to fly over our heads at night. b) I'm concerned about air and noise pollution affecting our health, c) The city should partner with neighboring cities to object to any SFO expansion initiatives unless the FAA addresses these noise issues.

Question 10

The city should be more proactive in its efforts to address airplane noise.
a) There's no reason for planes to fly over our heads at night. b) I'm concerned about air and noise pollution affecting our health, c) The city should partner with neighboring cities to object to any SFO expansion initiatives unless the FAA addresses these noise issues.

Name not shown

in Duveneck/ St Francis
January 3, 2023, 9:34 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

4

Question 3

No response

Question 4

1

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

3

Question 9

Flood mitigation.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 3, 2023, 9:40 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

Expedite San Francisquito Creek flood control measures.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

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Question 9

Expedite San Francisquito Creek flood control measures.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 3, 2023, 10:06 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

2

Question 9

Addressing the flooding that has happened, and will likely happen again in the future, in our community due to Chaucer/Pope and Newell Street bridges. These structures need to be removed or replaced so that the San Francisquito Creek does not overflow and flood the streets and residential properties. Your lack of action regarding this issue is pathetic!

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 3, 2023, 10:06 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

5

Question 3

No response

Question 4

4

Question 5

Make upgrades of electrical lines and panels from the street to homes easier and cheaper (125Amp -> 200Amp, 200Amp -> 400Amp). Also incentivize / subsidize installation of EV chargers in multi-tenant housing.

Question 6

3

Question 7

No response

Question 8

5

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 3, 2023, 10:15 PM

Question 1

2023 City Council Priorities

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No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

San Francisquito Creek Flood Control must be an absolute priority. 24 years since the last flood and no progress on Reach 2 and subsequent stages.

Julie Jomo

in Crescent Park

January 3, 2023, 10:48 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

I would like to see swift action to mitigate flood risk on San Francisquito Creek, in particular the choke point of the Pope/Chaucer bridge.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

I would like to see swift action to mitigate flood risk on San Francisquito Creek, in particular the choke point of the Pope/Chaucer bridge.

Name not available

January 3, 2023, 11:01 PM

Question 1

Not sure, but in general I do not agree with the priorities that seem to be pushed by Council. Emphasis should be on public safety, infrastructure, recreational facilities, and priority should be given preserving the quality of life for the RESIDENTS of Palo Alto who pay taxes and elect our representatives.

Question 2

2

Question 3

Reopen closed streets, i.e., California Avenue and Ramona Street. We no longer need to support a few restaurants at the expense of other

2023 City Council Priorities

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businesses and the vitality of our retail districts.

Question 4

2

Question 5

Fix the creek, replace the Pope Street bridge, ASAP. Get serious about this problem.

Stop mandating how houses can be built and "deconstructed." You are making it more expensive to live in this city, which is not helping the housing imbalance.

Question 6

2

Question 7

Resist efforts by non-residents (ABAG and others) to dictate the character of our city. Fight to maintain R-1 zoning and single family residences. Oppose efforts by state officials to strip us of our local control over zoning and turn the entire peninsula into one homogenous urban environment.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Safety: Make sure our police and fire departments have the staffing levels and resources they require to do their jobs. Reinstate the Police Department's traffic team and make traffic enforcement a higher priority. Make it clear that the leadership of our city supports and appreciates our first responders. Stop stalling and fix the SF creek.

Question 10

Focus on the following main issues: (1) public safety, i.e., police and fire staffing and resources, (2) infrastructure, i.e., roads, utilities, (3) parks and recreation. Focus on preserving and promoting quality of life issues for residents who live in this city, not for those who want to live here but don't.

Get serious about addressing the SF creek flooding problem; press the Joint Powers board to complete the Reach 2 phase and replace the Pope St. bridge ASAP.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 12:40 AM

Question 1

Poorly

Question 2

1

Question 3

Preserve the closure of California Ave. and Ramona St. and restore the closure of University Ave.

Question 4

1

Question 5

Replace the Newell Road bridge. When the project was approved in 2020 construction was scheduled to begin in 2021 and be completed in 2023. It is now 2023 and the project has not started. There is no excuse for this. COVID is not an excuse, it was an opportunity to complete the project with less disruption because there were fewer people on the road.

Question 6

1

Question 7

No response

Question 8

1

Question 9

Replace the Newell Road bridge. When the project was approved in 2020, construction was scheduled to begin in 2021 and be completed in 2023. It is now 2023 and the project has not started. There is no excuse for this. COVID is not an excuse, it was an opportunity to complete the project with less disruption because there were fewer people on the road.

Question 10

There is no excuse for the failure make progress on the Newell Road bridge project. None. COVID is not an excuse. A lawsuit is not an excuse. Allowing people who are themselves not at risk of flooding to obstruct the project is not an excuse. The City of Palo Alto has an obligation to get it done. We will not wait any longer.

2023 City Council Priorities

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Name not shown

in Crescent Park

January 4, 2023, 1:12 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

It's pretty clear that a large portion of the City is vulnerable to flooding risk that is getting exacerbated by Climate Change. The City has dragged its feet on key projects, such as reconstructing the Newell Road bridge, that will go a long way in reducing risk for hundreds of homes. The City must make this a strategic imperative.

At a tactical level, very little has been done ahead of forecasted storms. Measures like leaf sweeping, proactively clearing debris from the San Francisquito Creek, etc. could have reduced the damage to the streets and some homes.

Finally, communication has been abysmal. Residents could have been warned not to park on certain high-risk roads, secure sandbags ahead of time, etc.

It's all very well to organize road shows for the latest electric cars, but managing the impact of climate change requires nuts and bolts work, which I have only seen in a reactive sense after the first storm hit on New Year's Eve 2022.

Question 6

2

Question 7

I'm currently building an ADU, with the intention of renting it out and thereby increasing the housing supply in the City. The level of permitting friction, both in terms of time, regulation dressed up as safety/environmental protection, and permit costs, is substantial. Having consulted with individuals who understand the state mandates on

housing, it is very clear that the City is misaligned with the State goals of increasing housing supply.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Don Amsbaugh

in Duveneck/ St Francis

January 4, 2023, 9:16 AM

Question 1

no harm done so far

Question 2

3

Question 3

focus on small businesses, restoring commercial centers with emphasis on mixed use (residential and commercial in same zone, pedestrian traffic encouraged). Make decisions faster. parklets are good, why can't you just move forward with them?

Question 4

1

Question 5

use the excess revenue from the Gas utility to expediate the replacement of gas appliances. using that money in the general fund was illegal, and should be stopped.

Question 6

1

Question 7

establish short term housing solution for homeless. increase support for vehicle parking for those needing safe locations for overnight parking.

