

Brettle, Jessica

From: ronricorh@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 8:05 AM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed

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

Please consider opening some of the sidewalks and streets for restaurant dining. Especially during the hours from 5 until 9. This would bring people out and help everyone to start to get back to normal.

Thanks
Ron Hall
Channing Ave.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Mary Anne Kochenderfer <ma.kochenderfer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 10:47 AM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Subject: Close California Ave.'s commercial zone to cars

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

I am writing to express my support of the move to close California Ave.'s commercial zone to cars. California Avenue is a popular spot for people to walk and shop. Closing the street to cars creates a safer and more welcoming environment. It could also allow more shops to expand outdoors, reducing the risk of spreading coronavirus.

Best wishes,
Mary Anne Kochenderfer
1555 Drake Way
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Brettle, Jessica

From: Steven Baker <steven.baker@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Subject: I support pilot for shared streets

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

In general I'd support making university and california better for pedestrians as a thoroughfare. They are both an awkward middle ground where lots of people walk but it's not so safe.

Anyway, during this covid-19 period to help with distancing turning them into a pilot dining/sitting/pedestrian thoroughfare sounds like a fantastic idea.

Steve Baker

Brettle, Jessica

From: Catherine Ross Stoll <catherine.ross.stoll@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 9:58 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Support for closing University and CA Ave to traffic

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

Hi I am in support of closing Univ Ave and CA Ave to traffic and opening them up to outdoor seating for restaurants 7 days per week.

Thanks

Catherine Ross Stoll
• sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Lorna Shapiro <duckchorus@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:12 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open up the bathrooms! (Opening up dining.)

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

We need access to bathrooms, too! It's unconscionable that the cities have cut that off from us, and still expect us to eat at restaurants.

I make it over to these places by foot or bike, and I can not make it back home in time to use a bathroom. (Handicapped senior without a car.)

Please reopen those bathrooms!!!! Otherwise, you are forcing us to use people's private yards, etc. There is nothing private or hygienic about that ... 🙄 😞 It's so embarrassing and inhumane!

Lorna Shapiro

Brettle, Jessica

From: Jacquie Kramer <jacquie_kramer@ymail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:15 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: University ave and ca ave street closure

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

Please consider opening these to streets. It will work. I've seen main streets successfully closed in many cities.
Jacquelyn Kramer
213 Kipling Street

Brettle, Jessica

From: Becky Brewer <b.brewha@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:30 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Outdoor dining/closing streets

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

I completely support outdoor dining and closing of some streets to support businesses on Cal Ave and University. This is the time. Palo Alto residents and visitors will enjoy a more walkable/bikeable area.

Becky Brewer

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Becky Brewer <b.brewha@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:33 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Outdoor dining

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

And yes, 7 days a week and permanent please. This is the time.

Becky Brewer

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Susan Hall <hall.health@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:06 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closing streets

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

I love the idea of closing University and California avenues to allow space for outdoor dining, walking, shopping, etc. I have experienced this approach most in Charlottesville VA and Burlington VT and in both places it is a huge success.

Susan Hall
Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: sandy.ostrau@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Safe dining

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

Please vote to close University Avenue to traffic so our businesses and restaurants will have a chance to survive this pandemic. If even half of the restaurants don't make it,(which is likely without customers) our vibrant downtown will become a casualty. The restaurants and businesses need our support to remain!

Sandy Ostrau
730 Palo Alto Ave.

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Aviva Saitz <aviva@saitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: close Cal Ave & University to cars

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

Please! I live on Cal Ave by the train station, and can attest to the emptiness of the street the past few months. A number of storefronts were empty before SIP, and there are many more temporarily closed. Many of our restaurants stayed open for takeout almost from the beginning, and a few more reopened in the past few weeks. Please give them space for outdoor tables so more customers can support them and help keep them afloat!

Brettle, Jessica

From: Michelle Arden <michelle@arden.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please close off University and California Ave permanently!

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

City Council:

I am in favor of closing off University and California Ave permanently between Alma and Middlefield (perhaps Webster). I am sympathetic to the concern that it will push parking and traffic into the neighborhoods, but I believe that concern is mitigated by the possibility of making University and California vibrant public spaces. I suggest that this be essayed for a trial period - at least six months, possibly more, (so that we get beyond the pandemic), and then re-evaluated for traffic and parking concerns.

Regards,

Michelle Arden
405 Lincoln Ave.
Professorville
Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Vicky Lai <victoria.w.lai@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Subject: In support of the Shared Streets Pilot

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

Dear Mr. Ed Shikada and City Council,

I have been living and working in/around the Palo Alto area since 2013. I have never owned a car, relying primarily on Caltrain, bus, and walking to get around. I would like to advocate strongly for the shared streets pilot from pedestrian safety and equity perspectives.

Without street closures, University Ave and California Avenue are still car-first - on a near-daily basis, my husband and I see drivers break the law by using their phones while driving, running through the stop sign at Cal Ave & Park Blvd, turning on red without stopping first at University Ave & High St, and ignoring pedestrian traffic/right of way along both University Ave and Cal Ave. In order to get to work, errands, and recreation, my husband and I risk our lives as pedestrians, often close to getting hit despite pedestrian right of way. On one occasion a road-raged driver and passenger who ignored pedestrians while turning on red went out of their way to park, chase us down the street, go back to their car, drive around the block, and throw a box of food at us. There's [evidence](#) that with reduced traffic during coronavirus, drivers are becoming more reckless and aggressive, not less. While our healthcare systems are already inundated, we don't need more cases like when [an elderly driver crashed his car into University Cafe](#). Until pedestrian safety is prioritized, these downtown areas remain dangerous on a daily basis for the residents, visitors, children, and elderly who choose (or otherwise must rely on) non-car transportation methods.

