Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for your very thoughtful discussion regarding the financial scenarios last evening.

I clearly heard “nothing is off the table” as far as cutting services and programs due to the financial impact of Covid-19. Everyone hopes that doesn’t include their favorite department or service, but I truly hope it doesn’t include the barebones Office of Emergency Services (OES).

At only 2.5 full time employees, OES does a yeoman’s job during blue sky [non-disaster] days to build partnerships with organizations both within and outside our community such as houses of worship, assisted living facilities, businesses, Stanford, etc. in order to support and strengthen our City’s response to emergencies and disasters. OES also organizes and prepares other City departments for disasters; it is part of the safety response for Stanford games and visiting dignitaries; and it oversees the City’s 500+ Emergency Services Volunteers. As for its work during disasters, as seen during this pandemic and other smaller crises, it’s value cannot be overstated.

Experts predict that with climate change we’ll see sea level rise, heavier storms, more heat waves and, yes, more pandemics. We’re already seeing more and larger wildfires. In light of the many expected challenges ahead, it behooves the City to have as robust an Office of Emergency Services as possible.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Esther Nigenda
Emergency Services Volunteer
Dear City Council,

I'm writing to support funding for School Crossing Guards. This critical service needs to have continuity when the PAUSD schools open again. There cannot be a gap in keeping our children safe.

Even though I no longer have children in the PAUSD system any more, I do have experience over many years with the Crossing Guards. They are a critical resource to keep their stretch of streets calm and raise safety for students. I also know from personal experience walking and biking through our community that a portion of drivers do not take ownership of driving a safe speed or obeying traffic signs. Children do not have a broader perspective of the danger from cars and drivers. Crossing Guards help keep our children safe in some of the most dangerous intersections. They need to be at their positions when schools open up again. Not 2 weeks later. Not 3 months latter. They need to be ready when kids are back to school.

I cannot imagine what might happen if the continuity for Crossing Guards did not happen. It would be a higher cost by orders of magnitude than the savings. Out of all the Traffic Safety and Safe Routes 2 School budget line items, Crossing Guards are the most important from my perspective.

Sincerely,

Ann Crichton
Redacted
Palo Alto, CA
650.291.5442
Dear Mayor Fine, Vice-Mayor DuBois, and Council Members Cormack, Filseth, Kniss, Kou and Tanaka,

Palo Alto needs to lower by 200,000 dollars the city manager's salary! Frank Shikada made $403,729 in 2019, not including pension and health benefits, according to a chart on the city’s official website. The first cut in hard times should be less tax dollars for Frank Shikada!

It would, I believe be a moral sign of living within these hard times for Mr. Shikada to come forward and request a reduction (for at least a year or two) of the most exorbitant salary paid to a city manager (probably) in any place on earth.

Sincerely,

Ardan Michael Blum
I am a resident of Palo Alto, live on Phillips & Newell and wanted to share concerns I have with the new bridge that is proposed to be constructed.

First of all, we are spending millions of dollars at a time when we're impacted by a terrible pandemic and the taxpayer money should be put to a different, better use.

Secondly, the new bridge provides very little benefit to the community. The current bridge, while small is safe as cars slow down significantly before entering the community. Without the narrow car lanes, we will see increased car traffic with some folks speeding making it unsafe for both bike riders and children on Newell.

Finally, the construction activity itself will cause multiple issues:
1) Close traffic for over a year or longer across Newell
2) Endanger creek wildlife
3).Cause significant air, water and noise pollution
4) Require multiple permits, approvals and easements at tax payer dollars

Please reconsider as we are wasting tax-payer dollars on a project, when during a time like this we could be using these tax dollars to help under-privileged folks.

Thanks,
Sumanth
Letter to the editor PA Weekly

All pitching in?
I listened to a webinar yesterday by senior management of my alma mater at the University of Rochester in New York. They are facing a $370 million deficit, and were explaining how they would cope with it. All senior administrators were voluntarily taking a 14% to 25% salary cut (higher % for higher salary level) for the next 14 months. Faculty and staff with salaries in excess of $60 to $100K were being put on rolling furloughs of up to two weeks at a time, with longer furloughs on a case by case and voluntary basis. This is an organization that has been in existence since 1850 and wants to survive. Everyone on staff there is pitching in. Shouldn't everyone on staff here pitch in too?

Alan Cooper
Redacted
Palo Alto
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

When you consider completely closing this neighborhood branch for two years (if we are lucky) please address other issues.

Would you also close the child care center which is housed in half of the building?

How would the building be monitored to keep this vintage facility from deteriorating with no usage? Consider the money spent refurbishing it not so long ago.

Where do you propose people in this neighborhood go to use a public library? Driving across town and encountering parking issues does not seem to be a thoughtful solution.

Speaking as someone who has lived here since 1967 I can recall many fights to preserve this branch. Please consider cutting back on days or hours open instead.

Diane Finkelstein
Redacted
Palo Alto CA 94306

Sent from my iPad
I am outraged that closing the College Terrace Library is even being considered. This library offers an essential service to the community. Not only is it used by school children but also by seniors like myself. Without this library many of us would not have easy access to another site, especially if you don't drive. There are many other viable options. Might I suggest cutting salaries of some city employees including the city manager whose salary exceeds that of the president of the United States. This is not the first time an attempt had been made to close this library. I strongly urge you to reconsider and do the right thing. Linda Logan
Hi All - we just received news that the College Terrace Library was being closed and this is terrible news. The neighborhood really uses the library and the residents count on it. It is the only library on the west side of Palo Alto. It seems that the north/east side of Palo Alto has three libraries (downtown, Rinconada and Children's') so why are no one of those libraries that are generally clustered in the same general area being considered for closing? Could a reduction in hours open or days open be considered? This feels very inequitable to the residents living on the west of Palo Alto as the north and south ends seem to be able to preserve their resources.

Arianne Teherani (College Terrace Resident)
City Council,

I grew up in Palo Alto and continue to live here -- the well-being of the community is important to me. I'm looking over the fiscal sustainability report, and am sympathetic to the potential $40mm tax deficit that the city faces given the ongoing pandemic.

I want express my opposition to the proposed College Terrace library closure. The document lists the 2021 savings at $167,000, and the cost of losing such a beautiful asset seems to provide relatively little in the way of savings. Certainly there must be alternative options to save $167k.

--
Arun Alejandro Varma
Brown University, '16
LinkedIn | Instagram
I have been a resident of Palo Alto since 1960 and College Terrace since 1966. Our CT library is critical to the cultural landscape of our unique community. As recently retired 30 year college professor I was looking forward to volunteering my time and expertise as an educator at this amazing resource. Would you be receptive to a fundraiser to offset the bulk of the operating cost? Or, please the facility to our College Terrace Association for $1 dollar a year and we will run the library at no cost to the city. Please advise. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kevin Lyle Murray

Palo Alto
To the Palo Alto City Council:

I have been a resident of College Terrace since 2005. My family uses the College Terrace library on a regular basis. My daughters, now ages 14 and 11, have been coming to the library since they were babies. Being able to pick up books here saves trips across town to the other branches. Closure of this library branch will be a real blow to the College Terrace community.

I understand that with the current economic climate, Palo Alto faces budget cuts, which will require tough decisions. I am hoping that these cuts can be spread equally throughout the city, so that one neighborhood does not have to experience a greater reduction in services than other parts of town. Please reconsider the proposal to close the College Terrace library branch.

Thank you,
Sujata Patel
We have lived in College Terrace for more than 50 years. The branch library is a cultural institution that we have treasured and used, it seems at least once a week, except for the couple of painful years during which it was closed for renovation. We appreciate its importance to residents of College Terrace and surrounding neighborhoods. The alternatives for us are car rides across town to Rinconada and Mitchell Park libraries, which are increasingly difficult for seniors like ourselves. Parents of young children also depend on the children’s section and the reading-aloud sessions there, including recent, English-learning immigrants and visitors. Please do not close it, not even temporarily. The closure for the pandemic has been hard enough.

Richard and Jane Such, Redacted
Hello City Council,
I am writing to say how much it breaks my heart to hear of the possible closure of the college terrace library. I grew up going to that library, and have been taking my daughter there since she was a baby. I understand how incredibly difficult these times are, however this little library is such an important part of our neighborhood and city.

I hope that if you do have to close, it can be reopened when this pandemic has ended.

Thank you,
Meghan Rice
Dear City Council,

Please do not close the College Terrace Library. It is a neighborhood institution that serves our community, both young and old alike. I use it all the time to pick up books that I've put on hold. If it is closed, I will have to drive across town to pick up and return books, as will everyone else who uses our neighborhood library. It you truly want to reduce car traffic in Palo Alto, keeping the College Terrace Library open is one way to do it.

Thank you for reconsidering the closure of this library.

Kim Raftery

Kim Raftery
Redacted
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650-776-1885
Dear City Council Members,

I think that you should reconsider closing the library. I could understand decreasing the hours a bit, and/or lowering the hours of other branches, but removing the library all together seems draconian. I read through the city report and there seemed to be a lot of other things that could be reduced (like the annual city performance report - which costs twice as much per year as the CT library).

thanks for all the hard work during these times,

Graham Dresden
Fully agree and would gladly volunteer there. There are going to be myriad changes to our community b/c of Covid; let’s not toss the cherished community-building treasures of our community.

It is important that CC (and other levels of government) not use Covid as a means to an end for certain pre-Covid agendas. Community preservation is critical now precisely b/c of the economic jolt. And neighborhood libraries may well be a primary resource for many Palo Altans once they reopen.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2020, at 4:31 PM, Richard Such <wrichardsuch@gmail.com> wrote:

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Richard and Jane Such, Redacted
I agree
And I will do all I can to maintain this community asset from unnecessarily being shut down for false economies.
Very best
Doria

On Fri, May 8, 2020 at 5:35 PM Annette Ross <port2103@att.net> wrote:
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Richard and Jane Such, Redacted

--

Doria Summa
(650) 867 7544 Mobile
Dear City Council,

I have lived in Palo Alto for many years and this is the first time I have e-mailed the City Council. I am writing to voice how important the College Terrace Library is to our community and our neighborhood. People of all generations spend time together (or on their own) at the library. It is the only community meeting building where we can come together. I truly hope you can consider only options besides closing this gem of a library. Perhaps opening fewer days a week would cut costs?

I think our older and younger generations thrive by spending time with the librarians and all the books at our beloved college terrace library. Please reconsider.

Thanks so much,
Emily Roth
College Terrace
Dear City Council Members,

I am writing this email in support of the College Terrace Library. Please keep this library open!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It is a wonderful neighborhood library and many of us walk there from our home, and have done so for years.

The city remodeled this library in 2010, after thinking for a while they would close it. But neighbors and other city residents supported this library at that time.

In fact, instead of closing the library, I would like to see the hours expanded.

Many thanks,
Linda Faste
Redacted
Stanford
Hello City Council,

I’ve lived in Evergreen Park for three years and have come to deeply love the College Terrace Library. It would be a major loss for the surrounding neighborhoods if you closed this treasured library. Please do what you can to keep it open.

Jenny March
College Avenue
Palo Alto
To Whom It May Concern:

We have been plunged into crisis of shortages, disappearing jobs and personal distances. One thing I understand well and would like to emphasize is that the most important thing to protect in such situations is a capacity to develop new ideas and strategies for when the crisis abates.

Our primary industry in Palo Alto and surrounds is knowledge and education. Everything else is derivative and secondary.

Therefore, we must save and protect those places and facilities that harbor and encourage personal development, knowledge and expertise development.

Our libraries are paramount in this.

Please do not shutter College Terrace Library.
It means and contributes importantly to our little neighborhood.

David Millsom
College Terrace
Dear City Council Members,

I wholeheartedly agree with my neighbors and friends: we believe keeping the College Terrace is a way to promote community, wonder and happiness during a time of isolation, despair and sadness.

Thank you for your consideration and good luck in your difficult decisions ahead.

Stay safe and healthy,
James Felix Cook

On May 8, 2020, at 6:03 PM, doria s <doriasumma@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree
And I will do all I can to maintain this community asset from unnecessarily being shut down for false economies.
Very best
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Fully agree and would gladly volunteer there. There are going to be myriad changes to our community b/c of Covid; let’s not toss the cherished community-building treasures of our community.

It is important that CC (and other levels of government) not use Covid as a means to an end for certain pre-Covid agendas. Community preservation is critical now precisely b/c of the economic jolt. And neighborhood libraries may well be a primary resource for many Palo Altans once they reopen.

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Richard and Jane Such, Redacted

--
Doria Summa
(650) 867 7544 Mobile
To the City Council members:

Please do not close the College Terrace Library.

As CT residents, my children grew up to love books and reading because of the accessibility and the down-to-earth scale of this marvelous institution.

It has adequate resources to serve research needs of children well through middle school in a safe and accessible location.

It has enough classic and contemporary literature to keep adults coming back. It is a marvel of scale and selection.

The librarians are knowledgable and accessible and everyone feels at home.

What a dismal sight a closed library is, standing like a ghost of better times past!

As one who lived through the horror of Prop 13 in the east bay i can attest to the damage that closing libraries does to communities.

And finally, consider the employees of the Palo Alto library system. Now in the depths of a crisis from which we will emerge, is the time to support as many of our community as we can.

I urge to not to repeat the errors of the past; libraries have always been, and continue to be the harbingers of our future.

Paul DeMarinis
College Terrace resident since 2008
Dear City Council:

I am writing to voice my concern about the possible closure of the College Terrace library. Pre-COVID, my kids would visit this library weekly. In fact, we have lived in CT for 11 years, and ever since my children were babies we have routinely gone to the CT library. I really feel this is an invaluable space for the community.

Obviously, I do not know anything about the city budget, but I am confident you can cut spending elsewhere without dismantling an essential institution of our community.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Irene Hsu
Hello Council Members,

This library branch is an important and integral part of Palo Alto and College Terrace. It is heavily used and a vibrant part of our community. The city provides very few services on this side of the city—no community center, no shuttle service, etc—please do not take our library away.

The salaries of city staff can be cut, other services and construction can be put on hold but the library is important and should not be closed. You have a bunch of libraries clustered together (Downtown, Children’s and Main)—cut one of those but taking away one of the few (perhaps the only) community service on this side of town makes no sense.

Thank you,

Sonam
I have lived in Stanford for 40 years and have used the Palo Alto libraries since my arrival. As a former English teacher and the daughter of a librarian, books have long been important to me and libraries are one of the first places I have sought out when we have moved or gone on a sabbatical. My sons have now grown but when grandchildren come to visit or let me know what they are reading, I have headed to the College Terrace Library and their children’s collection. Usually it is more than adequate. If not, I order and pick up selections there - it doesn’t take long. To me, the library with its small but inviting interior, solid old exterior and parklike setting is perfect. I want to be there and so, it seems, do many others. Over the years, I have walked 5 of our 6 dogs outside, met friends there, sat on the benches or at the picnic table, and watched the California seasons change while enjoying the prospect of getting yet more books. I use all of the Palo Alto libraries, but this one is my favorite, not because it is the closest to me - I still have to drive to reach it - but because it feels most conducive to reading. It is cozy and comforting in its atmosphere while offering more than adequate fiction and non-fiction as well as research capabilities via computer.