2023 City Council Priorities

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support re-zoning for more commercial space to be converted to housing options.

Question 8

2

Question 9

absolutely establish police media contact and increase the communications from the police with the community. hire more patrol officers, increase community presence, decrease spending on privacy invasion tech (license plate readers).

Question 10

focus on the people, not the businesses

Jennifer Landesmann

in Crescent Park

January 4, 2023, 9:35 AM

Question 1

2022 and past years should have included flood control given its relevance to health and safety and climate. Some of the 2022 priorities had the virtual kitchen sink thrown at them in terms of work plans and policy books while others like airplane noise had nothing except a link to a webpage. I'd like to encourage the City to start producing an Annual Report ahead of the City's priority setting work, which organizes the City's portfolios and multi-year projects with elevator pitch paragraphs (for each portfolio or major project) with three parts 1) brief mention of key milestones 2) obstacles encountered and 3) next steps. A digital medium preferred. How else would Council and the community know what may need urgent attention? Because the priority setting session informs how the public agenda is used, I also suggest for Council to dedicate the start of each year to review the status of key multi-year projects related to health and safety. That still leaves Council the majority of the year for new endeavors but the oversight of City projects and initiatives that relate to population health and safety should have standing "priority" status on Council's and the public agenda.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

The background info for this item is heavily intertwined with "community recovery" One link is "Community and Economic Recovery." What isn't readily available is what the title of the priority reads - Economic recovery. So, it's impossible to evaluate how the City is doing - or what economic

metrics are used as a baseline. What the city can do differently is to first define what metrics it uses to track economic recovery and share that analysis. Also, share the evolution of these metrics periodically.

Question 4

No response

Question 5

Add flood control and all direct climate related risks to Palo Alto's population and reorganize this work to put more emphasis on protection of Palo Alto and Palo Alto residents. I found nothing about dealing with emergency events related to natural or man made hazards. What the City should do differently is to score "climate" related initiatives for how they relate to protecting the City and residents. For example, the City may need to set aside more money to handle natural hazards and emergency response (including data analysis efforts for risk management) and that work would have a high score versus work on attaining broad UN like goals. The elephant in the room is Palo Alto Airport's footprint. The City needs to have more data and reporting on the airport's activities. Regarding data, the pictures of stand alone numbers on the climate page are not helpful. A number is meaningless without other baselines and comparisons. Tables and other state of the art visualizations are needed.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

Confront the assumptions about jobs, work modalities, and workforce in the Bay Area that are being used for the state's unfunded mandates to permit aggressive housing growth, and produce projections for the increase in costs to manage infrastructure, emergency, safety, and other services with added population.

Question 8

1

Question 9

Airplane noise needs more work. Please keep Health and Safety as a priority in 2023 and add flood control. The City should adopt a risk management approach to population health as is done in Europe using exposure maps for physical and environmental pollutants. There are various federal and state agencies which are involved as well; the City needs to coordinate and provide leadership to measure, assess risks, and mitigate impacts. Airplane noise, air pollutants and airplane accidents are a high risk for the City as well as for our neighbors; airplane noise did not receive sufficient attention in 2022. Community health and safety metrics

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to measure progress need to be developed. How will jet noise be reduced? Are night time flights being addressed with voluntary programs or infrastructure changes as the FAA committed it could help address? What are the altitudes of jets overflying Palo Alto? How is the City representing itself with SFO, OAK, SJC and the FAA given the FAA has determined noise to be a shared responsibility?

Question 10

I suggest for the 2022 priorities to continue into 2023 - with the suggestions for improvements provided in my other feedback - to add flood control and do more about airplane noise; institutionalize a City Annual Report; leave health and safety as a standing priority every year; produce impact and exposure analysis with state of the art visualization tools, and score City initiatives with how they directly impact or protect Palo Alto's property and population. City initiatives or tasks that do not fit in one year should also be handled in a more transparent manner and not dropped off a list or require repeated citizen advocacy to get executive updates and follow up on the City's ongoing projects.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 9:48 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Flood control at the Chaucer and Newell Bridges needs to become a very high priority. We cannot wait another 25 years.

Name not shown

in Crescent Park

January 4, 2023, 9:48 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

1. The biggest risk of climate change for our community is flooding. Get the Newell and Chaucer bridges removed as soon as possible!! Every year they remain up, there is a risk of catastrophic flooding, and the risk is increasing due to climate change. Replacing them is also important, but not as urgent. Think about the impact a repeat of the 1998 incident would have on the affected residents, property values, etc.

2. Ensure our electric utility is robust enough to support further electrification.

3. Streamline permitting and inspection for energy-related installations.

Question 6

3

Question 7

A lot of attention is being paid to increasing the supply of small

2023 City Council Priorities

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apartments. Preserving affordable single-family homes is also important. Is it a good thing to be tearing down so many modest homes and replacing them with palaces?

Question 8

1

Question 9

1. Get the Newell and Chaucer bridges removed as soon as possible!! Every year they remain up, there is a risk of catastrophic flooding, and the risk is increasing due to climate change. Replacing them is also important, but not as urgent. Think about the impact a repeat of the 1998 incident would have on the affected residents, property values, etc.

2. Crime seems to be on the rise. Has the necessary funding for police been restored?

Question 10

I don't understand why the city should be spending time and money developing its own fiber-to-the-home service in competition with ATT and to some extent Comcast.

Liam Rose

in Evergreen Park

January 4, 2023, 9:53 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

2

Question 3

City council should be doing more to address the high number of commercial vacancies. The council focused on large businesses with the business tax, but should be focusing on incentives to fill small commercial vacancies through either tax breaks or vacancy taxes.

Question 4

1

Question 5

The council has done little in this area, preferring to put the onus on Stanford University to take action.

Question 6

1

Question 7

The council lagged far behind on submitted their housing plan to the state. The council planned for additional housing, but specific plans for housing have been repeatedly scaled down. No specific plans have been laid out to support the additional housing outlined in the plan, especially in the eastern portion of the city. The council has preferred to spend time trying to tell the state that their methodology is flawed, despite having over 3.5 jobs per home in the city.