Furthermore, Chapter 1 of Caroline Criado-Perez's *Invisible Women* provides ample evidence that traditional urban planning has a gender data gap (e.g. the analysis of Sweden's [snow clearing initiative](#)). Women disproportionately rely on walking and public transportation to get around, and simple measures to make those modes safer provide huge benefits for all in reducing dangerous accidents.

As devastating as coronavirus has been, please use this opportunity to rethink how we structure our community and the kinds of behaviors we want to incentivize. The shared streets pilot will make our downtown areas much safer and more equitable, and could do so permanently if we choose to prioritize pedestrian safety.

Thank you,
Vicky Lai

Brettle, Jessica

From: lizzy.tw@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Support closing University Ave for dining and retail

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

Hi I found this proposal through a post by John McDowell on NextDoor. Yes I support closing blocks on University Ave and California Ave to cars. With the unfortunate COVID event, it actually provides a good opportunity to test this idea. Let's give this a try and see if it should become permanent.

Thank you!

Brettle, Jessica

From: Gail Price <gail.price3@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Fine, Adrian; Council, City
Subject: Tweet by City of North Vancouver on Twitter: Open Streets Study Session 6/8/20

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



City of North Vancouver
LRI@CityOfNorthVan



Phase 1 of our Open Streets Action Plan is underway!
That's right. We're changing Central Lonsdale b/w 13th +
18th Streets to one lane in each direction so we can
maintain parking and create more space for everyone.
Details: ow.ly/jWyj50A0loj pic.twitter.com/Ob8SyG5W4M
6/6/20, 10:00 AM

This is one model of a Open Streets to add to many successful examples.
I support Open Streets for California Avenue and University Avenue.

Gail Price
Barron Park
Palo Alto ca.

[Download](#) the Twitter app

Sent from my iPad

Brettle, Jessica

From: Randy Mont-Reynaud <rmontreynaud@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Subject: Champs Elysee - Palo Alto

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

Yes to closed streets and opened minds! And shuttles for seniors and others...loaner bikes at Cubberly, elsewhere?

- Go Dutch! (as they do in Holland...)

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With warmest regards,

Randy Mont-Reynaud, PhD

Our 501 c-3 is "If Pigs Could Fly - Haiti" Visit us here:

PLEASE HAVE A PEEK? If Pigs Could Fly Haiti, Fall 2019 Newsletter:

<http://www.qmmunicate.org/HaitiFall19.pdf>

My blog: <http://www.haitinextdoor.com/>

www.ifpigscouldflyhaiti.org

Brettle, Jessica

From: Rebecca Neff <rmn4@georgetown.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please close university avenue car access

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

It would really help keep social distancing easier and help the restaurants if university and california Avenue were closed to car traffic. It would be more European style which would feel safer for everyone and would create a better space for the community here.

Best,

Becky Neff
Palo Alto resident

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Judy Grinberg <judygrin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: I support Closing University and Cal Ave. to cars

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

Judy Grinberg
1254 Middlefield Rd

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

Brettle, Jessica

From: Matt Glickman <matt@glickman.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open university Ave and cal Ave for outside dining

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

Please do not miss this once in a generation opportunity to support restaurants when they need it, give people safer socializing options and test out an option that has made many cities around the world more liveable and downtown business districts more thriving.

- Matt Glickman
159 Melville

Brettle, Jessica

From: Devon Cohn <devoncohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: closing University Ave and California Ave

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

I support the idea of temporarily closing University Ave and California Ave to traffic to allow retail and restaurants to have outdoor space. I would strongly recommend making clear areas for pedestrian traffic (either down the middle of the street or along the sidewalks with dining/retail space in the streets). Cross streets should be open to traffic, and extra short-term parking spaces should be created near the corners for delivery and take out parking - especially for drivers of services like grubhub and doordash. It is probably possible to create an extra parking space or two in the blocked-off street right at the intersection.

Devon Cohn

Any sufficiently advanced learning is indistinguishable from play.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Don Jackson <dcj@clark-communications.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Revised/detailed comments regarding "Outdoor Dining & Retail" Study Session at 2020-06-08 council meeting, agenda item #8

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

Honorable Councilpeople,

I've previously written emails regarding my support for actions to facilitate outdoor dining on our streets (appended below), and I am pleased to see the Council/Staff study session on this topic at the 2020-06-08 meeting.

After further conversations with restaurant owners, I have refined and focused my earlier thoughts, and I now propose and support the following specific actions:

Authorize a parklet program.

Enable restaurant/business owners to apply to construct parklets in front of their establishments, with as streamlined and expedited approval as soon as possible. Parklets help restaurants in any location in Palo Alto, not just those on University or California Avenues. Specifics to include:

- Entitle parklet permit holders with exclusive use of the parklet.
- Waive any/all fees for these permits
- Yearly renewal of permits is reasonable
- Expedited support for relocation of any "short duration only" parking spot eliminated by a parklet to a nearby parking spot.
Restaurant owners have shared their concern that if their parklet would remove a drop-off/short-duration parking spot that is important to a neighboring business, that the City to provide a streamlined procedure to have any such parking space relocated to minimize the impact on their neighbors.