I understand that the City Council must look for ways to save money, as necessitated by income lost because of the coronavirus. But, we who use the library are also impacted by way too many changes now, emotional, physical, and economic, and will be for so many months ahead because of the coronavirus. My hope is to see that something which brings a sense a sense of solidarity, of positive continuity, and of peace to the community, like the College Terrace Library, does remain. Please find some other way to start to solve budgetary problems.

Thank you,
Mary Baron
Good evening,

Like many of my neighbors, I learned with heartbreak of the City Council proposal to close the College Terrace Library. We moved to Palo Alto last year with our then-two-year-old son, and the library is one of his (and our) favorite parts of living here. This library is the only public place that we can walk from our house, with our (now two) young children. We see it as not only an invaluable source of education for our kids, but also a place where we can instill the value of community services and sharing resources with neighbors. If it closed, we would need to drive to a different library branch - not only an inconvenience and an entirely different experience for us and our kids, but also a source of additional traffic and parking congestion.

In the scheme of the city budget, $167,000 seems a small price to pay for an institution that is vital to the fabric of our neighborhood and community. It would have a much smaller impact on our youth, neighborhood, and community to postpone some minor, non-essential infrastructure projects instead. I urge you to reconsider this proposal.

Thank you,
Kate Weber  Redacted  )
Dear Council,

My name is Elizabeth Fetter, and I very passionately feel that the College Terrace Library should not ever be closed.

I am a freshman at Paly and live at 2255 Wellesley St, in Palo Alto, right next door to the College Terrace Library. To me, this library is a second home. It provides a place where I can relax, surrounded by not only what I love, but by others who are passionate about it.

If the library closes, I, and many others in this area, will no longer have quick access to handheld books and other reading materials. I will have to bike a minimum of three and a half miles to the closest library (Mitchell Park), and some who live further west may even have to go as far as six miles. In a day and age where many teens are consumed by electronics, one would think that society would be putting an even greater emphasis on reading. Strangely, this closure would be doing the opposite. If this library closes, I know for a fact that it will discourage so many teens and young children in my area from reading.

But, the accessibility difference is not the only dilemma my community and I would face if the library were to close. Do not misunderstand me, I have no quarrels with the Mitchell park library or any of this cities’ other branches (although I do not understand the fairness of the College Terrace branch suffering from the backlash of budget issues when the city recently splurged on a total remodel of the Mitchell Park branch).

In fact, from the few times I visited the other branches, I quite enjoyed my stay. What it is missing, though, is the feeling that I matter. Because the College Terrace branch is much smaller, with every visit, one receives a personalized experience, enhanced by one-on-one connections with the staff. I personally know every person that works at the College Terrace branch and find immense pleasure in connecting with them and asking for their opinions for reading recommendations. I feel that if this branch were to close and force me to another, much larger branch, my thirst for reading would be very much quenched due to the absence of personalized help.

The College Terrace library is not only a sanctuary where I can do one of my favorite things in the world, read, but it is also what helped inspire my love of reading, and what continues to fuel it every day. I feel so very strongly that if this library were to close, it would drastically reduce the amount that many students in this area and I read, not to mention eliminating the things that make reading so enjoyable to me, like receiving recommendations and opinions for the new series or book.

Plainly speaking, the College Terrace Library is what made me love to read and I feel that it is something my surrounding community and I would be very much lost without.

I sincerely hope you all take this very much into consideration because if the library were to close my devastation would be unimaginable. Thank you so much for your time.

Best,
Elizabeth Fetter
Dear PA City Council:
We were dismayed and shocked to hear about the proposal to close the College Terrace Library. The Library is a safe and calm place for people to visit, read books and use the computers (as not everyone has one at home). Even with the reduced hours, it is a popular place for College Terrace and other nearby neighborhoods residents.

We, as a family, have enjoyed the library over many years for the wonderful story time and children’s corner, and have borrowed books and DVDs. The fact that the library is easily accessed by walking and biking is truly valuable. Some of our seniors don’t drive and this will be a huge loss to them. Closing the library will make it necessary to drive to the other libraries. In short, this move will make borrowing books or using the library system very onerous for many people.

Please consider this move carefully as the implications of the closure will be felt negatively by many of the residents.

Sincerely
The Kothari Family
College Terrace
Dear Sirs:

Please reconsider the proposed closure of the College Terrace Library.

The library is a valued community asset and we would be much the poorer should it no longer be available.

I hope to learn that it will remain.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,
Doris Roberts

Redacted
Palo Alto

Sent from my iPhone
We also strongly agree!!! We have lived here for 42 years and use College Terrace Library all the time and will do all we can to support it!!!

Brent and Jane

On Fri, May 8, 2020 at 7:50 PM James Cook <jamesfelixcook@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear City Council Members,

I wholeheartedly agree with my neighbors and friends: we believe keeping the College Terrace is a way to promote community, wonder and happiness during a time of isolation, despair and sadness.

Thank you for your consideration and good luck in your difficult decisions ahead.

Stay safe and healthy,
James Felix Cook
I agree
And I will do all I can to maintain this community asset from unnecessarily being shut down for false economies.
Very best
Doria

On Fri, May 8, 2020 at 5:35 PM Annette Ross <port2103@att.net> wrote:
Fully agree and would gladly volunteer there. There are going to be myriad changes to our community b/c of Covid; let’s not toss the cherished community-building treasures of our community.

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Richard and Jane Such, Redacted

--
Doria Summa
(650) 867 7544 Mobile

--
Brent Barker
Freelance Writer
650-813-9433
650-388-0927 (cell)
The College Terrace Library is an important part of our community and my family agrees as well and would like to support it.
Sheila Bonini

On Friday, May 8, 2020, 09:49:31 PM PDT, Brent Barker <brentgbarker@gmail.com> wrote:

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Richard and Jane Such, Redacted

--
Doria Summa
(650) 867 7544 Mobile

--
Brent Barker
Freelance Writer
650-813-9433
650-388-0927 (cell)
Hello,

Please keep all our libraries open!

Best,

Lucie

Some thoughts from Nextdoor:

"I feel strongly that the city could make prudent fiscal cuts in other areas which would allow the library to continue. The proposed cut is $167,550. Why is Google kicking in only one million dollars for the pedestrian/bike bridge? Why not scrap this project entirely until we are flush again? Some capital improvement projects also could be tabled excluding safety issues as well. Why not start the business tax for the big players at this time such as Visa, Palantir and Amazon to name a few? I do not believe it is appropriate to tax the small businesses during this crisis. Frankly, it would be 'big' of our city manager to cut some of his pay to show solidarity as he is earning over $400,000 more than the president and the governor. The library is a valued asset used by folks from the neighborhood, Barron Park, Evergreen, Ventura, University Terrace (Stanford junior faculty) and others. Once you dissolve libraries you harm the community and democracy. Today is May 8th, the day of victory. We need to band together and keep our valued amenity -- the College Terrace Library for future generations."
Dear City Council.

Please vote to keep College Terrace Library open.

It is a treasured part of our community, a neighborhood hub and a valuable resource.

Visiting on a weekday one sees young families, retirees, young adults quietly engaged. It’s served a diverse group.

And speaking practically, children in college terrace and surrounds can bike far more safely to this location than to the much more distant Mitchell branch or downtown branch.

College terrace library is a Palo Alto gem. Please vote to keep it open.

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

Adding my voice of support. I’ve been looking forward to the library reopening as soon as deemed safe. The staff as well as the access to books are a treasured part of my life. I can also volunteer if needed.

Karen Price

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2020, at 9:49 PM, Brent Barker <brengbarker@gmail.com> wrote:

We also strongly agree!!! We have lived here for 42 years and use College Terrace Library all the time and will do all we can to support it!!!

Brent and Jane

On Fri, May 8, 2020 at 7:50 PM James Cook <jamesfelixcook@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear City Council Members,

I wholeheartedly agree with my neighbors and friends: we believe keeping the College Terrace is a way to promote community, wonder and happiness during a time of isolation, despair and sadness.
Thank you for your consideration and good luck in your difficult decisions ahead.

Stay safe and healthy,
James Felix Cook

On May 8, 2020, at 6:03 PM, doria s <doriasumma@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree
And i will do all I can to maintain this community asset from unnecessarily being shut down for false economies.
Very best
Doria

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Fully agree and would gladly volunteer there. There are going to be myriad changes to our community b/c of Covid; let’s not toss the cherished community-building treasures of our community.

It is important that CC (and other levels of government) not use Covid as a means to an end for certain pre-Covid agendas. Community preservation is critical now precisely b/c of the economic jolt. And neighborhood libraries may well be a primary resource for many Palo Altans once they reopen.

Sent from my iPhone

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Richard and Jane Such, Redacted

--
Doria Summa
(650) 867 7544 Mobile
Brent Barker
Freelance Writer
650-813-9433
650-388-0927 (cell)
I am a senior living in a very overpriced rental in College Terrace. The proximity to the library with its wonderful staff and access to books not only from the Palo Alto library but the link plus system are a treasured part of my life.

Please find other projects to postpone and keep the library open. It is an extremely valuable part of our community.

Thank you,
Karen Price
Hanover St

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

To: Palo Alto City Council

From: College Terrace residents Aidan and Louise Roche,  Redacted

PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE COLLEGE TERRACE LIBRARY! It’s a unique and very valuable resource for our neighborhood and surrounding Palo Alto area. We all rely on its essential services.
Dear City Council,

I am a College Terrace resident and I heard about the proposal to close our library. This proposal is deeply disturbing to me as someone who grew up in Palo Alto and remembers studying at the library during high school and enjoying every visit to our quaint little library. I understand that this is a difficult time for the city, but please consider prioritizing keeping our library open over other initiatives. Our library is a central gathering place for our community and losing it would be devastating to many during an already very hard time. Please help our neighborhood maintains its moral and find another way to cut costs.

Sincerely,

Arianna
To City Council members,

I submit my plea to keep the College Terrace Library open. As you know, our libraries are safe havens for children in the community, a necessary space for elderly citizens who need somewhere to spend their days in the company of others, a resource for all who have a thirst for knowledge. I realize that there’s a need right now to cut budgets, but the libraries are not the place to do this. They may be closed for the time being, but will once again be there for us as a thriving third space in our community.

Sincerely,
Rachelle Doorley
Cubberley Artist-in-Residence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>Elan Music <a href="mailto:elanloeb@gmail.com">elanloeb@gmail.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Sunday, May 10, 2020 7:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Council, City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Save the Libraries!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please don’t cut funding to the Libraries. Cut the city managers salary!

Thanks,

Elan Loeb
I appreciate that there are difficult challenges to the Palo Alto budget. But it is ironic that in a time when our country faces a crisis in many ways similar to the Great Depression, the College Terrace Library, a product of the WPA, [a model that should be replicated today] is considered for closure.

The library serves not only College Terrace, but neighboring Barron Park, Evergreen, Ventura, and University Terrace. The library is the lone community center for the area. It provides essential services such as a children’s library and programs, the computers available for those without, the quiet tables for reading and, above all, the access to the library’s extensive system, research materials, films, and more.

Not everyone has a car to drive to distant libraries. Nor are young children able to take a bus, whereas to walk or bike to the library is safe and easy.

1930s Palo Alto understood the need for a library in our neighborhood. Please do not minimize that need now.

Sincerely,
Jan Rubens
Oberlin Street
Palo Alto 94306
Dear Mayor and City Council members,

As the city slowly reopens its services I am pretty sure there is great trepidation of many schools and groups to host summer classes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If this is the case, there will be many children with a lot of free time on their hands. There will be a need for as many libraries to be open for as many hours as possible this summer. Not only that, many students are home from college. Plans for internships, abroad programs and jobs have dissolved over the course of these last few months of shutdown. They will also need a place to research their next steps and to periodically distance from parents. And parents, they will also be working from home much more and will need a place to distance from the family.

There was a huge debate at one point about having one main library or the smaller neighborhood libraries. I thank Councilwoman McCormack for fighting and fundraising for these smaller libraries!

For many years Palo Alto residents have embraced and cherished our group of smaller libraries. Please do not cut hours or close the College Terrace library completely. I’m sure that you will be able to find residents such as myself to volunteer their time to help at the library. I myself was a volunteer at the children’s library for quite a few years when my children were young and loved it! And if faced with closure or stepping up to volunteer, I’m sure I and many others will choose the latter!

I request that you keep the College Terrace Library open.

Thank you,
Kimberley Wong,
Longtime resident of Palo Alto
Hi - I just learned about the library closing and I think that is the worse place to cut. The community uses it because it is in our neighborhood and it was just remodeled! You have to find something else such as salaries. I had to take a pay cut for my job, the city manager and other highly paid executives need to take a pay cut. It would be difficult for them to find new jobs in this environment. That is most logical conclusion. They aren’t doing that great of a job. I lived here 43 years and have a hard enough time getting around without taking away my local library. It is impossible to find parking spaces at other libraries.

Thank you for reconsidering the alternatives.

Susan Wright
Redacted
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Dear City Council,

During this time of isolation the community is fractured, but as the current restrictions are gradually lifted the last thing we should be doing is semi-permanently closing the College Terrace Library, a much loved city facility that will play an important role in bringing the community together again.

The College Terrace Library is not only the heart of our community but also a local and city-wide treasure. Over the years I have not infrequently encountered friends who are not just from "this side of the tracks" but also from other communities across the city who either stopped by while running errands or made it their destination. The only place that people of all ages encounter one another and come together to use and enjoy.

It is a concern that if the College Terrace Library is closed for two years that may make it an easy target for permanent closure. In the past we have had to rally to defend the College Terrace Library on more than one occasion from a city hall agenda aimed at eliminating branch libraries. Fortunately there has always been a huge outpouring of support for our College Terrace Library, and I'm sure this time will be no different. Especially vital in a time when "walkable neighborhoods" are an ever more elusive city-wide goal as previous retail and other amenities disappear.

Consequently I am adding my voice to those of so many others in asking that the College Terrace Library immediately reopens at the same time as the other libraries reopen. This will be a huge step as our community begins to go about not only regaining normalcy and routines, but also most importantly a place to reconnect and rebuild our sense of community purpose and support for one another.

Sincerely,
Margaret Heath
Redacted
Voicing opposition to this proposed budget cut! The library is a valued asset used by folks from the neighborhood, Barron Park, Evergreen, Ventura, University Terrace (Stanford junior faculty) and others. Once you dissolve libraries, you harm the community and erode democracy.

What should be cut? Payments to expensive contractors who represent wealthy developers, many of whom are out-of-state and worse, out-of-country. Funding should be allocated to education, and maintenance of neighborhood libraries supports education and the common good.

Leonor Delgado
Hello City Council members,

As 16-year residents of College Terrace, we were extremely disappointed to read recently of the plan to close down the CT Library branch. We, along with many of our friends and neighbors, have always been regular users of the branch, and find it unfair that our neighborhood branch of the library system would be the only one to close. Why can it not simply operate at reduced hours, as many of the other branches will be? As you know, this will leave our region of the city without a convenient local branch, while other areas will have multiple, or at least one large branch. Even a few hours a week would be wonderful for our neighborhood and the residents of other nearby neighborhoods who also patronize the branch — and living directly across from the library as we do, we know there are many.