Question 8

5

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Steve Bisset

in Crescent Park

January 4, 2023, 10:00 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

Ensure that the Newell and Pope-Chaucer bridge replacement projects are completed on their current schedule. Allocate City funds as necessary to move these projects forward. If funding from other entities is delayed, then reallocate City funds from non-essential projects and proceed unilaterally. For example, the Council recently announced its

2023 City Council Priorities

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intention to spend of the order of \$100m for the fiber network, a very large expenditure to address an issue that is not a problem. Eliminating the danger to life, property, and City finances posed by the Pope-Chaucer bridge creek flow constriction should clearly be a higher priority than funding internet access for the vast majority who already have it (the City can choose to provide internet access to those who do not have it for a tiny fraction of the cost of the fiber project). Please note that the City created the flood danger by installing the flow constriction in ~1948, therefore it is liable for the cost of the flood damage that will likely occur as a result, as well as for the unaffordable flood insurance premiums caused by the danger.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

Ensure that the Newell and Pope-Chaucer bridge replacement projects are completed on their current schedule. Allocate City funds as necessary to move these projects forward. If funding from other entities is delayed, then reallocate City funds from non-essential projects and proceed unilaterally. For example, the Council recently announced its intention to spend of the order of \$100m for the fiber network, a very large expenditure to address an issue that is not a problem. Eliminating the danger to life, property, and City finances posed by the Pope-Chaucer bridge creek flow constriction should clearly be a higher priority than funding internet access for the vast majority who already have it (the City can choose to provide internet access to those who do not have it for a tiny fraction of the cost of the fiber project). Please note that the City created the flood danger by installing the flow constriction in ~1948, therefore it is liable for the cost of the flood damage that will likely occur as a result, as well as for the unaffordable flood insurance premiums caused by the danger.

Question 10

Ensure that the Newell and Pope-Chaucer bridge replacement projects are completed on their current schedule. Allocate City funds as necessary to move these projects forward. If funding from other entities is delayed, then reallocate City funds from non-essential projects and proceed unilaterally. For example, the Council recently announced its intention to spend of the order of \$100m for the fiber network, a very large expenditure to address an issue that is not a problem. Eliminating the danger to life, property, and City finances posed by the Pope-Chaucer

bridge creek flow constriction should clearly be a higher priority than funding internet access for the vast majority who already have it (the City can choose to provide internet access to those who do not have it for a tiny fraction of the cost of the fiber project). Please note that the City created the flood danger by installing the flow constriction in ~1948, therefore it is liable for the cost of the flood damage that will likely occur as a result, as well as for the unaffordable flood insurance premiums caused by the danger.

Richard Almond

in Crescent Park

January 4, 2023, 10:59 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

Find a way to remove the Chaucer bridge now, despite traffic consequences.

Question 10

2023 City Council Priorities

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No response

Patricia Jones

in Crescent Park

January 4, 2023, 11:08 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

In light of all the current storms that are only going to continue and get worse, I feel that flood control needs to be at the top of your list of priorities.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 11:27 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Please put 'flood control' as top priority, aka, remove the two obvious bottlenecks: Chaucer bridge and Newell bridge.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 11:45 AM

Question 1

3

Question 2

3

Question 3

2023 City Council Priorities

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Prefer that University Avenue remain/have more pedestrian-only areas. It seems that most of the restaurants we frequent have recovered, based on wait times for a table or take-out.

Question 4

2

Question 5

The city should make San Francisquito creek flood management the number one priority. It's been many years since this was a known problem; it's baffling to see that the city has still not remedied the situation.

If City Council truly cares about Climate Change - Protection and Adaptation, new housing would be constructed closer to transit, instead of along San Antonio Rd.

Question 6

2

Question 7

City council has been controlled by a NIMBY faction that has slowed Palo Alto's response to the state's housing crisis. There should be more AFFORDABLE housing, not merely more housing.

Question 8

2

Question 9

The city should make San Francisquito creek flood management the number one priority. It's been many years since this was a known problem; it's baffling to see that the city has still not remedied the situation.

Question 10

San Francisquito creek flood management must be the top priority.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 12:02 PM

Question 1

3

Question 2

3

Question 3

Hybrid WFH is here to stay and mostly benefits Palo Alto. The city should co-design housing, office space and transportation with the assumption that 80% of Palo Alto workers will be from out of town. Fewer white collar workers coming in each day, but blue collar workers who mainly drive in do come in each day

Question 4

3

Question 5

There will be more severe flooding, wildfires, droughts and rising sea levels near us. Please implement the SFCJPA plans immediately and save us from catastrophic flooding in Crescent Park

Question 6

3

Question 7

Count renters in the affordability discussions. Include dashboards of household demographics in the city by income, age, rent vs. Own, race, work status, school going children and preferred transportation

Question 8

2

Question 9

COVID fears eased, but kids have had severe learning loss and there are no plans to address them.

We had a near flood on 12/31/22 - 25 years after the last one, people on Crescent park had no better flood protection.

The train grade separation has gone nowhere - it is a source of many health and safety issues in Palo Alto

Question 10

Don't spend any time or money on enforcing leashing for dogs in parks. We can manage this among neighbors.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 12:11 PM

Question 1

2023 City Council Priorities

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No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

Please accelerate the program to protect the residents from flooding due to creek overflow. The current plan to replace the Chaucer bridge in 2025 is not enough. It should not take 30 years to take action on a preventable climate disaster.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 12:38 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

1

Question 5

Fix the creeks to stop flooding. Residents experienced massive flooding 2x on Sat Dec 31st when the Sanfrancisquito creek overflowed at Chaucer street. People have spent hundreds of thousands of hours & money cleaning up & prepping for more flooding. This will drive down property values & interest in making purchases in the city which impacts city tax revenue. Climate change is here & there is going to be a massive increase in these flooding events.

It's been 25 years since the 1998 massive flood, yet so much red tape these flood prevention/creek fixing projects should have been all finished years ago but most haven't even started.

Experts say there are not enough storm drains on city Streets so that if there is too high a volume of water it goes into people's homes b/c the drains can't keep up. Our street has only 1 drain on 1 side for a very long block none on the other side, this results in millions of \$ in property damage that could have been avoided if the streets had standard # of drains & doesn't even require people to agree & execute on the creek improvement projects.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

1

Question 9

Improve the Storm Drains, fix the creeks so they stop overflowing & flooding the city. Stress you are putting on people worried about & trying to recover from flooding in their homes, their cars, driving through flooded streets when they try to get groceries or medical care, the physical labor required to try to protect homes by filling & lifting have sandbags with the current poor creek system means health & safety in the community is extremely poor.

The street sweepers have been going around not stop to remove the Sat Dec 31 mud from our streets which is great to reduce what can block the

2023 City Council Priorities

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drains in the next storm, but as they do so they are pushing debris onto the grates of the drains as have the winds. The City has asked Residents to help clear storm drain grates but as we know, since they are on city property there is little success in that. We have not seen anyone from the city helping to clear the drain grates. In a 30 minute walk recently in one of the massively flooded areas from the 12/31 storm, I saw at least 15 drains that were 80% or more covered with heavy debris. Again, we have 50% fewer drains than we need so clogging what does exist creates a massive problem as there's no backup, water ends up in people's living rooms.