Authorize public consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a meal outdoors within parklets and at sidewalk tables.

This authorization should be coupled with the parklet/sidewalk permit, in the (unlikely) event of repeated/ongoing compliance violations, it would then provide a targeted and focused tool to motivate resolution.

Do **NOT** require a new/additional permit to serve alcohol in a parklet or the sidewalk

The Staff reports mentions the following concerns:

Parklet installation expense:

I understand and sympathize that some restaurant owners may find the expense of creating a parklet beyond their current means.

It is unfortunate that in the current fiscal climate, Palo Alto is not in a position to provide [a cost-sharing program](#) to parklet creators,

as our neighbor Menlo Park did a couple years ago...but to paraphrase Voltaire, "let us not make perfection the enemy of the good",

authorizing/enabling our restaurant owners who are so able to create parklets is clearly in the best interest of the City and residents/diners.

I believe the above two actions are the of the highest priority, and I urge Council to direct Staff to implement them ASAP.

Other actions identified in the Staff report:

Authorize "Sidewalk Dining", and "Conversion of Private Parking for Outdoor Dining or Retail Display"

I support both these actions, but they are appropriate/applicable to a smaller number of businesses, so of lower priority than the above.

Street Closures

This proposal does not help restaurant owners not located on University or California Avenues, a significant limitation. What are we going to do for: Evvia, Taverna, Bird Dog, Tacolicious, Delfina, Reposado, Zola, Bistro Elan, Osteria Toscana, and others?

The Staff report provided a good analysis of the differences between California and University Avenues.

For restaurants on University and California, my concern is that temporary street closures will not enable restaurant owners to set up tables on a long term basis, they'd need to remove/store/replace outdoor seating constantly.

They'd be better off with parklets and sidewalk dining!

Combined with the street-closure impact on non-restaurant businesses, this seems to be a far less effective solution, with much higher administrative/logistical "costs".

I feel that the parklet, sidewalk dining, and private-parking-lot proposals are more effective, less complex, and have far fewer negative consequences, and are appropriate for ALL restaurant/business locations.

Given the limited capacity/bandwidth of Staff time for these proposals, I don't want Street Closures consideration to delay the other proposals.

Respectfully,

Don Jackson

=====
===== . Previous email =====

Honorable Councilpeople,

I'm writing to urge you to support street/parking changes to enable our local restaurants to use these areas to provide safe, outdoor, socially-distanced dining.

As I know you are aware, our local restaurants are facing financial ruin as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis, and our restaurants are a very significant quality-of-life benefit to all Palo Altans.

When the City/County/State begins to allow restaurants to re-open, it seems likely and prudent that returning to pre-pandemic restaurant table spacing/distancing will not be responsible nor desirable.

It seems obvious to me that allowing “parklets” in front (and adjacent) to our restaurants would significantly help our local restaurants to provide safer dining, and also help restaurants get closer to their former seating capacity.

Given that we are well into Spring, and Summer is right around the corner, the weather will be the best that it can be to make outdoor dining reasonable and comfortable.

As a more significant move, I would also encourage and support street closures (particularly in the evening) to provide even more outdoor space for dining, shopping, etc. I’d propose closing much of University Avenue, and the first block of side streets like Emerson, Ramona, and Bryant for the Spring/Summer, (again, perhaps after 5:30pm). California Avenue, the first block of Birch Street off California, Emerson Street between Homer and University, and Hamilton between Emerson and Ramona.

Given that traffic will likely not return to pre-pandemic levels anytime soon, and the need to help our local restaurants and shops, I can imagine that making this Summer a more relaxed, outdoor-dining friendly experience would provide financial help to our local restaurants, and be a safe and responsible respite for all Palo Altans.

Respectfully

Don Jackson

=====

Honorable Councilpeople:

I urge you to read this op-ed piece from the NY Times authored by a restaurant owner regarding the challenges he and others are facing:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/22/opinion/nyc-bars-restaurants-coronavirus.html?smid=em-share>

Respectfully,

Don Jackson

Brettle, Jessica

From: B. Lynn Ware <drblynnware@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Outdoor Dining on Main Street

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

I SUPPORT the closure of Californnia and University Avenues to let restaurants have outdoor dining.

We must find creative solutions to allow our small businesses to survive during these difficult times.

Lynn

--
Bambi Lynn Ware
3596 Louis Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303
T: 650-493-7209
C: 650-207-2713

Brettle, Jessica

From: Carol Simone <quanyin@carolsimone.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:08 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Opening city streets for dining

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

Yes, I fully support open the city streets off and on University for dining possibilities. I think it's a great idea! It will help everyone involved.

Carol Simone
1011 Fulton Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Brettle, Jessica

From: Cynthia Tham <cynthia@thamlock.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Close University to support downtown retailers and restaurants

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

Hi

I'd like to show my support for closing University Ave and California Ave to allow more space for outdoor walking and dining 7 days a week.

I've seen this done in Dublin and it's wonderful. The city thrives and the foot traffic increases in the city center.

I look forward to more pedestrian friendly business districts.