Please reconsider this plan so as to treat our neighborhood and region of the city fairly.

Thank you,
The Whiteley family
To the City Council members,

As a former Library Commissioner for Palo Alto, PhD from Stanford, and currently director for an energy consortium of universities, I submit my plea that the College Terrace library remain open. This library is an irreplaceable piece of the community fabric, a resource for many of the neighborhoods, and a place for our neighbors and families to meet and socialize. The loss of the library would hurt surrounding property values. Libraries are an important piece of kids' childhoods, a safe place, a resource without censorship, and our librarians provide tools and education that can’t be found elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration,

~Noel Bakhtian
Dear Mayor Fine and Council Members,

I am writing you to ask that you reflect carefully on the community’s essential needs including the retention of the College Terrace Library. What makes Palo Alto Palo Alto? Some say it is the role of the town pertaining to technology startups or the real estate values. Many constituents feel that our branch library system is the backbone of our town. These institutions are where a love of reading and exploring are nurtured. The College Terrace Library is a community center where people come together for meetings, picnics on the grounds and to cool off during a heatwave. I want to stress that people use the library from Evergreen, Southgate, Ventura, Barron Park and Stanford to name the obvious neighborhoods but others come to this library from other areas of Palo Alto as well.

Please do not close the College Terrace library as it is necessary for the wellbeing of citizens. Yes we will have to work together to finesse the safety use of the library when it will open. One suggestion is that some readings can be held on the green with social distancing.

Joe Simitian grew up in Evergreen and his dad lived, in later years, in College Terrace. Donaldina Cameron lived here as did Lucy Evans. My late father grew up here and benefited from the College Terrace library as did my grandmother.

Libraries are pillars of democracy. To whittle away these critical institutions would not serve the constituents.

Please take a cold fish eye look at the capital construction projects on the roster to see what is crucial at this time. I know that Google has only offered one million dollars for the pedestrian/bike bridge project. We have a tunnel that needs to be up to code and safe. Then when the coffers are replenished, this project could go forward. Cutting a library for this bridge would be unconscionable. In good times I supported the bridge yet it did seem overpriced, to say the least, and our town has taken flack as many call it a luxurious boondoggle.

I know of some landlords who have cut rent for their tenants to show solidarity.

In the same vein can’t those with salaries of $300,000 or more offer to cut their pay by at least two percent?

I sympathize with the difficult task ahead for the council concerning the budget issues during this crisis. As Albert Einstein said, “Knowledge is nothing without imagination.” Kindly listen to the constituents and do your utmost best to view them as supportive not adversarial.

Sincerely,

Ann Lafargue Balin
Dear council members

I know you have many difficult decisions to make and would not want your job. Still, I am writing to plead for keeping open our little neighborhood treasure, the College Terrace Library. It is the heart of our neighborhood and a premier gathering place for families, elders, homeless and other ordinary folks. Please do not let false economies and this awful virus take away one more thing that nourishes and sustains us.

Perhaps it matters that the building was restored not too long ago to its original Birge Clark beauty and is a treasure in its own right. Please consider saving our wonderful library for its many patrons in College Terrace and those who come from other places to use it.

Karen and Dick Damian
Redacted
Palo Alto, CA 94306
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Please keep the College Terrace library open. It's small but such a wonderful resource for the surrounding neighborhood residents. It's in a pleasant walkable area and has a large and very pleasant outdoor/green area.

Thank you,

Pat Beatty

Mayfield neighborhood resident
Hi,
I hope everyone on this thread has sent their concerns to the City Council.

Please send an email to city.council@cityofpaloalto.org
It is very important that our elected officials hear from all of us!

Thanks,
Eileen Stolee

On Sat, May 9, 2020 at 6:20 PM Ronda Rosner <rondarosner@gmail.com> wrote:
Yes, I'm annoyed that $1.3M can be saved from reducing hours at other branches, yet the city will only save $167K from a complete closure of the CT library. There has to be a better compromise, like reducing the open days for CT from four to three perhaps? A complete closure is too extreme and unfair to our hood!
Ronda, Redacted

"It is strange how new and unexpected conditions bring out unguessed ability to meet them."
~ Edgar Rice Burroughs

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Very best
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Sent from my iPhone

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We have lived in College Terrace for more than 50 years. The branch library is a cultural institution that we have treasured and used, it seems at least once a week, except for the couple of painful years during which it was closed for renovation appreciate its importance to residents of College Terrace and surrounding neighborhoods. The alternatives for us are car rides across town to Rinconada and Mitchell Park libraries, which are increasingly difficult for seniors like ourselves. Parents of young children also depend on the children’s section and the reading-aloud sessions there, including recent, English-learning immigrants and visitors. Please do not close it, not even temporarily. The closure for the pandemic has been hard enough.

Richard and Jane Such, Redacted

--
Doria Summa
(650) 867 7544 Mobile
Dear Council Members,

The College Terrace library plays an irreplaceable role in the college terrace ecosystem. College Terrace is one of the most diverse and accessible Palo Alto neighborhoods for young families with young children. Nestled between Stanford, Page Mill Road corporate offices and the California Avenue corridor, this neighborhood’s hub is Palo Alto’s oldest library. It is the only community institution between the three noted commercial enterprise areas. In addition, what you may not appreciate is how the library contributes to the ecology of the California Ave corridor and farmers market, to Stanford and even to the corporate offices between Page Mill and College Terrace. Image Stanford without Hoover Tower. College Terrace gives Stanford, Page Mill and California Ave the feel of bordering an oasis where children walk the sidewalks carrying books to and from the library attended by their parents pushing a stroller. The library gives the neighborhood dignity, solidity, elegance, tradition. Take it away and suddenly the neighborhood starts feeling like the disappearing remainder of something being squeezed out by commercialism. And the surrounding commercial areas begin to feel like sprawl in the heart of Palo Alto. Meanwhile, all the kids at Escondido Elementary, many not yet old enough to attend, and many more besides will undeniably have the frequency of replenished different books to read substantially diminished and their relationship with and fondness for the library experience as part of American life and values erased without even knowing it. The many elderly living in college terrace also will have their quality of life meaningfully diminished. The entire community, I can tell you, will grieve. (And I dare say that would not be without political consequences.) When it comes to quality of life, some aspects of the ecosystem have a non-quantifiable value that is irreplaceable. The College Terrace Library is one. It would be a huge and destructive mistake for the council to
close this library. I often hear people ask, “What does the city council really do?” Don’t let the only answer they consciously experience be: “They close our library. That’s what they do.” The difference between the library’s budget and the cost of maintaining a wasted asset is small. Surely intelligent leadership can come up with a means for saving this living, vitally contributing heart of a showcase Palo Alto community representative of economic inclusivity, family values, and cultural diversity!

Sincerely,

Hank Edson

6506447160

Sent from my iPhone

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I wholeheartedly agree with my neighbors and friends: we believe keeping the College Terrace is a way to promote community, wonder and happiness during a time of isolation, despair and sadness.

Thank you for your consideration and good luck in your difficult decisions ahead.

Stay safe and healthy,
James Felix Cook

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Sincerely,

Hank Edson

Sent from my iPhone

On May 9, 2020, at 3:20 PM, Pria Graves <priag@birketthouse.com> wrote:

Dear Council Members,

I am very concerned about the proposed closure of the College Terrace Library.
There are four city libraries east of the El Camino/train track corridor plus several community centers, theatre, art center, museum/zoo and various other city-provided facilities. Those of us to the west of the El Camino corridor have only **one: the College Terrace Library**!

This is our **only** facility that provides us with a place to pick up books, use city computers, hold small group gatherings and children’s readings, etc. It is not appropriate that the city should simply shut down this important community resource for two years! This rather feels like a “wrong side of the tracks” approach. I know we are not as numerous or as wealthy as those on the “other side”, but we do matter!

The City talks a great talk about getting folks out of our cars. Yet if you remove our library, we have no way to pick up books, use city computers, hold community meetings, etc. without traveling at least two miles to the nearest facility. And these facilities are **not well served by public transit, particularly at night**!

I am a die-hard user of transit, bikes, and walking. But I will admit that I am uncomfortable attending a meeting at Rinconada or Mitchell Park at night. Crossing El Camino and the tracks on a bike is not a comfortable experience even for one like me who has regularly bicycled “everywhere” for the past 50 years. If the city is serious about getting folks to use alternative modes of transport, you need to keep facilities in less served areas of the city such as College Terrace.

Please do **not** close the College Terrace library!

Regards,

Pria Graves
Redacted
6504932153
Dear Palo Alto City Council,

I'm a resident of College Terrace and I'm writing to express my strong concerns about a proposal to close down operations at the College Terrace Branch of the Palo Alto Library. This library is absolutely a hub of our community and its closure could have a devastating impact on the neighborhood's cohesion.

While I understand the very difficult fiscal situation facing the city, I hope there may be other creative ways we could make up the shortfall. For example, instead of closing this branch of the library, perhaps further curtail the number of days it is open per week from 4 to 3. Or perhaps delay the planned improvements to Cameron Park.

I truly hope you will take this into consideration in working with the City Manager on the final decision. The coronavirus crisis is undoubtedly going to have a big impact on our municipality, but as we figure out what the new normal will look like, let's be sure not to permanently erode the infrastructure that makes our communities vibrant.

Best,
Samidh Chakrabarti
Hi,

I am shocked and saddened to see that it is being proposed that the College Terrace Library be closed. This library is the only library this side of El Camino. It is a library many people can walk or bike to, and it is a special and beloved community resource.

Furthermore, the city has spent huge amounts of money on other city libraries, so it seems ridiculous and vastly unfair to try to cut the relatively low expense of our local library. The College Terrace Library is the only community building available to College Terrace and the nearby neighborhoods.

I urge you to take the library off the list of expenses considered for being cut. It would be very unfair, and it would be a shame to stop supporting this relatively inexpensive neighborhood treasure.

With best wishes,

Britta Erickson

--

Britta Erickson, PhD

Redacted, Palo Alto, CA 94306
From: Sally Heaton <x40trout@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 6:21 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: College Terrace Library

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

Dear City Council,
I urge you to keep the College Terrace Library open. We love it, use it, and it is a big part of keeping the Terrace a walkable neighborhood.
Thank you,
William Heaton
Bowdoin Street

Sent from my iPad
Yes, I’m annoyed that $1.3M can be saved from reducing hours at other branches, yet the city will only save $167K from a complete closure of the CT library. There has to be a better compromise, like reducing the open days for CT from four to three perhaps? A complete closure is too extreme and unfair to our hood!

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Richard and Jane Such, Redacted

--
Doria Summa
(650) 867 7544 Mobile
Dear City council

Many of us who live in CT love our library.

It has been an important community focus for many of the Seniors, families and school students who live at this side of El Camino for many years.

I suspect the usage you know of is only about books borrowed and not those users who use the facility for reading, computers etc.

We know the City Council and all residents are wanting to reduce traffic and you probably shouldn’t be closing the library and generating more cross town traffic.

While I and many others appreciate the need for budget cuts, I and many others who you may not hear from until it closes, request you look elsewhere for budget cuts.

Thanks for your consideration,

Anne Schmitt
Dear Council Members,
I am very concerned about the proposed closure of the College Terrace Library.

There are four city libraries east of the El Camino/train track corridor plus several community centers, theatre, art center, museum/zoo and various other city-provided facilities. Those of us to the west of the El Camino corridor have only **one: the College Terrace Library!**

This is the **only** facility that provides us with a place to pick up books, use city computers, hold small group gatherings and children’s readings, etc. It is not fair that the city should simply shut down this important community resource for two years when seniors like myself depend on being able to walk to the nearest library. Our needs are not expendable, even if we don't deliver as many tax dollars as our neighbors on the other side of the CalTrain tracks.

Please do NOT close the College Terrace library!

Regards,
Suzanne Doyle
Hanover St.
Palo Alto, CA 94306
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Pria Graves
Redacted
6504932153
Hello,

I was extremely disappointed that the closure of the College Terrace library is once again being discussed and considered. As a resident of College Terrace (20 years now), my family and I are frequent visitors. I go there every weekend to pick up books and read magazines.

After all the high property taxes, it is amazing that the city can't provide a basic and simple service like a library in my neighborhood. Accessing other libraries requires driving. I think that as part of the city's environmental and sustainability efforts, the officials would consider expanding more services like this that are accessible by bike and/or foot.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to express my disappointment.
Shashi Sastry
Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask that you please keep our valuable community asset open during these difficult times.

We will be living with the coronavirus for some time (perhaps years) and having our beloved library open is very important to all of us. Neighbors of all ages use this library!

As a long time resident of College Terrace, I would be willing to head up a fundraising campaign if that's what it takes to keep our library open. The cost of $170k a year is less than $100 per College Terrace household.

So many seniors in our neighborhood love walking to the library and children enjoy picking out books. This can be done in a safe way while we are still all staying home.

Thank you in advance for listening to our concerns.

Sincerely,
Eileen and Richard Stolee
Redacted
Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask that you please keep our valuable community asset open during these difficult times.

We will be living with the coronavirus for some time and having our beloved library open is very important to all of us. Neighbors of all ages use this library!

As a long time resident of College Terrace, I would be willing to head up a fundraising campaign if that’s what it takes to keep our library open. The cost of $170k a year is less than $100 per College Terrace household.

So many seniors in our neighborhood love walking to the library and children enjoy picking out books. This can be done in a safe way while we are still all staying home.

Thank you in advance for listening to our concerns.

Sincerely,
Eileen and Richard Stolee
On Fri, May 8, 2020 at 10:30 PM Karen Price <rolfingduo@earthlink.net> wrote:
Adding my voice of support. I’ve been looking forward to the library reopening as soon as deemed safe. The staff as well as the access to books are a treasured part of my life. I can also volunteer if needed.

Karen Price

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2020, at 9:49 PM, Brent Barker <brentgbarker@gmail.com> wrote:

We also strongly agree!!! We have lived here for 42 years and use College Terrace Library all the time and will do all we can to support it!!!

Brent and Jane

On Fri, May 8, 2020 at 7:50 PM James Cook <jamesfelixcook@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear City Council Members,

I wholeheartedly agree with my neighbors and friends: we believe keeping the College Terrace is a way to promote community, wonder and happiness during a time of isolation, despair and sadness.

Thank you for your consideration and good luck in your difficult decisions ahead.

Stay safe and healthy,
James Felix Cook

On May 8, 2020, at 6:03 PM, doria s <doriasumma@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree
And i will do all I can to maintain this community asset from unnecessarily being shut down for false economies.
Very best
Doria

On Fri, May 8, 2020 at 5:35 PM Annette Ross <port2103@att.net> wrote:

Fully agree and would gladly volunteer there. There are going to be myriad changes to our community b/c of Covid; let’s not toss the cherished community-building treasures of our community.

It is important that CC (and other levels of government) not use Covid as a means to an end for certain pre-Covid agendas. Community preservation is critical now precisely b/c of the economic jolt. And neighborhood libraries may well be a primary resource for many Palo Altans once they reopen.