Question 10

More drains, keeping them free of clogging, accelerating projects to eliminate flooding from the creeks spilling over need to be the #1 priority in 2023. This is the single most important thing the council can do that impacts every aspect of life here.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 1:23 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

For climate change adaptation you should help with making things easy for people to get done at the planning dept: give options for people regarding gas outlets and not take ways freedom to add gas to the stove ect .

Question 6

2

Question 7

When we say affordable it is not really affordable. We should certinaly look at how to help bringing in the hard working force

Question 8

1

Question 9

Downtown is so much more unsafe to send kids to hangout. Having maybe volunteer patrols or having police presence will help

Question 10

Please do address the flood of the creek and remedial solutions soon . Keep that as a priority

Name not shown

in Crescent Park

January 4, 2023, 1:30 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

3

Question 9

We need to resolve the Chaucer-Pope bridge flooding issue!

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Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 1:59 PM

Question 1

issue: flooding

Question 2

1

Question 3

focus on flooding

Question 4

No response

Question 5

focus on flooding

Question 6

No response

Question 7

build housing in open space (east of 101?)

Question 8

No response

Question 9

focus on flooding
the last flood was in 1998, too long. need to take action NOW.
NEW YOUNG TECH PEOPLE ARE NOW HERE IN PA--WAKE UP AND DO
SOMETHING FOR YOUR CITIZENS.
I have been in PA since 1975.

Question 10

PRIORITY: FLOODING

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 2:00 PM

Question 1

In general, fine; too slow on moving forward, also in general.

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

Worry less about "feel-good" climate change conversations and more about actual short term accomplishments. The climate is going to change. Stay honest about social engineering and reasons why and why not we as citizens may wish changes, and what true costs would be, along entire chain of the changes.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

Any social and economic "balance" changes recommended should first! be implemented (mandated) if passed, to occur next to or near council member's and staff homes, such as high density infills, (as a certain meaningful percentage of all infills.)

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Please spend less money in general on consultants and external contracts going forward, solve problems and issues with in-house staff, and "move faster" in-house. It seems there is a tendency for action paralysis until hired experts (?) have spoken from the top of the mountain. This presumably absolves those working for the City from responsibility for decisions.

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Name not available

January 4, 2023, 2:14 PM

Question 1

The priorities are wrong.

Question 2

1

Question 3

Not seeking to tax businesses or anyone.

Question 4

1

Question 5

It should not be a priority.

Question 6

1

Question 7

Stop pursuing this. What steps would the city take to institute 'social balance?' Meaning what? There are too many white residents? How will the city rid itself of white residents and favor non white, non Asian residents? Favoring one race over another is discrimination.

Question 8

1

Question 9

Stop crime. Move homeless addicts outside of residential and public property areas.

Stop being woke.

Question 10

Your priorities are backwards.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 3:50 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

It's been 25 years since the 1998 flood and yet we still had major flooding on New Year's Eve due to overflow at the same Pope-Chaucer bridge. The Newell Street bridge and Pope-Chaucer bridge are way overdue for flood control work, plus the city needs to evaluate where its storm drains are located and how they performed during flooding, as well to do regular monitoring as to whether the storm drains need maintenance. On Alester Avenue, this was once again a big issue with the recent New Year's Eve flooding. There need to be additional storm drains between San Francisquito Creek and Alester (e.g. on Dana) and we need more and larger storm drains that function well on Alester. The city should also send crews to areas that are prone to flooding to ensure that the drains are working during a flood. My call to the non-emergency number to request help with the storm drains on Alester was met with the response from the dispatcher that city workers were prioritizing helping at sandbag locations and would not be available for at least an hour -- it was too late for sand bags, we needed timely assistance with the storm drains!

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

2023 City Council Priorities

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Question 10

The City also needs to figure out how to work more closely with PAUSD on property issues. On Alester Avenue, we had trouble with the city street sweeper not having a mandate to clear the mud from the Duveneck Elementary parking spaces on the street or the adjacent Duveneck parking lot. Calls to Public Works went unanswered. We had to contact PAUSD (not easy during a holiday) and have PAUSD work out an arrangement with the street sweeping contractor. Without that intervention, the storm drains would have been inoperable due to mud in the next (imminent) storm. The city should be taking the initiative to coordinate with the school district for protecting both city and school zones, not leaving it up to residents to connect the city and school district.

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 6:04 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

As someone whose house was flooded 25 years ago when San Francisco Creek flooded its banks and the most recent event on 12/31/2022, I'm hoping the city will prioritize the projects for the Newell and Chaucer bridges.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 8:27 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

I live on Hale Street and I'm concerned about future flooding. I would like flood prevention and improvements to the San Francisco Creek to be pushed ahead as quickly as possible. Hopefully the recent flooding will provide the impetus to finally get this done.

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Thank you for considering!

Name not available

January 4, 2023, 8:32 PM

Question 1

4

Question 2

5

Question 3

No response

Question 4

3

Question 5

Lower the flood risk through moving faster on infrastructure projects that mitigate flood risk.

Question 6

4

Question 7

Is it possible to gift money within the county to other cities where cost of housing construction and land is cheaper to build. Can the city partner with foundations to do this? Housing is expensive because this area next to Stanford U. is job rich. There are many reasons for this but In part this is due to how Stanford is obliged to lease land rather than sell it. A requirement Stanford needs to meet In perpetuity. Large corporate campuses also have put pressure on housing and appear to be buying up residential housing for their employees. Perhaps the city should investigate solutions with these corporations, Google, Facebook ect. A few projects in Palo Alto, where land is very expensive, are unlikely to make a real difference. "Low cost housing" is still very expensive.

Question 8

5

Question 9

No response

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

in Crescent Park

January 4, 2023, 11:50 PM

Question 1

I have no idea. My brief scan of the first priority's evaluation on your website shows me that your "traffic light" evaluation has, as its highest achievement, "progress." Which means to me that you don't care to actually look for full achievement of any goals. I don't think that's an approach designed to get real results.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

3

Question 5

To pick one example, waste diversion, your goal for a long time has been 100% diversion from landfill if I've understood correctly. I think this is nearly impossible today (and in the medium future) for any reasonable set of definitions, and therefore that the goal is simple value posturing. It's problematic because I think it has led to extreme efforts to "recycle" things that haven't, in reality, gotten recycled at their destinations (China/Asia), instead creating other problems there. I've also seen several requests in recent years that you report on specifically what does happen with our diverted waste streams, but never a serious self-assessment of that question from the city.