Sincerely
Cynthia
residents in midtown for 27 years

Brettle, Jessica

From: Emanuela Todaro <emanuela.todaro@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:20 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: Dante Malagrino
Subject: Please close California Ave and University Ave to car traffic

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

I think it would make walking safer while we need to respect social distancing.
It would also help local restaurants, as they have been severely impacted. And last, but not least, it would be a pleasant experience and very much in line with this trend of pedestrian areas downtown

Thanks for considering

Emanuela Todaro and Dante Malagrino

Brettle, Jessica

From: Yael Pasternak Valek <yaelcow@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Close streets for restaurants

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

Please close downtown and CA ave to traffic to support our restaurants - that is the only way I would ever eat out! Our businesses need this!

Thanks,
Yael

Brettle, Jessica

From: Alan Weinstein <hopfish@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:46 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: closing streets

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

We strongly support the closing of University Avenue to provide more room for outdoor dining and shopping.

Alan and Margo Weinstein
401 Webster St, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Brettle, Jessica

From: Darlene Yaplee <darlene.yaplee@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Agenda Item #8 "Outdoor Dining & Retail": Yes - Parklets!

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

Council,

Restaurants are limited by social distancing to 25% former capacity.

Please take **action and streamline** processes to help restaurants survive in these challenging times.

Yes for Parklets!

- Parklets are **geographically inclusive**
 - **We need to support all restaurants in Palo Alto, including those located on and not on University and California streets**
- Some citizens may worry about **parking spaces**, what's the use of some parking spaces if it means restaurants will go out of business?
 - Lower parking needs - several businesses have gone out of business (e.g. Walgreen's and Dan Gordan's) or will have reduced customers (e.g. work at home, lower hotel occupancy)
 - People are willing to walk further to save businesses
 - If people are worried about all day parking in front of their homes, this isn't a restaurant problem...permit criteria needs to be re-evaluated
- Expedite support for **relocation** of any "short duration only" **parking spot eliminated** by a parklet to a nearby parking spot
 - City to provide a **streamlined procedure** to have any such parking space relocated to minimize the impact on their business neighbors
- **Sidewalk dining** and conversion of private parking for outdoor dining or retail display
 - I support these, but they are only a **fit to a small number of businesses**
- **Street closures - not inclusive to all restaurants**
 - Restaurants outside of California and University Avenues would NOT benefit. **Parklets would address all restaurants** on many streets beyond CA and University Avenues
- **Yes, Yes, Yes...**
 - authorize **alcohol** consumption with meals and **do not require new applications** for serving alcohol in parklets
 - entitle parklet permit holders with **exclusive use** of the parklets
 - **fee waivers**
 - **pre-approved parklet design**
 - **annual renewals**

Parklets will make the difference between a restaurant's survival and going out of business.

Please support our local restaurants to survive.

Thank you,
Darlene Yaplee

Brettle, Jessica

From: chao Lam <chaolam@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Opening up downtown street pedestrians

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

Thank you for considering this issue. I wholeheartedly support this move and hope you will endorse it 7 days a week.

Thank you,
Chao Lam
193 Waverley St

Brettle, Jessica

From: Debbie Nichols <debbiegailnichols@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:01 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Close University and California Ave

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

Dear City Council: I support temporarily closing University Ave and California Ave.

Debbie Nichols
2070 Bryant Street
Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Lori <loricott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:10 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Street Closure for Dining

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

I support a temporary closure of blocks of California Avenue and University Avenue to allow restaurants to set up tables in the street until either indoor dining is safe and allowed or the weather turns too cold and rainy for this to make sense or be appealing to customers any longer.

Lori Cottle
895 Rorke Way
Palo Alto
Loricott@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: M.L. Boyd <mlb15@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: 1151 Webster St-please open restaurants outdoors and close streets down

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

this will help the local restaurants but also get diners out in a socially distanced way. I have advocated closing both California Avenue and University Avenue for years.

what a great time to test this out!

Thank you

ML Boyd

Brettle, Jessica

From: Rich Monroe <rjmonroe968@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:24 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Street dining

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

Sounds like a great idea. You gave our support!

Rich & Frances Monroe

Sent from my iPad

Brettle, Jessica

From: Lucinda Tinsman <ltinsman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:24 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: support closing university

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

Dear City Council members,

I am a resident of the Willow, Menlo Park, but I wanted to write and express my support for closing off University so that restaurants can reopen with social distancing protocols in place. There is really no other way, if you want to bring any life back to downtown. I'm not even sure if with the social distancing protocols in place it will be safe enough, but people wish to test this out regardless. Please give them half a shot at doing so safely. Otherwise, all those restaurants are going to go under.

Best,

Lucinda Tinsman

Brettle, Jessica

From: Mamie Poggio <mgpoggio@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:25 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: In favor of closing University Ave & California Ave for restaurant tables

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

To City Council Members:

Our family enjoys eating out at restaurants every weekend, so please do vote in favor of closing University Avenue and California Avenue, at least on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, if not every night, so that restaurants can serve their customers outside in front of their restaurants. This will really help restaurant businesses that are hurting right now. It will bring cheer to more people to see other people enjoying their meals outside.

Thanks,
Mamie Gong Poggio
Resident of Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Maura Carta <mauracarta@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:33 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Close University to traffic

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

Hello Palo Alto,

I know you are meeting tonight about the possible closure of University between Waverley and Emerson, and I wanted to support that. Please close it! Also, please make the closure of Bryant Street from Forest to Embarcadero permanent with barriers similar to those at Lowell and Bryant.