Sent from my iPhone
On May 8, 2020, at 4:31 PM, Richard Such <wrichardsuch@gmail.com> wrote:

We have lived in College Terrace for more than 50 years. The branch library is a cultural institution that we have treasured and used, it seems at least once a week, except for the couple of painful years during which it was closed for renovation. We appreciate its importance to residents of College Terrace and surrounding neighborhoods. The alternatives for us are car rides across town to Rinconada and Mitchell Park libraries, which are increasingly difficult for seniors like ourselves. Parents of young children also depend on the children’s section and the reading-aloud sessions there, including recent, English-learning immigrants and visitors. Please do not close it, not even temporarily. The closure for the pandemic has been hard enough.

Richard and Jane Such, Redacted

--
Doria Summa
(650) 867 7544 Mobile

--
Brent Barker
Freelance Writer
650-813-9433
650-388-0927 (cell)
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

______________________________

YES- YES -YES

KEEPING COLLEGE TERRACE LIBRARY OPEN IS ESSENTIAL FOR EVERYONE
IN THIS DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING TIMES.

COLLEGE TERRACE LIBRARY IS A TREASURE.

PART COMMUNITY CENTER-LIBRARY AND KINDERGARTEN.

THE CITY SPEND MILLIONS IN RESTORING THE OLDEST LIBRARY IN TOWN.

WHICH WAS WONDERFUL. WE HAVE TO USE IT.

MANY SENIORS CAN WALK TO THE LIBRARY. WHAT A TREAT FOR PEOPLE
AT STANFORD, BARRON PARK, VENTUREA, EVERGREEN AND COLLEGE TERRACE

OUR VALUED AMENITY THE COLLEGE TERRACE LIBRARY IS NOT FOR SALE.

PLEASE FIND ANOTHER WAY TO GET THE $ 167,550.

WE HAVE BIG BUSINESS IN PALO ALTO TO GET THE REVENUE FROM

GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, AMAZON MIGHT MAKE A DONATION?

BE SMART AND KIND TO OUR COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU.

ULLA MICK

Redacted

PALO ALTO, CA 94306
Hi, I just want to write an email in STRONG support to preserve the college terrace library. We live on California and Bowdoin and the college terrace library is essential for my wife and I as well as our elderly parents. This library hardly makes a dent in the budget and it is a very important part of our community.

Sincerely

James Zou
Dear city Council Members,

As a resident and homeowner in College Terrace I beg you not to close our library. It binds our neighborhood together and is the greatest asset to our neighborhood.

We specifically bought this house in this location because it was affordable and right near the library. Something that is the number one reason we love College Terrace.

This neighborhood is being ravaged by tear downs and unoccupied houses. We need some sense of community to keep this a livable area. Sometimes I feel like we are a highway to Stanford and all these cars make it seem like it is not very livable. People can still walk to the library (our grocery store that you promised is gone).

Finally if you leave the building unoccupied for 2 years it will leave the building open to vandals and disrepair. An eyesore that might cost a lot to bring back to habitable unless this is the first step in closure. (Which is really awful.) This is all about quality of life and love for the community.

Please leave our community vibrant and livable. You all make so much money please do not take from the community what it needs to be livable. Please give back.

Thank you, Carolyn Sledge

A resident and homeowner in College Terrace neighborhood.
Dear Council Members,
I hope this email finds you well and safe. I recently came across an article concerning the proposal of closure for the College Terrace library. I am writing to you to voice out my concerns as the library has been the reason of why we moved in the area and are staying in an apartment with less amenities. I have a toddler age child who absolutely loves going there to play and does not miss her story time. It would be next to impossible for me to drive her elsewhere and opting for Uber or Lyft is just discouraging when I think of loading and unloading the car seats and strollers. While I understand that it must have been tough to come to such a proposal, I hope that a solution is found even if it is reducing the few days that the Library is open to public.
Thank you for reading, stay safe.
Kind regards
Heema Moolchand
Hello City Council,
Please support “transparent” government!
The proposal to close our library for 2 TWO YEARS is a travesty, & unsatisfactory Proposal!!!
Where are the discussions?
Where is the request for public interest in this matter??? The first we heard of this was from an email on Thursday.
Doing this during the pandemic is beyond disgusting. The library is our community gathering spot. We love & cherish our library, and DO NOT feel that one (very overpaid) city manager should make this monumental decision without neighborhood input!
Please note: (In case you forgot)
CT Library was closed for renovation.... it dragged on nearly TWO YEARS!
Please do NOT do this to us again.
If a decision to close a library is necessary.... Please choose another branch.... not the poor STEP child again!
Thank you,
Patty Hartsell
Oberlin St.
Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council,

As a frequent user of the Palo Alto library system, I am a firm believer in access to information. The library does a wonderful job of providing books, movies, and internet access for everyone in the community, no matter their age or socioeconomic status. Not only are we so fortunate to have access to such great resources like Axis and Link+, the staff of the libraries are incredibly helpful and knowledgeable. The library is an important institution in our community that inspires intellectual curiosity and encourages lifelong learning.

I do not envy you the tough budget choices you will need to make; I hope that the libraries will remain an essential service for the city of Palo Alto.

Sincerely,
Marie Mookini
Council Members:

Are you aware of this survey, which is supposed to provide feedback to you on where to make budget cuts?

https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/5/Issue_8742/survey_responses/new

I know I’m not the only one who couldn’t figure out how to take this one-question survey. And note the results as of yesterday (at the bottom). Neighborhood, Community and Library Services comes in at #2!

This is a poorly designed survey and should not be used in your deliberations on budgets.

Pat Marriott  Palo Alto property owner

It’s not clear how to register priorities. This is what comes up on the screen. I immediately went to the +/- buttons and put a 1 for Public Safety.

But after I did some ratings, the +/- buttons on the other items wouldn’t register. It was only when I inadvertently passed the cursor over the dots did I see this notice:
Is this what we’ve come to after all the public engagement meetings with Post-It Notes and putting colored dots on maps?

Surely I’m not the only one who isn’t clear on this concept. So is the current “score” accurate? It puts neighborhood services ahead of infrastructure and planning!!!

**How would you prioritize the City’s six service areas?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure and Environment</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Transportation</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Sustainability and Business Support</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood, Community and Library Services</td>
<td><strong>21.0%</strong></td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Government</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If Council takes this seriously, we’re in real trouble!

Thanks,

pat
The City is going to have a huge budget deficit this year and probably next as well, and yet we are going to spend up to $18M on a bike bridge that we DON'T NEED. We already have a tunnel at that location that is open at least half the year, and the other times people can cross at San Antonio or Oregon Expwy. I am an avid cyclist and use the Baylands multiple times a week, often going through the Tunnel. We have lived fine for this long without the bridge, let's not take money away from Public Safety and other areas that everyone uses so that a small number of vocal citizens can spend millions on a bridge that can be postponed. DON'T START THE CONSTRUCTION.

Dan Mahoney
Redacted

--
Dan Mahoney
dan@mahoney.net
Hello,

The College Terrace Public Library is a critical resource for our family and other families in our neighborhood. From safe spaces for kids to free WiFi for those who need it and can’t afford it at home (job hunting/homework), the city council must consider other options that don’t take away direct community resources that so personally impact our neighbor’s lives. In fact, the city should adjust the library’s hours later and longer so more working families can use these resources later into the evening.

Budget cuts can and must be taken elsewhere! A few extra cracked sidewalks oaren’t going to hurt us.

Thanks,

Amanda Anderson & Jeremy VanScoyoc
Redacted
Palo Alto 94306
From: Emily Renzel <marshmama2@att.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 6:46 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please support the History Museum
Attachments: letter re history museum.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.
I would like my following comments displayed on the OpenGov website WITH my name. The OpenGov site would NOT accept my comments because I refuse to prioritize our City's six service areas.

Edward K. Shikada
Palo Alto City Manager

Dear Ed,

Here is my simple two-pronged proposal, which comfortably satisfies the need for balancing the $43M City budget deficit, for the fiscal year, starting July 2020.

SOLUTION

(1.) **Delay construction on the brand-new $150M police station** - Palo Altans voted "NO!"
(2.) **Shelve tasers** - Eliminate police training, lawsuits, maintenance and new purchases.

RESOURCES

For background knowledge, I offer two speakers.

(1.) Danielle Martell is a former City Council Candidate twice over.

   For fifteen years plus (15+), I have researched, spoken publicly against, written articles against, and campaigned against an opulent brand-new Police Station, and police use of tasers, making me a specialist in both fields. On moment's notice, I welcome, and am eager, to present, and to open discussion, either individually or with groups.

(2.) Aram James, JD, is a retired civil rights attorney, active in City Politics.
Palo Alto's native Aram James, former Santa Clara County Public Defender and diligent Police Watchdog, is recognized nationally for his extensive knowledge on, and advocacy against, tasers. Attorney James is an excellent keynote speaker, has published widely, and is available for conference.

**OPPOSITION**

As a life-long advocate for seniors and the disabled, I oppose withdrawing, or delaying, ANY funding for sidewalk maintenance.

1. Wheelchairs and walkers demand adequately safe sidewalks.
2. Older adults tend to trip and fall easily, causing injuries such as scraping thin skin, breaking fragile bones, and chipping teeth.

**APPRECIATION**

Thank you for all you do to help Palo Alto through this difficult time. I appreciate your long hours of service and dedication. I'm familiar with our City's compensation for your efforts, and don't feel we are paying you enough.

Very truly yours,
-Danielle
---------------------
Danielle Martell
Palo Alto City Council Candidate 2016 & 2005
dmPaloAlto@gmail.com
May 10, 2020

Dear City Council,

The College Terrace Residents’ Association (CTRA) has reviewed the May 7 City Council City Staff report outlining amendments to the proposed FY 2021 budget and urges the Council to reject the proposal to close the College Terrace Library.

Built in 1936, and fully renovated just ten years ago, the College Terrace Library is the oldest and smallest of the Palo Alto library system’s five branch libraries. As the City’s only community center located west of El Camino Real, the College Terrace Library is a vital hub and gathering place for residents on this side of the city.

Families with young children listen to storytime and escape the heat on warm summer days, students stop in after school to do homework in the reading room, neighbors catch up while passing through, and, of course, people come to check out books. (Enough that, according to the library’s own report, it’s the only branch where checkouts increased year over year.)

As our community begins to slowly emerge from the isolation of shelter-in-place, we will need more places to gather and reconnect, not fewer. It would be incredibly heartbreaking and short-sighted to lose this long-standing civic gem at the very time when we need it the most. We implore you to keep the College Terrace Library open.

Sincerely,

Chris Saccheri
President, College Terrace Residents’ Association
Dear Mayor Adrian Fine and Council Members:

We find it very discouraging, in view of the significant decrease in city revenues caused by Covid-19, that plans are going ahead to grant raises to city staff. These raises were set in pre-Covid-19 economic times and should not be activated now.

Giving raises at a time when cuts need to be made to balance the budget, will create a very bad impression of council priorities. There is also the additional budget shortfall these raises will add to the underfunded pension fund.

Please act responsibly and consider across the board salary cuts before raises and the cutting of city services.

Thanks you.

Sincerely,

Pearl and Henry Karrer

Palo Alto, CA 94301
Hello Council Members,
My suggestions for budget attached
Annette
To all: (Happy Mother’s Day)

Is cutting $39 million too much or too little?

How would the City Council know?

Maybe I missed the detailed supporting evidence, the FY 2020 actuals, and the detailed FY 2020 and FY 2021 forecasts on which this $39 million of cuts was based.

Without that information, it’s hard to know if $39 million is too much, or too little.

The state of California says it faces a deficit of 37% of its current general fund budget.

SACRAMENTO — California faces a $54.3 billion deficit as the coronavirus pandemic hammers the economy, the state’s worst budget gap since the Great Recession, state finance officials said Thursday.

The shortfall is almost 37 percent of the current $147.8 billion general fund budget and foretells widespread program cuts absent a federal bailout.

https://www.politico.com/states/california/story/2020/05/07/california-faces-54b-budget-deficit-1282926

Is $39 million 37% of Palo Alto’s FY 2021 general fund budget expenditures? No, it’s 16%.

($39M /$238.8M = 16% -- $238.8 million is FY2021’s proposed general fund expenditure budget http://cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/76264).

While the state and city are different, with different tax revenue sources, still, a 37% projected shortfall at the state is a good gut check for the City.

So, the question remains, is $39 million too much or too little?

The City Council of Santa Monica seems to have more information to work with:

Finance Department Director Gigi Decavalles-Hughes said projections show a 14% decrease in sales tax revenue next fiscal year and a similar decrease in the current fiscal year. The city’s fiscal years last from July 1 through June 30.
Decavalles-Hughes said hotel taxes are down 21% this fiscal year and are projected to drop 42% next fiscal year. Parking revenues, including fines, have declined 9% this fiscal year and will fall nearly 22% next fiscal year. During the coronavirus shutdowns, the city has been taking in about 5% to 10% of typical parking revenues, Decavalles-Hughes said.

https://www.smdp.com/santa-monica-layoffs-budget-cuts/190393

Where are the City of Palo Alto's forecasts and actuals?

And what about Calpers investment losses, and predicted property tax revenue declines....how will those impact City revenues?

Staff clearly tried to herd the City Council into choosing Scenario B in this process, and now staff seems to be trying to herd the Council into cutting --- no more than -- $39 million without supplying supporting information.

But is cutting $39 million too much? Or too little? And what if things go south?

Shouldn't the numerous and highly paid City staff, with an average compensation of $232,000, provide more information?

Or is that the point?

"Newsom said Wednesday that he expects a prolonged economic downturn. The Finance document suggests that income losses will be far deeper than during the Great Recession more than a decade ago."

"It's going to take longer than I think a lot of people think," Newsom said.

"We've never experienced anything like this in our lifetime," he said, adding that the national unemployment rate will soar to "Depression-era numbers."

"California budget experts say it is likely the Legislature will have to build in contingencies, such as trigger cuts, in case the revenue decline worsens. The Legislature might have to rewrite the budget at least once in the fiscal year, as happened in 2008-09 during the last recession."

https://www.politico.com/states/california/story/2020/05/07/california-faces-54b-budget-deficit-1282926

Trigger cuts sound like a good idea, particularly if the Council is flying blind.

Cuts based on a too high FY 2021 budget anchored to a too high FY 2020 budget that no longer adds up makes no sense.

Neither do increased taxes or fees.

Thanks for listening.

Best,

Kathy Jordan
Dear Mayor Fine and Council Members Cormack, DuBois, Filseth, Kniss, Kou, and Tanaka:

I am writing to you today to encourage you to continue to support the Palo Alto Museum’s use of the Roth Building.

I have a heartfelt personal interest in the museum. As you know, my late husband, Gary Fazzino (Two time former Mayor and longtime member of the City Council) was an ardent supporter of this project. He contributed his leadership and passion for the project and we contributed together financially, as well. I continue to support the museum in this way, in his memory and for the benefit of our children. Gary and I always felt that understanding history makes us better. History inspires the present and the future. We learn what makes our community special and what brings us all together. This project remains close to my heart and the hearts of my children.

Palo Alto’s history is rich and diverse. For a city of merely +/- 65,000 people, our home town is known throughout the world. And, why? It’s because of our innovative and creative roots and lasting worldwide leadership. From Stanford University to launching Silicon Valley, Palo Alto is a mecca for many. People want to visit, to live, and to be inspired here. If our stories are not preserved, they will die quietly and anonymously. We need to share with our citizens, children, and visitors all of the wonderful things that have happened here. By sharing our history, we build our community and share the path for the next generation to continue to be leaders and innovators.