Question 6

2

Question 7

Perhaps look at what neighboring cities with much better results (MV) are doing? Just do a lot more to streamline permitting and inspections? I recently did some straightforward electrical work at my home, decided to add an EV charger to the job as I was planning on buying one shortly, and my contractor got a lot of grief from the city because he couldn't fill out a

2023 City Council Priorities

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2-page (!!!) questionnaire on what car I had (because I didn't have one yet).

Question 8

5

Question 9

No response

Question 10

It's time to make flood control a high-priority objective, with measurable objectives that include not going through another rainy season with the Chaucer Street Bridge threatening us, and monitoring/reporting to make it happen. We supposedly have a plan to replace this bridge. Why can't we make sure that it's not sitting there at the end of the summer, even if the replacement isn't done yet? The City should be pushing hard on the Joint Powers group to move, if you can't make it happen alone, or maybe just push on Menlo Park to collaborate.

Name not available

January 5, 2023, 8:24 AM

Question 1

The HSEB goals fell woefully behind, but climate change projects did pretty well.

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 4

4

Question 5

While Palo Alto is doing a better job than most places, there's still a lot of denial about both heat and water extremes (including high rain events when they happen).

Question 6

1

Question 7

Catch up on projects not started last year. Accept the state requirements for ADUs (especially adjusting the height based on flood zone rules applied to other housing).

Question 8

3

Question 9

No one in my neighborhood (that flooded in 1998) believes the Chaucer Street bridge will be fixed on schedule (2025). Both the Newell and Chaucer bridges should be a top priority. There is considerable emotional distress each time the creek rises or water backs up to flood the streets, not to mention people who shouldn't be out in storms clearing streets and moving sandbags. It's a safety issue one way or the other until we improve those bridges.

Question 10

Palo Alto needs to prioritize all stages of work on San Francisquito Creek and stop making excuses. Every delay has been foreseeable, and 27 years to fix a bridge is too long already.

Kevin Fisher

in Duveneck/ St Francis

January 5, 2023, 9:46 AM

Question 1

Creek flooding is by far my top priority. We are seeing insufficient progress on replacing the Newell Rd bridge, which is something City of Palo Alto has primary responsibility to resolve.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

San Francisquito Creek flooding is one of the primary climate change impacts in your City. This needs top attention. Replacing Newell Rd and

2023 City Council Priorities

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Pope/Chaucer bridges, and working with neighboring communities for additional upstream enhancements.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

1

Question 9

Flood control is a major issue in our community. It is complicated and does not lend itself to easy short-term solutions that appeal to politicians and has not gotten sufficient attention from our city government.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 5, 2023, 12:10 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

My rating would have been higher if the flood control I have been waiting for over the past 25 years had happened. Climate change is predicted to create increased intensity in our winter storms. Based on the 1998 flood, we all know San Francisquito creek will flood in these conditions given the bridge replacement project has not moved along in a timely fashion. Please focus on accelerating this project now to save our homes from

flooding again.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

2

Question 9

My rating would have been higher if the safety issues created by the lack of flood control along San Francisquito creek had been more fully addressed in the past 25 years. Without new effort to complete the flood control via the bridge replacement project, my neighborhood's safety is at risk due to flooding like in 1998. Please focus on accelerating this project now to save our homes from flooding again.

Question 10

No response

Name not shown

in Crescent Park

January 5, 2023, 3:17 PM

Question 1

priorities are fine. but follow through, not so great.

Question 2

3

Question 3

the city seems to be recovering nicely "all by itself". however as always, local small businesses were hit hard and need the most help.

Question 4

3

Question 5

one area in which the city has not moved quickly enough, is moving forward to put in place the existing plans for upgrading San Francisquito

2023 City Council Priorities

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Creek protections - the Newell St. and Chaucer St. bridges .

Question 6

2

Question 7

we need more low income housing. social/economic balance is non-existent. at this point, folks with middle class jobs (teachers, nurses, workers) can't afford to live in our City.

Question 8

3

Question 9

the City needs to enforce its own codes. I am tired of breathing the fumes from gas blowers and being bombarded by the noise. please enforce our codes.! the use of gas blowers affects the health and safety of our neighborhoods.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 5, 2023, 3:53 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

Please ensure Flood Control is a high priority. The recent storms have hit very hard and show weakness in the infrastructure to handle heavy rains.

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 5, 2023, 5:25 PM

Question 1

I have concerns with the slow pace of progress on controls related to flooding and managing climate change.

I'm also disappointed that we don't yet have an agreed on plan for the rail crossings given the pending electrified trains in 2024.

Question 2

2

Question 3

We urgently need to address the rail crossing issue for electrified trains.

Question 4

2

Question 5

While progress is being made it's much too slow and we urgently need to complete the work on Newell bridge and plan for Pope Chaucer bridge.

Question 6

3

2023 City Council Priorities

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Question 7

I think the changes related to ADUs are a start but we need to support more affordable housing. Menlo Park has added a lot of housing on El Camino Real and I think Palo Alto should look at that as well.

Question 8

4

Question 9

I think there were a lot of learnings post pandemic and we are in good shape.

Question 10

Please urgently focus on the priority of flood control. This impacts our lives, our schools, our property values and it's unacceptable that nearly 25 years after the 1998 flood we still haven't solved this problem.

Name not available

January 5, 2023, 7:08 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

4

Question 3

Look at downtown Los Altos for inspiration on how to configure Cal Ave and maybe parts of downtown Palo Alto

Question 4

4

Question 5

Reduce the setbacks required in residential areas for heat pumps

Question 6

3

Question 7

Reviewed the number of vacancies presently in apartments, Review the number of Airbnb's, review the number of houses sold to foreign entities

which are vacant, revisit the housing requirements keeping in mind all the jobs which are leaving the area

Question 8

3

Question 9

Need more police presence to reduce crime

Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 5, 2023, 7:23 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

2

Question 5

This should be the number one priority.

Question 6

3

Question 7

This is also important especially as climate continues to get worse

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

2023 City Council Priorities

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Question 10

No response

Name not available

January 5, 2023, 8:54 PM

Question 1

AVERAGE. If there is a priority, there should be benchmarks for evaluation. Where are the internal evaluations located on the City web site.

Question 2

3

Question 3

Restoration of city services should have been prioritized before additional projects and new spending was approved.

Question 4

3

Question 5

No response

Question 6

1

Question 7

The City has always prioritized jobs over housing. In the many years I have lived here developers have consistently NOT BEEN REQUIRED to fulfil their BMR requirement by "paying" off the City with a payment to the BMR fund, which is slow to develop housing and uses depreciated monies from the BMR fund. No BMR in lieu payments should be allowed! It's a cheap cheat for developers.