Thank you, and be well,
Maura Carta

Brettle, Jessica

From: Rebecca Leon <rebeccaaleon@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closing parts of Univ. ave and Cal Ave

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

Hello,

My family and I reside in Professorville , and want to lend our strong support to closing some blocks on California Avenue and University Avenue to support our local restaurants and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rebecca Leon

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Shauny Moore <smooreva@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:44 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Close University & California to car traffic

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

I fully support closing University and California Avenues to car traffic to restaurants and pedestrians to maintain distance.

Thank you.

Shauny Moore
666 Kellogg Ave.
Palo Alto 94301

Brettle, Jessica

From: shuchi sarkar <shuchisarkar2004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:56 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: In support of University and Cal Ave Proposal

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

I support the closure of University Ave and Cal Ave and keeping cross roads open so businesses can start getting safe spaces and come back to health and we can practice social distancing while eating out

Shuchi Sarkar
Resident of Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Gail Price <gail.price3@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:01 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open Streets/Safe Streets

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

City Council Study Session: Open Streets. 6/8/20

Good evening Mayor Fine and Palo Alto Council Members,

My name is Gail Price, Board President of Palo Alto Forward

We support the implementation of Open Streets/Safe Streets. We support restaurants and retail and an energized economy.

During and post Covid-19, it is important to expand outdoor retail and dining spaces while supporting economic activities and vitality of all types of businesses.

By enhancing economic recovery, you can combine safe distancing and public health benefits by promoting more walkable areas in various areas, including University and California Avenues.

This is not a radical concept; many other communities have adopted these programs, including the use of parklets.

In fact, several years ago, Palo Alto Forward created two demonstration parklets, including one on University Avenue. It had furniture and seating areas, moveable greenery in pots, and some shade. Many people enjoyed its novelty and function. It was attractive and illustrated how easily more active walkable and livable communities can be created.

Cities are organic and re-invent themselves. The City should reflect changing conditions and embrace this concept. It merges flexibility, safety, business, and new outcomes. Thank you.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Maria Jenson <maria@jenson.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:01 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please close the streets as a way to support restaurants and businesses

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

Maria Jenson
612-669-0732

Brettle, Jessica

From: Govinda Rajan <kngrajan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:02 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closing blocks on Univ. Avenue

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

Hi

I strongly support the proposal of closing blocks on University Ave and California Ave to cars (while still keeping cross streets open, so as to minimize the impact on traffic). This will allow restaurants to offer more outdoor dining, and allow pedestrians more space to walk around safely as well.

Govinda Rajan
Kenneth Drive
Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Eric Nordman <eric.nordman12@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:18 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Temporary closing streets for restaurant use is a good idea

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

City Council:

I hope you will support the proposal to close streets temporarily to provide outdoor space for restaurants. This will not only help the restaurants, it will help minimize the spread by allowing more generous spacing of tables.

Sincerely,
Eric and Kathy Nordman
2150 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Brettle, Jessica

From: Steven Chanin <steven_chanin@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:21 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: In support of "Parklets" and Street Closure's for restaurants

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

Honorable Councilpeople,

My neighbor, Don Jackson, wrote a very detailed and clear letter in support of "Parklets" and Street Closure's (copy below). I support the ideas he endorses, so rather than copy and paste and create work for you, please treat me email as a "+1" for Don's suggestions.

Thanks,
Steven Chanin
857 Waverley St
Palo Alto, CA 94301

=====

Honorable Councilpeople,

I've previously written emails regarding my support for actions to facilitate outdoor dining on our streets (appended below), and I am pleased to see the Council/Staff study session on this topic at the 2020-06-08 meeting.

After further conversations with restaurant owners, I have refined and focused my earlier thoughts, and I now propose and support the following specific actions:

Authorize a parklet program.

Enable restaurant/business owners to apply to construct parklets in front of their establishments, with as streamlined and expedited approval as soon as possible.
Parklets help restaurants in any location in Palo Alto, not just those on University or California Avenues.
Specifics to include:

- Entitle parklet permit holders with exclusive use of the parklet.
- Waive any/all fees for these permits
- Yearly renewal of permits is reasonable
- Expedited support for relocation of any "short duration only" parking spot eliminated by a parklet to a nearby parking spot.
Restaurant owners have shared their concern that if their parklet would remove a drop-off/short-duration parking spot that is important to a neighboring business, that the City to provide a streamlined procedure to have any such parking space relocated to minimize the impact on their neighbors.

Authorize public consumption of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a meal outdoors within parklets and at sidewalk tables.

This authorization should be coupled with the parklet/sidewalk permit, in the (unlikely) event of repeated/ongoing compliance violations, it would then provide a targeted and focused tool to motivate resolution.

Do **NOT** require a new/additional permit to serve alcohol in a parklet or the sidewalk

The Staff reports mentions the following concerns:

Parklet installation expense:

I understand and sympathize that some restaurant owners may find the expense of creating a parklet beyond their current means.

It is unfortunate that in the current fiscal climate, Palo Alto is not in a position to provide [a cost-sharing program](#) to parklet creators,

as our neighbor Menlo Park did a couple years ago...but to paraphrase Voltaire, “let us not make perfection the enemy of the good”,

authorizing/enabling our restaurant owners who are so able to create parklets is clearly in the best interest of the City and residents/diners.

I believe the above two actions are the of the highest priority, and I urge Council to direct Staff to implement them ASAP.

Other actions identified in the Staff report:

Authorize "Sidewalk Dining", and "Conversion of Private Parking for Outdoor Dining or Retail Display"

I support both these actions, but they are appropriate/applicable to a smaller number of businesses, so of lower priority than the above.