The Roth Building is the perfect place to share our history. It’s surrounded by Heritage Park and the building itself is historic. Please support the Palo Alto Museum and its use and preservation of the historic Roth Building. Let the Palo Alto Museum’s presence in its rightful place in the Roth Building be a light and beacon to the community. Let it inspire, nurture, and educate our youth, citizens, and visitors. Doing so will build community, goodwill, culture, and pride in Palo Alto.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annette Evans Fazzino
(650) 799-7414
I read in (ID # 11322) that the city is considering massive budget cuts, in light of the pandemic. If so, why is the city moving forward with the 101 overpass that will force the closure of the Benjamin Lefkowitz underpass? Wouldn't it be better to re-allocate that money to something that you are proposing to cut?

I realize that the underpass was only opened temporarily. That being said, it is really heavily used by people who want to get out and exercise.

It just seems, for many reasons, that given our situation, it makes sense to postpone the overpass project and keep the underpass open.

Thanks
Eddie Gornish
Dear council members:

I realize budget cuts need to be made. May I suggest completely de-funding the downtown parking garage?

The parking garage wastes taxes for a number of reasons:

1) While the citizens are being asked to pay for this albatross, downtown businesses and the car companies are the obvious beneficiaries. If local businesses and the auto industry really believed the parking garage was worth the money, they would have paid for it themselves. I think the Palo Alto city council should be as careful with my money as the local businesses are with theirs.

2) A popular complaint in Palo Alto is traffic, and for good reason. Yet building a parking garage will only exacerbate our traffic woes.

3) Global warming is a scientifically accepted theory. Building a parking garage not only generates massive greenhouse gasses but also encourages the most polluting form or transportation: single passenger vehicles.

I hope you will agree with me and de-fund the down town parking garage. Eliminating this line item will save the city $5.1 million, or almost eighty dollars per person.

All the best,

Chris Cocca
To Honorable Members of the Palo Alto City Council:

We request you to seriously explore multiple ways of closing the budget gap, not simply cutting programs.

1) The Federal Government may provide new stimulus funds to State and Local governments. They certainly should do so, after bailing out Wall Street and funneling $700B into business loans. My understanding is the House is working on a bill with funding for governments.

2) Large companies, for example Palantir, and many others have plenty of financial resources and put their offices here because they, and their employees like being here. They depend upon City services - police and fire, and their employees create more needs for infrastructure and services, whether it's parking garages, traffic demand management, and some use Caltrain, hence benefit from grade separation, as well as housing. This is the time to enact an office-business employee fee.

   Mountain View enacted a tax this year expected to bring in $6M, for example.
   https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/01/01/mountain-views-employee-head-tax-goes-into-effect-google-to-pay-3-3-million-a-year/

   $150 / employee / year is a tiny fraction of the cost of an employee at these companies - and if it's not worth it to them, they don't value being here very much anyway.

3) Consider temporarily adjusting salaries / annual compensation of City Employees. Many private enterprises are requiring employees take paid time off and / or reduced salaries.

   Avoid knee-jerk reactions.

Keith and Atsuko Bennett
Honorable City Council Members,

Cuts of this magnitude are painful. I trust you will do your best to consider the needs of our many residents, including about 6,000 young people who walk and pedal to PAUSD schools and some of us older folks who like to pedal, too. I will try to provide information that will help you prioritize.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS), The Essentials To Support Continued Success:
Here are three things we absolutely cannot do without if we are to continue to make Safe Routes to School work:

1. **Safe Routes to School Team In Transportation**— Volunteers constantly turn over as their children move through the school system. The two SRTS staff provide continuity that holds the program together over time. Without them, our k-8 traffic safety education programs and events would not get off the ground in an organized way at every school every year. Their work is the catalyst that releases the powerful synergies of partnership—an army of parent volunteers, site administrators and teachers who share information, work together to solve traffic safety problems, give their time and enthusiastically encourage families to try new, active, healthy sustainable ways to commute to school. These staffers keep the team focused on the 6 E’s: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement, Equity, and Evaluation. They provide institutionalized structure and support for our extraordinarily successful, comprehensive TDM program. They also crunch the data that volunteers gather.

2. **Crossing Guards**— Crossing guards make sure children don’t start to cross until drivers stop. They make sure drivers wait as long as necessary to enable little people with short legs to cross wide intersections so families can feel comfortable about walking and biking to school, especially during the busy morning peak hour. The Guards make these critical school crossings VISIBLE so drivers notice them. Guards are only located at studied, city-warranted locations. The majority of these locations are very high traffic volume intersections. Six are on El Camino Real (a State highway). Two on Alma Expressway, 10 on arterial streets like Charleston, Arastradero, Middlefield, Embarcadero. The remainder are on busy collectors and other intersections without controls or with high turning movements or crash histories. These are intersections where we cannot deploy volunteers. Has CoPA initiated discussions with PAUSD about sharing some of these costs?

3. **PAPD Traffic Team**—From past experience, I’m guessing it is likely that if Traffic Team is eliminated, the officers may be rolled into regular patrol. **If this happens, it will be critically important to:**

   a. make sure there is a PAPD Liaison to the City School Traffic Safety Committee to maintain the working partnership relationship with PAPD and regular patrol, and

   b. put a HOLD on the Traffic Team positions as was done during the Great Recession when the city cut the Traffic Team. This way, Traffic Team positions can be refilled more easily when budget problems are resolved.

Here are some items that merit very careful consideration:
1. City of Palo Alto Shuttles
   a. Crosstown Shuttle-- (used by some Greene and JLS students)
   b. Embarcadero Shuttle—(used by some Paly students)

I don’t know how many students are using the Shuttle these days, so I can’t comment on how eliminating Shuttles might impact the SRTS program. This may be a good question for staff. The data isn’t parsed in a way that makes it clear who is riding and what times of day. (seniors, students, others?)

2). Certain engineering projects would greatly improve school route safety and bike/walking conditions for everyone:
   a. Bicycle Boulevards
   b. Completion of Charleston-Arastradero Plan— If you need to postpone some portion of this development mitigation project, please choose to prioritize constructing the highest volume intersections first. This is where the crashes are. The bike lane gap on the approaches to and through the seven-lane El Camino Real intersection remains a serious hazard. Imagine pedaling across seven lanes of El Camino Real with NO bike lane. Fulfill the promise that was made at the beginning of this project when the city struck a deal with residents that they would mitigate the aggregate traffic safety impacts of the development that was approved and built. The promise was—continuous bicycle lanes the entire length of the School Commute Corridor, Fabian to Miranda.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Penny Ellson
Dear City Council members:

I hope all of you and your families are doing well in this crazy environment we find ourselves in. I am writing this note to express some thoughts on the Palo Alto Art Center. My engagement at this art center is two fold - first as an avid potter, spending most Sunday's in the ceramics studio, and also as a board member and Vice president of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation.

I am one of many technology leaders in the Silicon Valley who have found the PaaC a haven - an oasis in our tech infused world. It helps balance the highly driven / logical / data oriented 'day' job with the more creative soft-touch and empathetic world of art. I can say this with strong conviction - the art center with it's strong sense of community & positive reinforcement culture helps me be a better technology and people leader at various tech startups I have been involved in.

I am also very aware of budget shortfalls - it's a reality in this un-precedented crises. The city council has to balance the budget and will have many tough choices to make. This note is to simply request that you keep in mind the significant positive impact the art center has on the community as you make these choices. I'm convinced it will have an even stronger role to play as we start the recovery journey ..... 

Regards,

Gurmeet Lamba
Board Member & VP, Palo Alto Art Center Foundation
glamba@gmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/glamba/
Dear Members of the City Council,

I have children in 5th grade at Walter Hays Elementary School and 6th and 8th grades at Greene Middle School. We have biked to school every day it does not rain, and if it does rain, we walk to school. We appreciate the Palo Alto Safe Routes to School Team in all of its efforts to educate our students about how to safely ride bikes and navigate our streets.

We live in Old Palo Alto, so my children have had to cross both Embarcadero and Middlefield twice a day to get to and from school. That is an intersection with heavy traffic in all directions, and young children must be able to navigate it. Please remember that starting third grade (around eight years of age), students are allowed to walk/bike themselves to and from school. These students do not always look to make sure that vehicle traffic stops when it is supposed to. They may just enter the intersection when they get a green light, even if a car (running a red light) is coming.

It is not safe for these young children to cross that intersection without the aid of a crossing guard. Please make sure to fund the crossing guards contract. We also request that you maintain funding for the Safe Routes to School Team. Thank you very much.

Regards,

Satomi Okazaki
Dear Mayor Fine, Vice Mayor DuBois, and Councilmembers Cormack, Filseth, Kniss, Kou and Tanaka:

I support the establishment of the Palo Alto History Museum in the historic Roth Building. Please reinstate the lease option agreement and make a place in the city’s budget for the funds necessary to start the rehabilitation of the Roth Building.

Having a local, accessible history museum would add to the richness that is Palo Alto. Knowing the past of a place helps to understand how the place got to where it is today and provides a grounding which allows thoughtful movement towards tomorrow. Palo Alto needs a place where all residents can see the history of the city and see themselves both in that history and as part of creating a desirable future for the city.

In my almost 32 years here, my involvement with PTAs in Palo Alto, the Girl Scouts of Palo Alto, the Junior League of Palo Alto-Midpeninsula, the YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund, Abilities United and other non-profits has made me keenly aware of the depth of caring in the community. Having a museum that shares that with the community and the world is an undeniably good thing.

The city has had many partnerships (Avenidas, the Junior Museum and Zoo and the Art Center, for example) over the years that serve the residents so well. The PAHM would be a fine addition to the list, adding a new thread to the beautiful tapestry that is Palo Alto.

The many hundreds of donors and supporters of the PAHM have shown by their actions that Palo Alto should have a museum. Please work with them to complete the reality and fund the shortfall that would bring the Museum in the historic Roth Building to fruition. Having the Palo Alto History Museum will allow us all to be our best selves.

Thank you for your consideration, Marcie Brown
Dear Council,

please see my enclosed letter of support for the Palo Alto History Museum.

Thank you,

Roxy
5/11/20

Dear Mayor Fine, Vice Mayor du Bois and Council,

I am writing in support of the Palo Alto History Museum. As an artist and retired teacher in the PAUSD, I feel it is imperative we have an appropriate venue to share and showcase the stories of this city. My late husband, Greg Brown, felt strongly that our "hometown" have a special place where generations might come to appreciate our unique history. He planned to paint a mural celebrating Palo Alto’s Culture at the site.

The remodeled Art Center and the Junior Museum serve to entertain and educate both our citizens and visitors alike. It is time for the Palo Alto History Museum to take its rightful place beside them.

Thank you,
Julie Brown
May 11, 2020

Via Email to Members of the Palo Alto City Council:

Adrian Fine, Mayor Adrian.fine@cityofpaloalto.org

Tom DuBois, Vice Mayor tom.dubois@cityofpaloalto.org

Alison Cormack alison.cormack@cityofpaloalto.org

Eric Filseth eric.filseth@cityofpaloalto.org

Liz Kniss, Art Center Council liaison liz.kniss@cityofpaloalto.org

Lydia Kou Lydia.kou@cityofpaloalto.org

Greg Tanaka greg.tanaka@cityofpaloalto.org

Re: Budget Decisions Relating to the Palo Alto Art Center

Dear Council Members:

My name is Richard Yankwich. I live at 1490 Edgewood Dr., in the Crescent Park neighborhood of Palo Alto. I have been a patron of the Palo Alto Art Center for the past 36 years. From approximately 1988 to 2000, I was a member of the Board of Directors of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation (PAACF), and for ten years served as its President. I am a long-time supporter of the Art Center and of various other community organizations in Palo Alto.

I realize that all aspects of the city budget must be closely scrutinized in light of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, I believe that the Art Center is a valued institution within our community, with a unique history and a special relationship with the City. There are strong reasons why the City Council should, at the very least, provide sufficient financial support to ensure the continued viability of the Arts Center and its programs.

First, the programs of the Art Center are a hallmark of what we want Palo Alto to be. Its outreach programs, its flexible and utilitarian facilities, and its educational exhibits and classes are invaluable community assets. Through Cultural
Kaleidoscope, Project Look! and similar programs, the Art Center encourages community involvement and builds positive relationships with our neighbors in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Mountain View. Art Center facilities are used for exhibits and classes, but also for government and community meetings and events. And the educational opportunities offered through the Art Center enhance continuous learning for all ages and have made up for programs that have been eliminated in our schools.

Second, the Art Center is the evolving product of a movement toward public/private partnerships in Palo Alto. Nearly 30 years ago, when the City Council was considering eliminating the position of the Art Center Director during another time of budgetary stress, the PAACF stepped up with private, supplemental funding that allowed the hiring of a new Director. Rather than withering away, the Art Center grew into a community gem, ushering in a golden era of community programs and engagement. Few if any other city assets have as committed a community of private donors as does the Art Center. Members of the PAACF stand ready to work with the City Council to support the Art Center, its facilities, its staff and its programs, as they have before.

Finally, the unique public/private partnership that already exists with the PAACF obliges the City Council to give the Art Center special consideration within the budget process. Over the past 30 years, the PAACF has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in private funds to evaluate, redesign, and make capital improvements to the Art Center grounds and building. Although the Art Center facility is certainly publicly owned, it also is very much privately supported. Implicit in this public/private partnership is a commitment by the City to continue to maintain and support the Art Center, its staff and its programs, so as to achieve its intended purpose.

The City Council must act responsibly in preparing its budget, and may well ask all city programs, including the Art Center, to accept cuts. Nevertheless, I strongly urge the City Council to maintain adequate financial support of the Art Center, its programs and staff. As needed, the City Council should work directly with the PAACF to extend their public/private partnership to address the budgetary problems brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Richard I. Yankwich

cc: Karen Kienzle, Art Center Director
Hello City Council and City Manager -

I do not understand why a town would want to lay off Police Officers or FireFighters/Paramedics when there are employees, such as the Art Center, who work at looking busy when, in fact, they have very little to do.

When we want firefighters and/or paramedics, we want them now not a hour or so later.

When departments/divisions (or whatever each group is called) has a budget and does not spend all that money, they have to return the money and will not receive it in the next fiscal year. So, they run around looking for ways to spend that money which is a WASTE of money.

The City needs to be run more efficiently which it has not been for many years. When employees sit around and/or run around trying to look busy, they are the employees who are not needed.

I know that it is hard to be efficient when there is not a need to act like a for profit organization. Government is inefficient. Palo Alto needs to get a grip.

We had 9 City Council members when members, except residents, said that would having 7 members would not work. Maybe we should have fewer members as larger towns have.

Andrea Smith
Redacted
Dear Mayor Fine and Council Members:

I urge Council to reverse their previous decision to offer a new RFP for the Roth Building. Please vote to supply the necessary funds to bring that historic building up to code and open it as the Palo Alto History Museum. That is in the City's interest.

As a long time resident, I regret that I cannot take visitors, or my grandchildren, to a place where they can learn about the rich history of Palo Alto.