Question 8

3

Question 9

Palo Alto Police Department needs real diversity, not officers who suffer mental distress from a picture on the ground, including more women and minorities. I hope to never have to call the PA police since there are officers who are scary especially to a small woman.

Question 10

Restore City services to pre-covid levels.

Name not available

January 6, 2023, 6:08 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

The previous questions are about the 2022 priorities. How about the 2020 and 2021 priorities?; aren't they active for 3 years?

Now you ask for "other feedback" on the 2023 priorities. Where do I input my SUGGESTIONS for the 2023 priorities?

Input, not feedback, is what the survey says it's about; why not have two separate surveys? Or at least label the Priorities question clearly?

2023 City Council Priorities

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Lawrence Garwin

in Community Center

January 6, 2023, 6:17 PM

Question 1

Please see response to last question.

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

2023 Priorities for Palo Alto City Council:

(Written 1/6/2023.)

(In no particular order, so please read the entire list. Thank you for your kind consideration of these suggested Council priorities.)

Continue focus on reducing climate change. (More detailed suggestions below.)

Roads:

Resurface dangerously bumpy bike lanes such as the one by the high school that is eastbound on Churchill from Alma to Emerson. Be sure they are kept free of obstructions, such as waste bins.

Install and diligently maintain reflective paint, reflectors, and warning signs on all bulb-outs, medians, traffic circles, etc., that narrow biking and driving lanes throughout the city. (Car tire strikes have darkened or removed much of the reflective paint and reflectors, where there was any.) Currently, many of these create a huge hazard in that someone going straight down a street (particularly in the bike lane) can easily hit them without warning. Design future ones and possibly retrofit current ones to have a soft landing spot, such as a bush, for cyclists who hit these curbs and flip over their handle bars. (This is a serious suggestion.)

Review all roadway signs, starting with those along bikeways, that say, "Not a Through Street". Amend them, as appropriate, to say, "for motor vehicles" or "except for bicycles and pedestrians", as often there's a path out the other end. Make all signage throughout the city appropriate for bicyclists (and pedestrians, where appropriate), as they are legitimate road users and must be encouraged to reduce climate change, pollution, and the ills of sedentary living. Clarify, perhaps with CA DMV collaboration, whether bicycles are considered "vehicles" and have signage reflect this standard.

Air:

Enforce the existing gasoline leaf blower ban, expand it to be city-wide (not just for residential properties) and cover all landscaping tools. Make available a more effective downloadable flyer for folks to share with offending property owners and yard care workers. Create an online reporting tool for easy, perhaps anonymous, offense reporting. Possibly have warnings sent out without the need for staff intervention.

Ban all indoor fireplace wood fires, as they destroy the air quality for blocks around the offender's home and are truly ineffective at heating the home.

Require all wood stoves to be low emission and fed with outdoor air; catalytic converters and pellet stoves allow relatively clean wood burning and outside air intakes substantially lower the emissions from burning wood in a well-sealed house and the air infiltration in a leaky house. Consider banning all indoor wood burning and further regulating outdoor fires.

Electrification to displace fossil fuel use, including evening peak-electric-load gas peaker plants.

Encourage the adoption of electric vehicles by people living in multi unit and rental housing by expanding and diligently maintaining publicly available level 1 and 2 EV chargers in the neighborhoods and DC Fast Chargers in retail areas. (Many municipalities very affordably install level

2023 City Council Priorities

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2 chargers on street light poles.) Require all remodels and new dwelling units to be EV charger ready. Encourage/require work place charging (standard 120 VAC, 15 amp outlets are all that's needed for most commutes) to make use of the statewide surplus of solar energy during the day. Encourage/require solar photovoltaics near daytime chargers to reduce or eliminate the need for grid or building service upgrades to charge EVs.

Lobby the Federal government to incentivize maintaining, not just installing, DC Fast Chargers for long distance travel.

Install and encourage electric load shedding and power storage, including smart breaker panels and bidirectional electric vehicle chargers, whether behind the meter or municipally owned or contracted. Incentivize the former by providing rebates and introducing instantaneous two-way electricity pricing and a communication structure for customers' equipment to automatically respond to price fluctuations. (OhmConnect currently provides a limited incentives-for-load-shedding service to PGE and other utilities' customers; perhaps OhmConnect could be engaged to do the same for PA in at least the short term.) Educate local contractors and residents on how to install and use the aforementioned load shedding and grid storage equipment.

Aggressively encourage building electrification and natural-gas-free buildings by giving huge incentives to not pipe gas to new or remodeled buildings and large rebates to folks who do transition their appliances from gas to electricity. Progression: Increase the reliability of the electric supply to reduce resistance to giving up gas appliances such as stoves, water heaters, wall furnaces, and gas fireplaces that currently don't require electricity. Make no new gas connections. Ban installation of new gas appliances. Require existing gas appliances to be replaced by a certain date. Cap off older lines to prevent leakage. Cap off all unused lines. Stop supplying gas altogether or transition non-electrifiable needs to biogas, possibly supplied through the remaining gas pipeline network.

Railway:

Follow the lead of other cities on the Peninsula by cost-effectively grade separating the railway crossings with a hybrid approach of raising the tracks and lowering the cross streets to go underneath. Be sure that there are low sound walls on the elevated tracks to protect the nearby homes from wheel noise. (The electrified locomotives will be much quieter than the current diesel ones, so tall sound walls are not needed.)

Name not shown

in Old Palo Alto

January 8, 2023, 12:21 PM

Question 1

Not too badly

Question 2

4

Question 3

No response

Question 4

3

Question 5

Main focus is on removing gas-fueled appliances which is good. Not sure what's happening w/ increasing solar on public buildings, and figuring out how to get EV charging at multi-unit structures, and enforcing the prohibition on gas-fueled gardening equipment (blowers currently). Another area to study is to find substitutes for the propane-powered outdoor heaters restaurants use widely.

Question 6

4

Question 7

No response

Question 8

4

Question 9

A recent study pointed out that 1 in 5 childhood asthma cases can be traced to natural gas stoves. The community should be educated on this, and make sure people at least use their exhaust fans when cooking

Question 10

No response

Shannon McEntee

in Evergreen Park

January 8, 2023, 1:17 PM

Question 1

I salute the City Council. These are extremely challenging times due to

2023 City Council Priorities

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health and other issues related to COVID, the difficulty in keeping employees, and to the extreme pressure to build more housing, especially affordable housing.

Question 2

3

Question 3

I don't have any suggestions to contribute.