Street Closures

This proposal does not help restaurant owners not located on University or California Avenues, a significant limitation. What are we going to do for: Evvia, Taverna, Bird Dog, Tacolicious, Delfina, Reposado, Zola, Bistro Elan, Osteria Toscana, and others?

The Staff report provided a good analysis of the differences between California and University Avenues.

For restaurants on University and California, my concern is that temporary street closures will not enable restaurant owners to set up tables on a long term basis, they'd need to remove/store/replace outdoor seating constantly.

They'd be better off with parklets and sidewalk dining!

Combined with the street-closure impact on non-restaurant businesses, this seems to be a far less effective solution, with much higher administrative/logistical “costs”.

I feel that the parklet, sidewalk dining, and private-parking-lot proposals are more effective, less complex, and have far fewer negative consequences, and are appropriate for ALL restaurant/business locations.

Given the limited capacity/bandwidth of Staff time for these proposals, I don't want Street Closures consideration to delay the other proposals.

Respectfully,

Don Jackson

Thanks,
Steve

Steven Chanin
steven_chanin@alum.mit.edu
(415) 377-7503

Brettle, Jessica

From: Carol J Kersten <chavet@stanford.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:49 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: 100% supportive of street closures to help restaurants and retailers

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

Dear City Council,

I was thrilled to learn that Palo Alto is considering temporary closures of California Avenue and University Avenue to allow restaurants to spread out their outdoor tables and pedestrians to stroll with more space and opportunity for social distancing.

We want to be as supportive as possible to our local restaurants and businesses. And now is an excellent time to try this, given much lower levels of traffic.

In addition, pedestrian zones in many historic cities in Europe has been very successful and have resulted in a much more humanized and enjoyable experience for local residents. I have loved strolling through pedestrian streets, often closed just in the evenings, sometimes all the time, in several places in Europe.

I think this is a wonderful idea and strongly urged you to implement that this. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Carol
Carol Kersten
910 California Ave.,
Palo Alto, CA 94306
ckersten@Stanford.edu

Brettle, Jessica

From: Virginia Smedberg <virgviolin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:50 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: support for idea of closing blocks to allow restaurants and pedestrians more room

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

Dear City Council,

I am writing in support of the idea of closing some blocks of University and Calif Ave's to allow restaurants to expand their serving space allowing for physical distancing, while also making it possible for pedestrians to have their distancing. Since on Calif Ave both sides of the street have alleys or parking behind them, people could still access the stores from their cars for pickups. I'm not sure how that would work on University - to be worked out. But the basic idea is excellent. Keep Lytton and Hamilton as "thru-ways", and Cambridge for Calif Ave.

Virginia Smedberg
441 Washington Ave

Brettle, Jessica

From: David Coale <david@evcl.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:50 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Support outdoor dining on University Ave and Cal Ave

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

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Please support the closure of University Ave and Cal Ave to promote outdoor dining to help bring back our downtown areas.

There is support for this from the merchants, the Chamber of Commerce and the community as well. A pilot program would be a great way to start this. It is also a great way to support a more livable, walkable and sustainable business district while reducing SOV, and GHGs while promoting a more healthy life style. This is a great alinement of Palo Alto values and priorities that should be implemented ASAP!

Sincerely,

David Coale
Barron Park

Brettle, Jessica

From: John McDowell <john@mcdowell.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:07 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Monday night: Temporarily close blocks of University Ave for dining and retail

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

City Council:

I've personally talked to hundreds of residents and businesses who feel it's important-- if not necessary-- to close blocks of University Ave for outdoor retail and dining. We ask you to please hear and support us.

This is obviously a critical time to support our restaurants and retailers. The future of our downtown is at stake.

At least on University Avenue this summer, parklets or sidewalk tables alone WON'T be a sufficient solution to address the table space shortage due to COVID-19.

With 6 foot spacing, parklets alone represent perhaps 10-15% of former restaurant table space. Without a wide pedestrian walkway, parklets and sidewalk tables also impede 6-foot spacing of tables from pedestrians and order-pickup areas. It's far from the best solution, at least for the restaurants on University Ave.

We ask you to:

- **Open University Ave to pedestrians, retail, and dining tables.**
- **Put a wide bidirectional walking path down the center of the street.**
 - This keeps pedestrians away from tables, servers, and order pickup traffic.
- **Make this change 24/7.**
 - A partial-week schedule limits options and investment in the right experience.
- Keep cross streets open to cars.
 - There could be dedicated order-pickup and handicap parking places on the side streets. Restaurants on side streets can use parklets as the best available solution.
- Schedule this plan through this summer.
 - To mitigate below concerns, commit to not making it permanent without continued support from businesses and those concerned about parking and traffic.

Minor concerns expressed in my poll, as an FYI:

1. A few residents: Long-term parking and traffic when COVID-19 ends (assuming employees don't continue to work from home)
2. A few businesses: I'd be okay with trying it if I weren't concerned that it would likely become permanent

Mitigation: Let's focus now on this solution as a COVID-19 mitigation during the summer. After we try it, we'll have so much more data.