As founder of AAUW Tech Trek STEM Camps for Girls, I assure you that young people are interested in history. In 22 years, we have hosted, on college campuses, 17,000 rising 8th grade young women on full scholarships. A portion of the program is instruction about the history of women in math and science. It ignites a spark of excitement when they learn that significant discoveries have been made by women since at least 1900 BCE. The girls of Palo Alto should have one destination where they can be inspired by the accomplishments of Palo Alto's women.

Throughout our city's history, many women and men have made important contributions. With additional funding from the City, and the already committed funds from private donors, we will provide a place where all our students and citizens can learn those stories.

Thank you.
Marie Wolbach
Palo Alto, CA  94303
Hello to whoever this may concern,
I am a peer leader for the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative. I'm 17 years old and a junior at PALY. As a peer leader, I'm helping to connect isolated students and share information about dealing with depression and anxiety. We are learning together to speak to mental health issues with our peers; students pay more attention to the words of others students. During the school year, we planned and put on community events that brought the community together in fun and informative ways. We are currently using Zoom, videos, and social media to reach students despite the COVID shutdown. In the community, we have worked with wellness centers Project Safety Net, Allcove, Stanford professors like Dr. Shashank Joshi, and more. Please don't cut our funding because we are making a difference at a critical time, working with all our partners.
Thank you,
Gwyn Wong

--
Best,
Gwyn Wong
Hi there,
I am a peer leader for the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative. I'm 16 years old and a student at Palo Alto High School. As a peer leader, I'm helping to connect isolated students and share information about dealing with depression and anxiety. We're learning together to speak to mental health issues with our peers; students pay more attention to the words of other students. During the school year, we planned and put on community events that brought the community together in fun and informative ways. We're currently using Zoom, videos, and social media to reach students despite the COVID shutdown. In the community, we have worked with the wellness centers, Project Safety Net, Allcove, Stanford professors like Dr. Shashank Joshi, and more. Please don't cut our funding because we are making a difference at a critical time, working with all our partners. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ashley Qiu
Palo Alto High School
Hi!

I am Hannah Zhang, a peer leader for the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative. I'm 16 years old and a student at Gunn High School. As a peer leader, I have found a sense of purpose in connecting isolated students and helping others deal with depression/anxiety.

By providing fun activities for the community while learning to speak about mental health issues with peers, students become more aware about this topic. During the school year, we planned and put on community events that brought students together in fun and informative ways. Additionally, we have worked with the wellness centers, Project Safety Net, Allcove, Stanford professors, and more.

Now, with the COVID-19 shutdown in place, we have been meeting with Zoom in order to continue to make a positive impact. Specifically, each of us have made several social media posts on tips to survive quarantine and we have recently been working on video series to spread awareness virtually.

The Youth Connectedness Initiative program is important not only for the community members we help, but also for peer leaders like myself. Please don't cut our funding because we are making a difference at a critical time.

Thank you very much,
Hannah Zhang
Gunn High School Class of 22
Hi! My name is Phoebe Kim and I am a peer leader for the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative. I am a 16 year old student at Palo Alto High School. As peer leaders in the YCI Program, we help connect isolated students and share critical information on how to cope with mental health issues such as anxiety or depression. We realize students pay more attention to the words of other students, so we are continuing to learn how to speak to mental health issues, and make a difference especially in our youth community. This past school year we have brought together our community in fun and informative ways.

Currently, our program is using Zoom, social media, and videos to reach out to our youth community despite COVID-19 setbacks. So far, we have worked with the school wellness centers, Allcove, Project Safety Net, and Stanford Professors like Dr. Shashank Joshi, and more.

Please don’t cut our funding because we are making a difference at a critical time, working with all of our partners. We need this funding to continue making an impact on our community and to reach out to students especially during these scary and uncertain times.

Thank you so much,

Phoebe Kim
Class of 2022
Palo Alto High School
I am a peer leader for the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative. I'm 16 years old and a student at Gunn high school. As a peer leader, I'm helping to connect isolated students and share information about dealing with depression and anxiety. We're learning together to speak to mental health issues with our peers; students pay more attention to the words of other students. During the school year, we planned and put on community events that brought the community together in fun and informative ways. We're currently using Zoom, videos, and social media to reach students despite the COVID shutdown. In the community, we have worked with the wellness centers, Project Safety Net, Allcove, Stanford professors like Dr. Shashank Joshi, and more. Please don't cut our funding because we are making a difference at a critical time, working with all our partners. Thank you.
Bianca Pistaferri
Gunn high school Sophomore
The Honorable Adrian Fine, Mayor of Palo Alto
and Members of the Palo Alto City Council
City of Palo Alto City Hall
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Fine and Members of the City Council,

While I understand the current budgetary challenges faced by the City of Palo Alto, I believe that cutting funding for YCS’s Youth Connectedness Initiative would be a mistake that would hurt our community greatly.

As you know, Youth Community Services (YCS) has been serving the greater Palo Alto community for 30 years. YCS’s initial mission was focused on building the foundational characteristics of empathy, leadership and empowerment in our middle and high school youth through service.

However, following the rise of tragic student suicides which first peaked in 2009 and followed soon thereafter in 2015, YCS responded to the needs of the community by expanding its mission to develop resilience and build connectedness within the youth already participating in YCS programs. These efforts grew and culminated in the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative launched in the Fall of 2018.

In the midst of the added anxiety and isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, YCS’s programs around Youth Connectedness and Suicide Prevention could not be more important to our community. This program has been meticulously designed and implemented based on evidence-based, Suicide Prevention strategies from both the CDC and Search Institute.
I would like to stress that the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative program was structured such that YCS would lose funding from Santa Clara County if the matching funds from City of Palo Alto were withdrawn. Thus, this invaluable program to the community would likely cease to exist.

From its beginning, YCS has heavily relied on the support of the community that it serves. And I would humbly submit that YCS has never betrayed that trust. While realizing the difficulty of the City’s financial position, I know that you would all agree that the loss of just one youth pales in comparison to the funding required for this program.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated,

R Robert Miyahara
Youth Community Service
Board Chairman
Dear City Council Members—

I am a Board Member for Youth Community Service on Palo Alto. One of the things that drew me to the organization was the focus on Social and Emotional wellness for youth and families through the Youth Connectedness Initiative (YCI) program. Students of every background and income level are struggling with isolation and anxiety – and especially now. Continuing teen and family mental health support is needed even more during – and post – COVID-19.

The Youth Connectedness Initiative, now 3 years old, was a response to surveys showing a need to develop more protective factors against stress, based in part on the statistics that the youth suicide rate in Palo Alto was the highest in the County. YCI uses evidence-based strategies from CDC suicide-prevention report for Santa Clara County and Search Institute. Working with extensive youth wellness partnerships for the greatest impact, we develop protective factors that ease the feelings of anxiety and isolation that so many of our youth experience.

YCI has made significant strides in just a few years, the metrics of which were shared in our 2019 Report to Santa Clara County. During this time of sheltering in place YCS has not stopped their work. Our youth have worked hard to make sure they continue to reach out and connect to other youth for their socio-emotional health.

It has been through support from the City of Palo Alto that YCS has been able to bring Youth Connectedness (YCI) to the city’s students and parents. Pending your support, we are guaranteed a matching $50K grant from the County.

Our need for connectedness for youth and their families is more urgent than ever.

Please consider continuing the funding for YCI to continue this critical work.

Thank you.

Ellen Rudy
Board Member, Youth Community Service
408-352-5485
408-605-4918 Mobile
ellen@rudyworld.com
Dear City Council Members:

My name is Linda Lenoir and I was the District Nurse for PAUSD for 26 years. As you all remember, we had a contagion of deaths by suicide from 2009-2014. Project Safety Net (PSN) and the HEARD Alliance were founded during that period to help support our students, staff and parents during a very dark and difficult time. Both organizations continue to support the community during these difficult times. PSN has as one of its Guiding Principles: “Collaboration: We effect change through the connections, creativity and contributions of our entire community working together.” The HEARD Alliance continues its work of Promotion of Wellness and Suicide Prevention.

Under its Developmental Relationships Framework the Search Institute states: “Young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they experience developmental relationships with important people in their lives. Developmental relationships are close connections through which young people discover who they are, cultivate abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the work around them.” I also work on the Safe and Healthy Committee at the SCCOE and we have noted when meeting with numerous districts in SCC the need to plan for more connections when schools re-engage not less. Many of the most recent calls to the text and crisis lines at the SCCBH centers were about the loss of relationships.

With full disclosure I have served on the Youth Community Service (YCS) Board of Directors for over 10 years. When PAUSD conducted student surveys a few years ago one of the problem areas noted by students was the “lack of connections” in their lives. YCS investigated how we could strengthen these connections in school, with parents and in their community. Based upon the findings of this study, YCS started the Youth Connected Initiative. The purpose of this initiative was clearly stated: “Through partnership with schools, youths families and other adult allies in the Palo Alto community, the Youth Connectedness Initiative (YCI) will develop protective factors that include self-efficacy, positive relationships, connectedness and community engagement among youths.”

I know you have received the most recent report sharing all the progress YCS has been achieving over the last few years. Now more than ever during this time of “sheltering in...
place” our youth need more, not fewer connections. As you all know, PAUSD has recently experienced the death of a parent and more recently the unfortunate death of a teacher with 27 years of service to the district. Now is not the time to cut one of the only programs that brings positive connections for families, staff and our youth. During this time of sheltering in place YCS has not stopped their work. Our youth have worked hard to make sure they continue to reach out and connect to other youth for their socio-emotional health.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Palo Alto City Council for all your support over the last few years. I also plead that the Council to leave in their budget the money for YCS to be able to continue their important work during this disastrous time.

Thank you, stay well,
Linda Lenoir RN, MSN, CNS, PHN
Suicide Prevention Training Manager
HEARD Alliance
Stanford University
Dear Honorable Mayor and Council,

Please take seriously the safety of our school children’s commute and bicycle education, awareness. Maintaining funding for Safe Routes to school and its staff is a critical component especially living in these unprecedented times.

As well the crossing guard contract and program keeps safe our childrens twice daily school commute. This program more than ever mitigates fear and unknowing during these times of COVID. A smile Our school children should not be penalized or punished for an virus illness and budget they had no hand in creating.

If cuts should be made make them from adult city programming rather than children. Our children are our future.

Sincerely,

Liz Gardner
Mayfield Place

Palo Alto, Ca 94306
650-845-7502

--
Liz Gardner
Dear Mayor Fine and Council Members Cormack, DuBois, Filseth, Kniss, Kou, and Tanaka,

I ask you to count me among the donors and supporters of the Palo Alto History Museum who advocate a second life for the City-owned Roth Building as the home of the future Museum.

— Please reverse the March 2 directive to Staff to move forward with options for an RFP.

— Please weigh the benefits of City capital funding to accelerate rehabilitation of the Roth Building and prevent further deterioration by neglect of this valuable architectural asset.

Palo Alto is singular in many ways, among them the fact that we have no museum to illustrate the stories that give our city global significance beyond its size. My husband and I are among the community supporters pledged to opening a museum that will spotlight the people and the forward-looking energy that has always distinguished Palo Alto. Though we are retired now, our own histories as students and employees (Stanford, HP, Apple) span a fascinating period of invention and growth. My family took root here in 1895, early in the town’s development. I am a former teacher of young children and a civic volunteer, recently retired from the boards of the Palo Alto Historical Association, which manages the City-owned Guy Miller Archives, and the Palo Alto History Museum. For over a decade it has been my privilege to work with people committed to bringing the archives and a participatory museum to the Roth Building.

The pandemic of 2020 has delivered unforeseen challenges that unsettle your management of civic assets and opportunities. I don’t envy the Council’s budgetary choices. Still, I am convinced that a museum illuminating a distinctive past will strengthen community identity among today’s diverse Palo Altans and inspire young people to imagine futures of their own.

The City, the Roth Building, and the Museum have come a long way together. I think of our civic forbears who conceived and built unique educational and cultural resources that serve us today. I urge you to consider the lasting value to the City of a modern museum in a historic building.

Please continue substantive City support for keeping the future Museum in the Roth Building.

With thanks for your thoughtful attention,

Sincerely,

Barbara Wallace
In reading the “public comments” section on the budget survey which was posted in conjunction with the meetings this week, I noticed a number of statements like this:

*Ranking system above stopped working for me after number 4. I would rank Administration 5, Planning & Transportation 6*

Given that users may not have fully understood the method of allocating “dots”, I hope that you will be able to accurately interpret the input from the survey. (I will confess that when I first attempted to assign my values to the six options, I thought along the lines of the person above...).

Beyond the statement I submitted to the survey (appended), I would add one further thought: can the number of FTE reduced be smaller during FY21 if the general fund contribution to the capital improvement fund were increased beyond $8.05m? I don’t mean to make light of the work that staff did to present the budget proposal to you, but merely wish to suggest that you consider dialing back more on capital improvement if that means the disruption to the operating budget is less.

I wish to acknowledge your service in a most painful process, thank you for addressing this in a forthright manner.

Ken Joye
Ventura neighborhood

These are my top priorities: (1) toilet flushing works (2) water comes out of faucet (3) electricity comes through the wires (4) ambulance and fire vehicles arrive (5) garbage is picked up. Allocating $0.5m to small business grants when facing $39m shortfall is absolutely at the bottom of my list. Addressing the climate crisis is somewhere between those two ranges. Keeping one of our libraries open is much more important than keeping five branches open. Maintaining a golf course or an airport would fall pretty much to the bottom. Keeping the “Safe Routes To School” program vigorous is more important than the NTSBB. Don't consider any more parking structures (any major capital improvement project would need to be completely justifiable; see my top priorities: keeping sewage and water flowing should stay on the active CIP list). THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
I am a Palo Alto resident who has been taking ceramics classes for the past five years. Alarmed by learning today that the City may drastically reduce the operating budget of the Palo Alto Art Center, I am writing to say strongly that the Art Center should be fully funded for several reasons.

A community is only as strong as its social infrastructure. That encompasses such things as art centers, libraries, community centers, and others. These places enable local residents to get to know each other and to build community. It is community that enables people to be healthy physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Damage the community and you will damage the people within!

I encourage City Council members to seek funding from the many wealthy companies and individuals that operate, live, and work in Palo Alto to keep local people-serving organizations and departments thriving!

Sincerely,
Edward L Klinenberg
Redacted
Palo Alto 94306
Dear Council Members and City Manager,

I write concerning a proposal to cease the enforcement of Residential Parking Permit programs. There is no budget case to be made for cancelling the enforcement. RPPs largely pay for themselves and can be made to be self-sufficient with some obvious tweaks. Rather, it appears that the expected budget shortfall is being used as an excuse for a gratuitous degradation of residential quality of life and yet another concession to the business community that has long been desired by some members of the City Council. The attempt to hide such a controversial decision in the many different proposals for balancing the budget is not appreciated.