Question 4

3

Question 5

One of the most effective ways we can help battle climate change is to make it easier for people to use public transportation, bicycles and walk. That means optimizing safe routes (and effectively advertising them and offering classes on safe bicycling) and working with VTA, Caltrain, BART and other transportation systems to make paying easier, connections more efficient, and more frequent options. Until we figure out how to incentivize people to drop their SOV (single occupancy vehicle) usage, we can't conquer climate change. We have to make it easier and more efficient to use alternative ways to move to and from work, recreation and whatever. One important change we need to make is to improve the east/west connectivity on California Avenue. While outdoor dining is all well and good, even more important is protecting our planet. Making it hard for workers, students, children and seniors like myself to move from the east side of Cal Ave to the west side and vice versa is counter to our climate goals. The City must rethink making Cal Ave focused on dining and shopping, unless they can figure out how to make biking east/west safe and efficient. It is not at all efficient since you closed the road at El Camino and on Ash Street. Someone who lives in College Terrace or works in the Stanford Research Park is hardly going to be persuaded to change to biking when the City has made that crossing nearly impossible for bikes. In addition, cutting off the access to Cal Ave for cars has traffic bottled up, with awkward backing up and back to turn around on dead ends. This causes more emissions and lost time. Is outdoor dining more important than protecting our air quality and countering climate change? No!!! Countering climate change is more important than enjoying ourselves as we eat and drink outside. Unfortunately Cal Ave is not a good location for dining in the street, regardless of how popular it might be.

Question 6

3

Question 7

This is a fight we won't win any time soon given the impossible to reach State housing mandates. I noticed that something new is just starting to be built on Cambridge Avenue -- parallel to Cal Ave. That is a big lot and could be an excellent housing location with access to Caltrain and schools. I haven't seen anything in the Palo Alto Weekly describing what the project will be. If it will be offices, that's a lost opportunity. It's clear we don't need more offices. We need affordable housing and especially housing located with walking distance to transportation.

Question 8

3

Question 9

We are fortunately in Palo Alto to have excellent healthcare. What we could use more of is cleaner air (less traffic), safer streets (less traffic and traffic laws enforced such as stop signs and speed limits), and a more quiet city. Reducing traffic will reduce much of the noise we endure. Citing cars without mufflers will help (seems to be increasing numbers of "hot" cars flexing their noise muscles). In addition, there is a great deal of research that shows night lights disturb our sleep AND perhaps more important, the health of other species such as birds. Other cities are dealing with excessive lights at night. Palo Alto needs to add this to our list of important climate and health improvement goals.

Question 10

I give my sincere appreciation to the City Council and the City's employees for the challenging work you all accomplish. This modern world is more challenging than ever. I hope you can devote more attention in the future to the various aspects of climate change where we can and must make a difference.

Name not available

January 8, 2023, 7:58 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

4

2023 City Council Priorities

Share Input on the 2023 City Council Annual Priorities

Question 5

The City can be even more effective at tackling climate change by expanding our electrification initiatives to multi-family homes and commercial buildings as well as setting up a plan to phase out natural gas.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

I would love to continue to see the Council prioritizing climate change, our 80x30 goal, and the S/CAP work plans. We have made so much progress as a city yet we cannot achieve the powerful goals we've set without officially highlighting climate change as a priority in 2023. We've seen with annual wildfires and the recent flooding that climate change and its impacts are not going away.

Name not shown

in Downtown North

January 12, 2023, 7:56 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

1

Question 3

No response

Question 4

1

Question 5

No response

Question 6

1

Question 7

We need many slots for seniors on fixed incomes in ALL the Palo Alto FOR PROFIT Senior Living Retirement Communities, like Lytton Gardens, Webster House, Channing House.

Question 8

3

Question 9

No response

Question 10

We need many slots for seniors on fixed incomes in ALL the Palo Alto FOR PROFIT Senior Living Retirement Communities, like Lytton Gardens, Webster House, Channing House.

Name not available

January 12, 2023, 8:54 AM

Question 1

Mediocre, started some progress but lots more to do

Question 2

3

Question 3

More support for small businesses, while also bringing some large business to PA

Question 4

2

Question 5

Don't wait any longer to start the Chaucer bridge and creek projects

Question 6

2023 City Council Priorities

Share Input on the 2023 City Council Annual Priorities

1

Question 7

All other towns around PA seem to build more apartments than PA. Besides building more housing there needs to be more affordable housing

Question 8

4

Question 9

N/A

Question 10

Develop the Fry's site with housing, affordable housing (and there is nothing worthwhile keeping that 'historic' structure!) If this structure really has to remain then put creative spaces in some of it

Robert Neff

in Palo Verde

January 12, 2023, 10:43 AM

Question 1

I'm glad to see the heat pump water heater program. I wish the transportation department had more bandwidth for transportation in all its forms (active transportation, transit/trains, and vehicles) and spent less time on parking. B

Question 2

4

Question 3

I think we should embrace having employers continue to use work at home substantially, and promote much more housing near our downtowns to increase the vibrancy of those areas. I don't think we should pivot away from depending on return to work in the office in the Research Park or at Stanford as a necessity to having successful business districts at Cal Ave and Downtown. I love the changes on Cal Ave.

Question 4

3

Question 5

If electrification is the future, we need to plan for infrastructure to support that throughout the city. Also, I would love to see actual progress on undergrounding of utilities (it has been so slow!) so that we have more trees along back lot lines in south of Oregon Expy, and be comfortable with higher housing densities. Make sure our transportation infrastructure has few barriers to walking, shuttles, and active transportation (biking / scooters) and that these trips can serve work commutes and errands is important.

Question 6

2

Question 7

We have some projects, but it seems like no fortitude for embracing the housing we need when a loud group objects. It seems like we are set up to solicit projects, and then shoot them down. Leadership on what we want would be great. I'd like to see the proposed housing at Fabian / Charleston and at the Creekside Inn properties be given a more positive reception.

Question 8

4

Question 9

The new 101 overpass is great! Much safer to get to the baylands in south PA for healthy exercise! We can continue these kinds of connections by formalizing the 101 seasonal undercrossing at Matadero Creek (widely used by able bodied joggers and dog walkers already).

Question 10

I would like to see the city to continue to put energy and money into Climate and Sustainability issues, including a broad approach that includes housing, transportation, utilities, and overall development that is complimentary to the Climate and Sustainability progress. I would like to see our parking lots simplified. Anyone should be able to drive in, park, and pay conveniently for metered parking, from 2 hours to all day, and not have to return to their car until they are done with their trip. Also, I'd like to see plans completed for the rail crossings, and a firm start on bike/ped crossings near Loma Verde and Seale to serve the city while the multi-modal crossings are under development.