John McDowell

Brettle, Jessica

From: Steve Wehrend <steve@wehrend.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:08 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closing University & Cal Ave to traffic

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

Hi,

I was born and raised in Palo Alto and am very much in support of closing both these streets to car traffic. I've seen it work well in Boulder (where I lived for many years before returning to Palo Alto) and believe it'll also work well in Palo Alto. And, given Covid-19, being able to dramatically increase the amount of outdoor restaurant seating seems both wise and good for business. Additionally, the removal of traffic will make for a much more pleasant and healthy retail/dining experience. Please seriously consider doing this.

Thanks,
Steve Wehrend
746 Greer Rd

Brettle, Jessica

From: Caroline Peres <cperes@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:13 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Temporarily closing Palo Alto streets for restaurants

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

Hello

Our family has been Palo Alto residents for 17 years. We are strongly in support of closing some streets temporarily to allow retails and restaurants to spread out in the streets and support more diners. It serves two purposes: 1. allow families to go out and see the world after being cooped up for 3 months. 2. allow restaurants and retails to survive this crisis.

Growing up in Europe, I really enjoyed dining outside. This is the perfect opportunity to get more of that. Let's turn this crisis in an opportunity.

Thank you

Caroline Peres
1863 Channing Avenue

Brettle, Jessica

From: herb <herb_borock@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:14 PM
To: Clerk, City; Council, City
Subject: June 8, 2020 Council Meeting, Item #8: Restaurant Seating on City Property

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

Herb Borock
P. O. Box 632
Palo Alto, CA 94302

June 7, 2020

Palo Alto City Council
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**JUNE 8, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING, AGENDA ITEM #8
RESTAURANT SEATING ON CITY PROPERTY**

Dear City Council:

If the City of Palo Alto allows restaurants to use City property to seat the restaurants' customers, then the ultimate beneficiary of that action is the restaurants' landlords who capture the rent for that use by calculating a restaurant's rent based on the number of seated customers as a surrogate for the rent per square foot of leased space.

The City should allow a restaurant to seat its customers on City property only if the restaurant's landlord agrees to pay the City the City's pro rata share of the rent paid to the landlord based on the relative number of seats in the landlord's property and the City's property.

The original idea of permitting eating and drinking establishments to use City property for their businesses was to move some of the establishment's seating from inside the restaurant to outside the restaurant during warm weather. If the total number of seats inside and outside the leased premises was more than the number permitted by the Zoning Ordinance inside the establishment, then the establishment would be obligated to pay the City an in-lieu parking fee for the additional seating based on one parking space for each four additional seats.

The permission to use the City right-of-way required a permit that was discretionary. I am not aware that staff ever made an effort to determine

when the total seating increased for any establishment to enable staff to charge and collect the required in-lieu parking fee.

Then the City Manager issued a staff report at the beginning a long City Council summer vacation that used a staff interpretation to remove the discretionary aspect of the permit, and said all establishments were entitled to use City property. No mention was made of the requirement for an in-lieu parking fee in that staff report.

Now, the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce would like the City to use its sidewalks, streets, and parking lots for restaurant seating to enable landlords to continue to collect rent from restaurants for seating that the City would be providing under the guise that the purpose of using City property in this way is to help the restaurants and the public when the true purpose is to create windfall profits for property owners.

Consistent with past practice of the Chamber of Commerce for all development projects, the proposal completely ignores the effect that using the City's streets and parking lots for seated customers would have on traffic and parking, including the effect on the Downtown Residential Preference Parking Program.

Also missing is any summary of the past closure of University Avenue to channel all traffic to Hamilton Avenue and Lytton Avenue that was reversed after a short trial that created a negative impact on retail businesses at a time when the amount of traffic and parking in the Downtown commercial area was a fraction of the current levels.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Herb Borock

Brettle, Jessica

From: JOHN HERB <john@herbpartners.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Street Closure on University Ave and California Ave.

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

I'm writing to support the closure of sections of University and California Avenues in order to facilitate safe pedestrian traffic in these areas while enabling restaurants and other businesses to expand customer service onto the sidewalk and street areas. The City needs to do all it can to help restart economic life in the service industry while maintaining safe practices to prevent COVID-19 transmission. The street closures seem like an obvious step towards that end. I'm sure there will be much whining about the inconvenience caused but we can all accept some inconvenience to help people restart their livelihoods.

Sincerely,

John A. Herb, Ph.D.
2625 Middlefield Rd., #593
Palo Alto, CA 94306

john@herbpartners.com

Brettle, Jessica

From: Maria Lines <lines.maria@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:46 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: Maria Lines
Subject: Support for Closing university and cal ave

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

Dear PA City Council,

I have lived in Palo Alto for 32 years and have always lived within walking distance of university ave. One of the reasons I live so close to University is the great accessibility to services such as delicious food at many restaurants. Before I moved to Palo Alto, I grew up in Burlington, Vermont where my Dad owned a diner. You may know that Burlington has a street running through downtown called church street. It has been a pedestrian only street for 44 years. Initially it was very controversial among many of the small businesses that lined church street and the cross streets. Once implemented it's become a model across the country for how to have such a wonderful community asset. It attracts tourists from all over the northeast who love to sit outside to dine, stroll the few blocks with friends, listen to different live music acts or hang out while eating their Ben and Jerry's ice cream cone.

In summary, I fully support closing both University Avenue and California Avenue to traffic. I believe doing this will create an inviting atmosphere for people to dine outdoors and thus help our restaurants stay in business during a very challenging time.