The proposal currently on the table appears to be based on the current precipitous drop in parking needs due to the shelter-in-place orders that have shut many businesses and Stanford University. However, this lack of demand is highly unlikely to last past the end of our quarantine period. Stanford University at some point will once again hold in person class. Stanford students and faculty will once again choose free parking in Evergreen Park in lieu of paying parking permit fees at Stanford -- if they can get them. Stanford has to show a reduction in trips to campus. Allowing Stanford folks to park in Evergreen Park gives free parking AND allow the university to claim that it has reduced trips. Similarly, businesses will be reopening at some point, and there will once again be demand for parking by CalTrain riders and to a great extent by those choosing to drive to Palo Alto for work rather than take public transportation due to fears of being exposed to the coronavirus.

Now is not the time to undo almost twenty years of work to reduce the encroachment of businesses into the residential neighborhoods in Palo Alto. The City has created this problem of encroachment by allowing large office buildings to be built with inadequate parking -- as a gift to the developer community. It has a responsibility to continue to protect residents.

Here are steps that need to be taken to improve the RPPs and make it more economically feasible for the City:

1. Reduce the number of employee permits sold for the Evergreen Park/Mayfeld RPP. The tax paying residents have paid for the new parking garage for the California Ave business district, and they should get something in return, namely moving employee parking into the garage. After all, most businesses would prefer to park there closer to their offices. Local businesses along El Camino now have several block of El Camino Real as their personal parking area. The Mayfield area, in particular, should be given relief.

2. Enforce parking restrictions in BOTH the City-owned parking lots and garage AND in the residential permit parking areas. Enforcing the two hour parking restrictions in the California Ave and Downtown commercial core areas, but not in the residential areas will simply incentivize employees to park in the "free" residential zones. Failure to enforce RPP restrictions in residential areas also will reduce revenue to the City -- from
citations for violations, from lower demand for parking permits in garages and lots, and from lower demand for residential permits by residents who no longer see any benefit to having a permit.

3. Raise the cost of employee parking permits in the residential zones. Employees should be encouraged to park in City lots and garages first, and only then to park in residential areas. Prices of employee permits should be raised substantially, with provisions for lower costs for lower income employees.

4. Do not allow the ban on in-lieu fees, whereby a developer pays a one-time fee to partially compensate for not including adequate parking in the construction project. These in-lieu fees never cover the cost of building more parking for business employees. Much better to force the developer to put adequate parking right into the new facility.

5. Provide adequate staff in the City to properly manage the RPP programs, craft appropriate pricing policy in order to make the programs more self-sustaining, and to search our efficiencies. It has been almost two years since I was part of a group that interviewed various companies seeking a contract to build a new computer system for RPP management. Where is this project?? A well designed system would streamline the management of RPPs. Within months of any economic opening up, we will be back to horrendous levels for traffic. We should be prepared.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Carol Scott
Evergreen Park Resident

--
Carol Scott
Dear Council:

I am writing to voice my concerns on the proposed City budget for the next fiscal year, which closes the College Terrace Library for two years. Closing the College Terrace Library is an extreme action that will reverberate throughout the City, with limited monetary savings.

As I understand the proposed budget, the monetary impact of closing the College Terrace Library is small compared to other, less drastic measures that can more easily be taken. How about another reduction of hours for the library? How about enlisting volunteers to staff the library? How about reducing hours at other libraries in parts of the City that are already well-served by City facilities? There are a thousand other options.

What are costs of closing the library, such as transporting the books to other libraries, insurance, utilities, security, maintenance, and upkeep of an empty building, signage and outreach to direct patrons to other open libraries? Such costs will further cut the savings of closing the College Terrace Library.

These cost savings are not worth the overall impact to the community and the City. The College Terrace Library is the only City facility for meeting space on the west side of El Camino Real. The library also has the only bathroom facility in the four parks in College Terrace.

Also, what kind of message does closing a library send to the community at large?

We are spending millions of dollars on a bike bridge for health and fitness, and to connect part of the City with other for commuters. We have earmarked millions of dollars for a new public safety building. We are renovating City Hall. How about our our educational, academic, and social opportunities that are just as important as our health, fitness, safety, and a nice place for City employees to work? The College Terrace Library provides these important opportunities at a mere fraction of the cost.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Fernando Cabildo
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Honorable Council Members,

While watching the Council meeting Monday night, May 11th, I was appalled by the evasiveness of City Manager Ed Shikada when he was asked several times by member Greg Tanaka to provide City Council members with a detailed organization chart showing all employees and the supervision structure. Mr. Shikada continually used semantics to obfuscate the title of manager when it was clear by member Tanaka’s questions that member Tanaka wanted to know the supervision and reporting structure of each City employee. Knowing how many employees are working in each area of the City and how many employees each supervisor is managing are probably the most important facts when deciding what types of staff reductions to make. Without this knowledge the City Council is basically flying blind when making decisions on cost savings. Please continue to demand from the City Manager a full and detailed accounting of the employee/supervisor organization structure.

I wish you all the best while you conduct this difficult work.

Respectfully,

Roger Pierno

Redacted
All -

Some interesting comments found at Palo Alto Online in response to the budget article:

Just did some extensive analysis of the budget, and found it very easy to cut non-critical expenses.

Proposed cuts:
* Pause capital construction not yet started: public safety building and fire station 4. The budgets conveniently don't show their amounts, but assuming these are 80% of our capital improvements these will save $67M
* Pause IT Capital Improvement (cut capital budget 90%, IT budget still at over $25M), saves $7M
* Citywide Administration to trim Overhead from $23.5M by 25% to 17.6M. Savings: $5.9M.

Done: We've saved $80M off the budget!

Put this to a popular vote: Do we want libraries, police (including traffic enforcement), and fire, or is it important to break ground on expensive capital projects?

Details:

Our budget is approximately:

___ General Fund: $230M ___
+ Safety: Police & Fire: $80M.
+ Planning, Transportation, Infra: $34M. (includes streets, sidewalks, trees, public works)
+ Community & Library Services (includes parks, rec, arts, golf, etc): $42M.
+ Citywide Administration: $74M. Only 8M of this is on repair & maintenance. Compare with 11M on city officials, 8.5M on finance, 4M on human resources. ($23.5M of overhead)

___ Capital Budget $191.5M ___
+ 45% on improvements ($86M):
- Downtown automated parking guidance systems - we won't need this for a long time!
- Fire station 4 replacement, scheduled for late 2020 - why not pause this?
- Public safety building, scheduled for late 2020 - why not pause?
+ 3.5% on Vehicle replacement. Why not pause new vehicle purchases for a year or
two?
+ 4.1% on "Technology". Last I checked, we had an egregiously priced multi-million dollar contract for upgraded computers in the city council chambers. Last I went there, everything appeared brand new and fully functioning. Pause or stop this extravagance!

How about taking a look at these suggestions?

Time to tighten the belt of Palo Alto.

Thank you for your hard work in deciphering the budget. And cutting salaries and trimming benefits of employees, particularly those who earn over $100k a year is the place to start, even if this won’t be popular with your highly compensated city manager.

Put projects on hold. Defer big expenditures. Make do with what we have for a while. Hunker down.

Keep what is meaningful to the people of Palo Alto - recreation, safety, parks, libraries. Start charging non residents more to “use” the services of this City. And once again, cut the fat from the salaries and benefits of city employees across the board. Freeze hiring. No wage increases. Consider salary cuts for highly compensated employees.

Thank you for your service to the city.

Alice Holmes
Dear Palo Alto City Council members,

I am writing in support of the College Terrace library, and to ask that you do not support plans to close it.

For many older residents, of which there are many in this part of town, taking public transportation to a library across town is not only difficult, but also dangerous in these Covid-19 times. And because of where the other 4 Palo Alto libraries are located (Downtown, Children’s, Rinconada, Mitchell Park), walking for our seniors -- or biking for children -- is not a reasonable option.

At a bigger picture level, please understand that you would be cutting not into flesh but rather into bone. Our city libraries and emergency services (fire, police, etc.) should really be the last thing cut. The net savings of $167,000 for closing the CT library hardly seems worth it.

Thanks for listening.

Joe Lee
As a long time resident of the College Terrace I strongly urge the City Council to do everything in its power to keep the College Terrace Library open. It’s a great asset to our community and our families. The library is especially important to our kids. In the case of my son it was the first place where he was introduced to books and developed love for them. It would be a big loss to all of us if it was no longer open.

Sincerely,
Ludwik Zych
Redacted
Dear Palo Alto City Council members,

Please do not close the College Terrace library. Our children have used this library the past 6 years and have very much enjoyed it. It is the only library within walking distance. Other libraries would require driving and the parking lots are often highly congested (Mitchell Park and Rinconada Library).

Libraries are so important for children to be exposed to books and develop literacy in today’s digital world.

Thank you for keeping the library open!

~Wendy

Wendy Jacobsen, AMFT
Counseling and Support Services for Youth
Addison Elementary School
wjacobsen@cassybayarea.org
The amount that the city will save from closing the College Terrace Library is quite small in the scheme of things.

*** have they thought about getting a donation from a wealthy Palo Alto resident to cover this amount? or from a local company?

I sent an email to the City Council suggesting that they do this.

Deborah Plumley

Redacted

65-857-1780

On May 10, 2020, at 8:56 AM, Eileen Stolee <estolee@gmail.com> wrote:

email
Dear City Council:

I have been a resident of College Terrance for almost 50 years and during that time have been an active user of the library — mostly for checking out books and also reading the newspapers and magazines.

It seems to me that the saving you would accrue in closing the library is not that significant or large.

***have you ever thought of trying to raise this money from a wealthy citizen in Palo Alto — as a donation.

with best regards,
Deborah Plumley

Redacted
College Terrace

650-8571780
Baumb, Nelly

From: Pallavi Homan <pallavihoman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: College Terrace Library

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Hello,
I've been a resident of College Terrace for over a decade and have raised my kids here. The College Terrace Library is such an asset to this neighborhood and the larger community, particularly for families with young children, and also for seniors. I often see both when I go there to pick up library books. I understand that there is a proposal given the budget to close the College Terrace Library. I do hope there are other measures that can be taken to allow this important community gathering place to remain open during these difficult times. Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,
Pallavi Homan
Redacted
OK, so I shouldn’t be sending emails before 6am morning coffee:

Graph should be DOLLAR IMPACT/AMOUNT on y-axis and CUSTOMER (=RESIDENT) IMPORTANCE on x-axis. You get the point.

Chris

> On May 12, 2020, at 5:58 AM, Chris Robell <chris_robell@yahoo.com> wrote:
> >
> > Dear City Council,
> > >
> > I think it was a great idea to prioritize the big $ items first as you proceed through the budget discussions. It just seems bizarre that certain items of small dollar magnitude yet high importance to residents have been discussed (e.g., College Terrace library, cell tower ordinance reviews, RPPs, crossing guards, animal shelter cuts).
> > >
> > I would almost think about a graph with “CUSTOMER IMPORTANCE” on Y-axis and “DOLLAR IMPACT” on the x-axis. Stay away from the lower left quadrant.
> > >
> > And for items that are important yet bordering on high cost, ask if there is a way to reduce the cost by some amount (or increase revenue) while still satisfying the need. On RPP, the example that I think of is why not jack up the price of a violation and think about a lower cost way to enforce (yet keep the rules)? Like the carpool lanes on the highway: police enforcement of each strip of highway isn’t 100%, and the cost of a ticket is ~$500. So few people want to take the risk of violating this carpool rules.
> > >
> > Thank you for your work and creative solutions to address resident needs.
> > >
> > Chris Robell
Please keep our beloved College Terrace Library open. It is a tremendous and invaluable resource for children and adults in our community. It would be a huge loss if it closed.

Respectfully yours,

Jill Kaplan
Hi,

Ever since graduating from Stanford in 2017, I've been a resident of Palo Alto for 3 years. I moved into College Terrace in 2019. One of the highlights for my partner and I is the College Terrace Library. We love it there.

Looking at the budget, the proposal to shut down the library seems so arbitrary. Especially when the salaries of elected officials is so outrageously high. If you gave the City Manager and City Attorney 50% pay cuts, this would save $300k (more than the proposed savings of College Terrace) and they would still be above the median household salary in Palo Alto. I personally had to take on a 10% pay cut at work because of the crisis and I'm not even close to the median household salary in Palo Alto!

There are also other costs the city incurs, including golf courses. It seems like there are no cuts on golf courses. Which kind of blows my mind when it generally benefits white men who work in business. Why are we supporting that (when it doesn't get that much revenue) rather than a library which is intended for the larger community?

It's hard justifying this plan of action when that plan of action shows signs of disparity and also magnifies the gap between elected officials salaries and the actual crisis we have on our hands.

In conclusion, my partner and I, constituents of Palo Alto, would be really disappointed in our elected officials if this were to pass without amendments and keeping College Terrace Library open.

Britt
To the City Council members,

As an longtime community member, I submit a heartfelt plea on behalf of myself, my wife and my three children that the College Terrace library remain open.

This library is the closest public library to faculty families living on campus. It is safe for the children to bike to. The other two libraries, Downtown and Mitchell, are much farther and require crossing major roads like El Camino and Page Mill.

It has been an important resource for our family. My wife has reached out on the library website to volunteer so that the library could be open on the days has been closed: Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays. These days have often been when our children needed a place to study for exams and projects due the following day.

Beyond my family's needs, a neighborhood library, especially such a picturesque one as College Terrace, is an important piece of the community fabric: a resource and a place for our neighbors and families to meet and socialize, an important piece of childhoods, a safe place, a resource without censorship, and our librarians provide tools and education that can't be found elsewhere.

Finally, closing the library would likely have a negative impact on surrounding property values.

In this difficult time, budget cuts are a necessity. I know you have considered many options. But please know this is a treasured resource without comparable substitutes. I hope there is an opportunity to consider alternatives, such as volunteer support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter DeMarzo
Kaui DeMarzo
Dear City Council,

I know you are facing tough decisions on what to cut from our budget.

In making these cuts, please protect public safety, and in particular, the safety of our children as they travel twice daily to our schools, crossing major city thoroughfares.

1. Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)
The two SRTS staff are critical to ensure our children’s safety. PTA volunteers constantly turn over as their children move through the system. We need SRTS staff to ensure continuity of knowledge and expertise where our children’s safety is concerned traveling to and from school.

2. Crossing Guards

Crossing guards are fundamental to ensure children do not attempt a crossing until drivers stop. The guards ensure no drivers start up again too early. Crossing guards are only at studied, city-warranted locations, including major thoroughfares (six school crossings are across El Camino; two are across Alma Expressway). Another ten crossings are on major streets like Arastradero, Charleston, Middlefield and Embarcadero.

When you’re looking to cut costs, the $500,000 annual crossing guard will not create even a dent in a budget exceeding $800 million a year, and is simply the WRONG place to even look at cutting costs. None of you, I’m sure, wants to be the city council member to tell a grieving Palo Alto parent no one on city council valued their child’s life worth the $500,000 annual crossing guard cost.

Thank you for all of your hard work. This is a tough job.

Regards,
Meilani Hendrawidjaja
Hoover Parent

Sent from my iPhone
To whomever this may concern,

My name is Benjamin Papp, presently a junior at Palo Alto Senior Highschool, and a peer leader for the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative (YCI). To preface, our goal at YCI is to connect isolated students and share information about dealing with depression, anxiety, and various other issues common students may face.