Name not shown

in Midtown/ Midtown West

January 12, 2023, 11:14 AM

Question 1

2023 City Council Priorities

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No response

Question 2

3

Question 3

More focus on homelessness and affordable housing, since they have been affected by the pandemic and economic downturn.

Question 4

3

Question 5

Palo Alto does not appear to be a leader.

Question 6

3

Question 7

For Palo Alto to be a welcoming city, much more affordable housing is needed. The recently elected mayor appears to move in the opposite direction.

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Expect 2023 to put the US and the world in a recession. How does Palo Alto want to respond to falling wages, rising unemployment (or workers giving up jobs), more homelessness, a reduced state budget, and falling property values?

Name not shown

in Charleston Meadows

January 12, 2023, 12:24 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

Make solar panels easier for homeowners to get approval for.

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

Would love to see progress on the Cubberley community center rebuild...not just repairs.
Mitchell Park dog park project approval.

Name not shown

in Charleston Terrace

January 12, 2023, 1:28 PM

Question 1

Very well on Economic & Recovery, Climate Change, and Community Health. Poorly on affordable housing. Safety seems to be an increasing issue.

Question 2

5

2023 City Council Priorities

Share Input on the 2023 City Council Annual Priorities

Question 3

No response

Question 4

5

Question 5

No response

Question 6

1

Question 7

The City should create an ordinance requiring that homes be used as primary dwellings and not be purchased as foreign investments & left uninhabited. Palo Alto needs to house those who serve our community (teachers, police, firefighters, local government employees) and not simply collect taxes on unused properties. Unoccupied homes weaken the sense of neighborhood community (no actual neighbors), pose a safety hazard/crime threat (unmonitored property) and worsen the housing crisis. In our Charleston Gardens neighborhood, a home that once housed a family was sold & rebuilt 5 years ago and has remained unoccupied since. I have heard similar stories from friends in other PA neighborhoods. In addition to unused homes, we have unused business properties some on which could certainly be rezoned for housing.

Housing should take priority over hotel construction. Given the housing crisis, I was surprised when PA City Council approved the construction for 2 hotels on San Antonio Road rather than allow that plot to be rezoned from business to housing (there are two beautiful condominium complexes with a combined 188 units directly across the street and another family condo complex 2 blocks away so it is partially a residential area.) When I read that hotel tax represented (at that time) 12% of the City's budget, I understood the motivation but, again, feel like housing needs to be a priority over simple tax collection.

Question 8

4

Question 9

Really my answer is 5 for Community Health & 3 for Safety. The City did an extraordinary job providing myriad community support services throughout the Pandemic and the weekly "Coronavirus Reports" have always provided a wealth of information. I'm giving a 3 to Safety. I'm a second generation Palo Altan, raising a 3rd, and have been disturbed by the rash of homes burglaries & car thefts in the past several years not to mention the regular issues at Stanford Shopping Center including store

robberies, & parking lot muggings & car-jacking. I realize crime is complex issue tied to the growing population in the area & and the increased wealth gap and appreciate the work of local Law Enforcement...Surely there is a way to mitigate crime...Perhaps an investment in aiding our under-resourced neighbors in East Palo Alto might serve to decrease criminal activity rooted there & enacted here?

Question 10

Thank you for soliciting community feedback. On the whole, my family & I are very satisfied with life in Palo Alto and my feedback is meant just that: notes & suggestions based on my experience within the community. I appreciate the Council's work & care for our city.

Name not available

January 12, 2023, 10:21 PM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

3

Question 3

No response

Question 4

4

Question 5

More emphasis on saving energy and water. Transferring only to electricity will not work.

Question 6

3

Question 7

Keep in mind the quality of living rather than the quantity of housing! Instead of building more housing, why not convert some offices and empty buildings into (low-income)housing? Stanford Industrial park could be one of the. places.

Question 8

5

2023 City Council Priorities

Share Input on the 2023 City Council Annual Priorities

Question 9

Designate a place for RV vehicles with toilets and require RV (homeless) owners to keep the place clean.

Question 10

Provide housing for homeless people in exchange for community work. Transportation, no parking along El Camino Real or a maximum of 15 min. More Cleaning of the bicycling areas at the side of streets after storms. For example, on the Foothill expressway on 1-12-2023 and on other days as well, the cycling pass was full of debris. Yet cars would not slow down for cyclists who had to avoid crashing into debris. This was a clear day without any rain. Otherwise I appreciate clear labeling (green color) of crossing for cyclists. Right way to go !

Pat Grange

in Palo Verde

January 15, 2023, 11:16 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8

No response

Question 9

No response

Question 10

I volunteer at the Jr Museum & Zoo.

There are VERY few full-time employees, resulting in staffing deficiencies & turnover.

I have read that a city can be judged by the manner in which it treats its animals.

At this point, our city would be getting a low grade.

Please give zoo staff full-time employment. Thank you.

Name not available

January 17, 2023, 6:46 PM

Question 1

Not sure how this can be equated. Priorities are often very similar each year although possibly with different wording or different orders.

Question 2

5

Question 3

According to Palo Alto online, recovery seems to be going well. There appears to be plenty of money to spend on Junior Museum and to do more lane disruption to several of our main traffic corridors.

Question 4

1

Question 5

How this can be equated is a mystery.

Question 6

1

Question 7

From the fact that there are a lot less people working in Palo Alto and there are For Lease signs on offices, commercial buildings, and rental housing, it is impossible to say how much this is due to anything the City is doing or not doing.

Question 8

2023 City Council Priorities

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1

No response

Question 9

Not sure how this can be equated. There are very few opportunities for young people to have fun, meet friends, and to relax. There are some great restaurants, but not all are family affordable or suitable for teens to meet. We appear to have plenty of expensive coffee shops and ice cream type shops with queues outside the doors, but these are not particularly healthy, safe or offer relaxation and recreational offerings. We have had plenty of crime in Stanford shopping centre as well as local supermarkets, sandwich shops and 7 11. Some of this crime happens during the day which is scaring people from going out.

Question 10

n/a

Question 9

An unrecognized aspect of community health is simply Fun. There is very little fun to be had in Palo Alto, particularly for young people. Over the years, this area has lost bowling alleys, laser tag, mini golf, etc. City government itself does not need to provide these things but city policy and practice should encourage, support and protect such businesses. Our community would greatly benefit from having some fun social options nearby.
More than having additional hotels, etc.

Question 10

Need to get the city HR department functional again! I hear of many open positions within the city that are not being filled because HR isn't doing its job.

Name not shown

in Palo Verde

January 18, 2023, 6:38 AM

Question 1

No response

Question 2

No response

Question 3

No response

Question 4

No response

Question 5

No response

Question 6

No response

Question 7

No response

Question 8