Throughout the regular school year, we planned and put on community events and projects to help bring people together in exciting yet informative ways. Two examples of which include Bands and Brew, an open mic hosted at the Stanford CoHo right after the Stanford-Cal, and more recently a community movie night where we openly discussed the process and feelings of coming out as a gay person in modern times. We also pride ourselves on working with other organizations within the community, such as the wellness centers featured at PALY and Gunn, Project Safety Net, Allcove, Stanford professors like Dr. Shashank Joshi, and more. At all of our events we regularly saw students from different grades, schools(in and out of the district), and friend groups come together and connect over common issues and struggles we face.

Currently, we’re using Zoom, videos, and social media to reach students over the shutdown. While our output isn’t quite at the level we want to be right now, we’re still trying our best to provide regular content and events during this trying time. Our current project for example is a three phase plan built to bring students from all different backgrounds together and connect by slowly merging the friend groups of different members together.

With this being said, myself and the rest of the group would be greatly thankful if you decided to not cut our funding. I personally appreciate your consideration of this request, and will be happy to provide any additional information or answer and questions you may need.

Thank you,

Benjamin Papp
I read something in the newspaper today about how you are going to work on the budget and I thought it was not the right move. Perhaps I’m not understanding it right but are you seriously going to cut fire and police services as well as recreation, library and park services instead of cutting salaries? My suggestion would be to cut salaries. Do it based on how much someone makes. So the city manager who makes a lot of money, can have a 25% cut in salary and someone who makes $60,000 a year can have a 5% cut in their salary.

This is a more sensible approach during a pandemic.

Thank you,

Sonam
Dear Council Member,

Very unhappy to hear the city plans closing the oldest library in Palo Alto, the College Terrace Library. I’ve lived in the community since the 1980s. It is a big draw to families and those in transition from one job to another. We should expect more demand from both sectors post-Covid. I suggest you consider cutting the administrative and community services budgets instead as they have more flexibility than the oldest community in town.

Please kindly consider these issues carefully. Education, learning and reading are fundamental to society getting back off the ground. Thank you.

Amber Li
As the ONLY library this side of Alma, closing this library location would cut off services to a huge portion of residents. It is a shame to even consider it given how many of the city services (other library branches, pools, children’s museum, gardens, etc.) we pay for are concentrated in just a few areas - all on the other side of Alma.

I see we’re making NO budget cuts to the golf course.

How are we okay with prioritizing the staffing of the entry to a “private” park like Foothills over keeping a library branch open where there aren’t good alternatives around?

Madison
We, residents of College Terrace for 50 years, strongly oppose the idea of closing our branch library for 2 years or any length of time. We believe that savings can be made in other budget items without impacting so severely so many of our neighbors. We realize that every resident of the city will feel the pinch of the coronavirus crisis, but believe that the pain can and should be spread more fairly. “We’re all in this together,” including city employees whose raises might have to be reduced or delayed.

The branch library is a cultural institution that we have treasured and used, it seems at least once a week, except for the couple of painful years during which it was closed for renovation. Over the years we have resisted suggestions for closing it by persons who did not appreciate its importance to residents of College Terrace and surrounding neighborhoods. The alternatives for us are car rides across town to Rinconada and Mitchell Park libraries, which are increasingly difficult for seniors like ourselves. Parents of young children also depend on the children’s section and the reading-aloud sessions there, including recent, English-learning immigrants and visitors. Please do not close it, not even temporarily. The closure for the pandemic has been hard enough.

Richard and Jane Such, Redacted
Dear City Council,

Thank you for your hard work on the budget. I am sorry to send in this message so late.

The budget proposal includes a new fee to be assessed for first response to medical emergencies. In other words, if 911 is called, there will be a fee, even if the treated party does not need transport.

I think this is a really bad idea. I think many people who should call 911 to get the expertise of our EMTs in person will choose to wait, instead of calling 911 at the first sign of trouble. I know, as a Medical Emergency Response Team member at my workplace, or as a member of my church, or when a friend shows up at the bus stop with blood all over his face, I don't want to have to second guess myself on an emergency response because I am worried about cost to bring in an EMT from the fire station.

This is the sort of service that I expect our taxes to cover. Though the line suggests that it would be covered by insurance companies, I find that with my health plan, it usually comes back to me!

This fee is projected to bring in $1.8 million every year. I recognize that not adding this fee would require savings elsewhere, and I do not have a recommendation for an offset.

--
-- Robert Neff
robert@neffs.net
Council Members,

I am writing to provide another citizens input into your process. This is not going to be as simple as turning an economic switch back on. Many companies are closing for the rest of the summer if not end of the year. Your estimated shortfall is probably on the low side.

1. Priority should be given to maintaining city services in as close to the current level as possible.
   a. This would require an across the board pay cut, until the jobless rate has returned to the 4-5% range.
   b. Rescission of the pay increase given a couple weeks ago. You knew this problems was happening then, why on earth did you go through with it?
   c. Layoff union employees across the board to close the budget gap.
   d. Discontinue work on the new police station until the economy rebounds, this is a non-essential expense at this time.

2. Curtail redundant city services.
   a. Eliminate non-essential services.
      i. Closure of schools that can be combined to fill up classrooms to maximum capacity.
      ii. Closure of most of the libraries. Our libraries are lightly used and residents could easily go a mile or two extra to get to another.
      iii. Cut any mass transit projects for the time being. No one is going to get on a bus with other possible Covid carriers.
   b. Resume full time working 8-5 M-F every week to fulfil the community needs. The current 9-80 setup is inefficient resulting in less productivity for the same $$. 

I am sure you have many suggestions, but unemotional objectivity would be the best course of action in the current predicament. We are all hurting from this shutdown of our economy.

Sincerely,
John Koval
Redacted
Palo Alto
Dear City Council,

I know you are facing tough decisions on what to cut from our budget.

In making these cuts, please protect public safety, and in particular, the safety of our children as they travel twice daily to our schools, crossing major city thoroughfares.

1. Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)
The two SRTS staff are critical to ensure our children’s safety. PTA volunteers constantly turn over as their children move through the system. We need SRTS staff to ensure continuity of knowledge and expertise where our children’s safety is concerned traveling to and from school.

2. Crossing Guards
Crossing guards are fundamental to ensure children do not attempt a crossing until drivers stop. The guards ensure no drivers start up again too early. Crossing guards are only at studied, city-warranted locations, including major thoroughfares (six school crossings are across El Camino; two are across Alma Expressway). Another ten crossings are on major streets like Arastradero, Charleston, Middlefield and Embarcadero.

When you’re looking to cut costs, the $500,000 annual crossing guard will not create even a dent in a budget exceeding $800 million a year, and is simply the WRONG place to even look at cutting costs. None of you, I’m sure, wants to be the city council member to tell a grieving Palo Alto parent no one on city council valued their child’s life worth the $500,000 annual crossing guard cost.

Thank you for all of your hard work. This is a tough job.

Gabrielle Conway
PAUSD Parent
Palo Altan of 23 years
I have been a resident of College Terrace for 65 years. I am dismayed by the thought of closing College Terrace Library as a budget cutting action. The cost of operating this library is so small compared to the community benefit. It is a library that brings multigenerational members of the community together, provides computer access to those without computers at home, and has kept books alive for readers of all ages. Once you dissolve libraries, they do not come back and the harm to the community is great. Parks and libraries are center gathering points that build a sense of community, connect people to each other in our culture of growing isolation, and represent the value of what makes Palo Alto a great community.

Please keep College Terrace Library open.

Thanks,

Martha Hauser
Redacted
Palo Alto CA 94306
Dear City Council,

I know you are facing tough decisions on what to cut from our budget.

In making these cuts, please protect public safety, and in particular, the safety of our children as they travel twice daily to our schools, crossing major city thoroughfares.

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When you’re looking to cut costs, the $500,000 annual crossing guard will not create even a dent in a budget exceeding $800 million a year, and is simply the WRONG place to even look at cutting costs. None of you, I’m sure, wants to be the city council member to tell a grieving Palo Alto parent no one on city council valued their child’s life worth the $500,000 annual crossing guard cost.

Thank you for considering my input.

Nancy Krop
PAUSD parent
Dear Council Members,

As you face the very difficult budget considerations before you, please consider the following recommendations.

**Guiding Principles**

Such challenging decisions are best considered if you first attempt to agree on Guiding Principles for your decision making. The staff report refers to ‘Budget Priorities’:

- Support Economic Recovery through changes to our policies and programs.
- Focus on resiliency over the long-term while making service reductions and changes, ensuring that any services eliminated can be restored in future years.
- Seek new ways to conduct our work through efficiencies and a learning environment.

Additional consideration should be made as to whether these the right or highest priorities. The following alternatives may offer a sounder framework for your deliberations:

1. **Maximized Transparency.** About economic realities, fiscal implications of budget changes, and labor negotiation constraints.
2. **Timeframe of Impacts and Actions.** Plan for this downturn to be a multi-year impact with a two-year minimum of severe impact before recovery begins, then fuller recovery over multiple years.
3. **Sharing of Burdens.** Staff, residents, and businesses all need to share the difficult burdens.
4. **Deferrable Expenses.** A focus should be made on deferring capital projects 2 years. Projects should be rebid over the next two years to take advantage of likely recession-based cost reductions compared to currently inflated rates.
5. **Use of Reserves.** Budget reserves exist to respond to emergencies. They should be used judiciously under the assumption that the recovery will be prolonged.
6. **Efficiencies.** Opportunities to restructure operations should include broader outsourcing or consolidations (e.g. consolidation of IT departments among neighboring cities).
7. **Longterm Changes to Services and Policies.** The focus should be on resiliency over the long-term when making service reductions and changes, ensuring that any services eliminated or policies changed will not result in irreversible impacts. The emergency should not be a rationalization for changes to longterm commercial development policies nor policies promoting housing for all income levels.

**Budget Considerations**

Reductions in the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF), outside Contracts/Consultants, and in the Budget Stabilization Reserve can be the primary drivers in determining the necessary cuts to operations and services. The General Fund (GF) Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) has been built to historically high levels in recent years through TOT.
increases and other measures. Those investments address necessary longterm investments, but they are not generally critical in the short term.

- **The Capital Plan table shows a $7.6M GF transfer for FY21 (pg45), along with a $6.5M TOT related transfer.**
- **The Infrastructure Reserve has a beginning balance of $38.3M (declining to $16M in FY22 and down from $51.4M in FY20) with a transfer from the GF of $7.6M in FY21 plus the TOT based transfer. The GF transfer could be suspended, along with the portion of the TOT transfer that is not obligated for infrastructure under the TOT rate ballot measures.**
- **Major Deferrable Capital Projects**
  - **Public Safety Building.** The proposed budget includes spending $102,800,000 in FY21 toward the new PSB. The project will be funded through bonds, but the debt service is $7.3M/yr beginning in FY22.
  - **Municipal Services Center has over $8M budgeted for major maintenance.** By comparison, just spreading that over two years would provide FY21 savings comparable to all of the proposed community services cuts.
  - **Fire Station #4 - ~$10M over the next three years.**
  - **Other CIP Projects.** Projects, such as the $400K replacement cost of seats at the Lucie Stern Theatre, can be deferred without any significant impact.

_During the Great Recession, the costs of public works projects were reduced drastically from previous project estimates._ Projects that had been consistently coming in at over previous estimates instead received bids at far below staff estimates. By deferring certain projects, the city can likely reduce the capital project costs while mitigating the most dire cuts to a broad range of critical and highly valued services.

Best regards,
Pat Burt
I know you have tough choices to make in the next few weeks on the budget. As a former business owner, I have experienced firsthand the difficulty of making budget cuts that have direct impacts on people’s lives. It will be extremely difficult to weigh through the judgment calls on what is vital for our community. I hope you can find room in the budget to continue to support our youth at a time when they are under increasing pressure and so much is being taken away from them.

Many of you know that as a parent and community volunteer I have a long history of working with youth. I was active with Project Safety Net during the 2010-2014 suicide contagion. I worry about our youth and how they are coping during the pandemic. I was concerned to see the staff proposal with a recommendation to cut all teen services. I hope that with other adjustments you can find room to preserve some of the more essential youth services, especially those that are creating connections of peer to peer and adult to youth such as the Palo Alto Youth Council, Teen Advisory Board, and Teen Arts Council. As far as I know, these programs are all continuing via Zoom and other online services. I participated in a Zoom meeting with a panel discussion on vaping run by the Teen Arts Council a few weeks ago and was notified of a virtual open mic sponsored by the Teen Arts Council last week. These interactions are vital to the health of our youth and even more important with school closures.

As to a funding source for these and other essential youth programs, I noticed that the proposal also seems to remove the Bryant Street Garage Fund from funding for youth programs. The revenue stream, 75% of the rental income generated by the current tenant Form Fitness, was dedicated to teen programs in 2001 by a council vote when the teens gave up their downtown teen center in favor of funding for teen activities. In 2017 it was anticipated there would be an accumulated fund of $325,000 and an annual revenue stream of $109,000. It appears from the staff report that for fiscal 2021 the income for this fund is projected to be $123,000. I have not been able to locate information on where the fund balance stands today. For the history of the Bryant Street Garage Fund including council actions see this staff report: https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/49639

I also serve on the Youth Community Service Board and in addition to preserving city programs I hope you can continue the Santa Clara County match program of $50k for the Youth Connectedness Initiative run by Youth Community Service https://youthcommunityservice.org/yci/. This is an evidence-based youth mental health program informed by the Search Institute’s Developmental Relationships. Youth Community Service has continued to meet with youth via Zoom meetings during the shelter in place orders. This is a valuable resource for teens and parents under normal circumstances but even more important now to help teens and parents navigate during the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Sally Bemus
Dear Palo Alto City Council Members:

I am writing to you today to urge you to continue supporting the Palo Alto Museum’s use of the Roth Building.

The Museum is a worthwhile, vital asset urgently needed in our community. Palo Alto’s history is at once local and global. Its nurturing community, creativity, innovation, and leadership have helped so many Palo Altans invent the modern world. The Museum will bring our untold stories to light for generations to come. Those stories deserve a proper home.

I enthusiastically support the Palo Alto Museum and its use and preservation of the historic Roth Building.

I urge you to join me and thousands of friends and neighbors in supporting our community’s advancement, goodwill, culture, and pride through the Palo Alto Museum.

Sincerely,

Insert Name
Insert Address

Laura Bajuk
Palo Alto City Manager

Ed Shikada,

Due to privacy issues, no one should trust or support social media. "Townhall.com" will not accept my budget suggestions without signing in.

To be forced to sign in, jeopardizes Open Government.

So I can be heard, please insert my response into the site.

-Danielle Martell

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My simple two-pronged proposal, comfortably satisfies the need for balancing the approximate $43M City budget deficit, for the fiscal year, starting July 2020. Following my plan allows our city to carry on as it has always been.

- **Delay construction on the brand-new $150M police station** - *Palo Alto citizens have already voted "NO!" for using city money for this construction. The new police station continues to compromise city services, to the point of bankrupting us during this budget crisis!!*

- **Shelve tasers** - *Eliminate police training, lawsuits, maintenance and new purchases.*

For older adult safety, I oppose delaying ANY funding for sidewalk maintenance.

- **Wheelchairs and walkers demand adequately safe sidewalks.**
- **Older adults tend to trip and fall easily**, causing injuries, such as bruising, scraping thin skin, breaking fragile bones, and chipping teeth.