Thanks for your consideration,

Maria Lines
173 Waverley St

Brettle, Jessica

From: Nancy Panayides <nancyp01@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:59 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closing downtown streets

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

This email is to serve as my support for the closing off parts of University, Emerson, and California Ave to allow outdoor dining in the streets. This allows us to observe social distancing while allowing restaurants to have enough patrons to help profitability.
Nancy Panayides
974 Elsinore Court

Brettle, Jessica

From: Dianne E. Jenett <djenett@serpentina.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 9:03 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please shut University Avenue to help restaurants

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

Dianne Jenett, Ph.D.
330 Cowper Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
djenett@serpentina.com

Brettle, Jessica

From: Patricia L Devaney <devaney@stanford.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 9:22 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: In support of closing CA Ave &University for restaurants

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

This is a great idea! I'm all for it. Just a suggestion: close Birch St too just between Cambridge and halfway between California Ave and Sherman. That would allow four more restaurants to have street dining, including my favorite Pro Bono!

Way to go, folks!

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Jean Kirsch <psyki346@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 9:27 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: closing University and California Aves to cars

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

I support the move!! We can do it, for certain blocks, during specified hours or permanently. Let's try it for summer dining! It will bring new life to our downtown restaurants and retail stores, who need our support!

Jean Kiirsch
1748 Fulton St
94303

Brettle, Jessica

From: Hilary Glann <hglann@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 9:27 PM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Subject: Please Close University and Cal Ave to cars to support local businesses
Attachments: nextdoor feedback on road closures.pdf

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

Hello Ed and City Council Members:

I wanted to voice my strong support for proposals to allow restaurants to take advantage of the street to provide safe places for people to eat in our City. Al fresco will be the only way for me to eat in public in the foreseeable future as it will be the only public place I'll be comfortable without a mask. Palo Alto has some of the best weather in the world, and that puts us in a great position to move dining outdoors for as many months as we can during this pandemic.

We love how Cal Ave has been transformed to a destination location over the years due to the Farmer's Market street closure, and will be delighted to see that extended to more days of the week, as well as to University.

In case you missed it, I captured screen shots from Nextdoor of a discussion thread about these street closures. Most of the comments are positive and there are a few neutral and some negative ones. There is one resident who is vehemently against the idea, and she weighs in about 10 times in the thread.

Thank you,

Hilary Glann
hglann@gmail.com

Nextdoor "Survey"

B Britt Richards, South of Midtown ▼

How do you feel if streets like University Ave, California and other streets were shut down so that restaurants could use these areas (and parking lots) to serve their customers?

We have so many restaurants that are struggling. They are a great reason why this area is unique - they are part of our community. Even if they can open, it means that they can't serve people at the bar and many tables will need to be taken out. They need to be able to serve the same number of people to remain profitable, but in a safe, socially distanced manner. What better way than to use our parking lots and our streets for the seating. We accommodate the orange cones and the street shutdown to pave - why not do it to save our restaurants? Many other cities are doing this.

Yes - This is a great idea. Dinner al fresco!

No - I don't care if the restaurants close.

886 votes

28 May · 41 neighborhoods in General

 [Thank](#)  [Comment](#) ▼

 19  70

S Sophia Christel, Barron Park ▼
I've been saying for years that University should be closed permanently to car traffic! It's so lovely when they turn it into a promenade during World Music Day every year. And driving on University is a pain anyway!

29 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)   8

J Judith Wasserman, Leland Manor ▼
Actually, that was done years ago and the street began to die. Maybe times have changed - who knows?

29 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)   3



Judith Wasserman, Leland Manor

Hard to know - I think people wanted to park in front of the stores they were going into. It was so long ago that no one in the Planning Dept was here then. We have lost our institutional memory.

29 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

2



Sophia Smith, Ventura

Perhaps times have changed in a way that now we have more gourmet places with meals and coffees and desserts and cocktails available so perhaps people want to sit around outside and linger and enjoy outdoors ...

29 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

1



Judith Wasserman, Leland Manor

Yes, I agree. I think the times HAVE changed. In the past, retail really meant stores with things to buy, so people went in, came out and left in their cars. Stanford Shopping Center was new and big competition. Now, as Sophia and Laura say, it's restaurants and cafes. I also voted yes. Last time they closed University, they made Hamilton and Lytton one way in opposite directions. I think that served to bypass University altogether. No one is talking about doing that now.

30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

1



Add a reply...



Laura Eager, College Terrace

I vote yes because I love to support local restaurants as much as possible. Being a small business owner isn't easy, especially during a pandemic. As long as there are protocols in place to keep staff and customers safe, we should find ways to keep restaurants open.

30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

4



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park

We can all park in front of your house, then? We will leave around 10 or 10:30 at night, talk loudly to our friends or on our cell phones (after all, we have been drinking), and slam our doors as we roar out.

30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

1



Anne Keller, South of Midtown

I voted yes but I think parking lots should stay open.

30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



Sophia Smith, Ventura

Anne Keller - I'm sure the original poster meant outdoor parking slots such as the ones inside California Ave

Edited 30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



Judith Wasserman, Leland Manor

I think she meant only the surface parking lots would be used for eating. Not much fun sipping wine in a garage!

30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park

I think the idea is to use the sidewalks and the parking spaces in front of restaurants for dining . . . cars would have to park in garages, lots, or in the residential areas.

30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



Britt Richards, South of Midtown

Carol Scott The thought was to use both the street and some surface parking lots (across from the Patio and Evvia) in and around University Ave (by Thaiphoon and Scotty's) so that they had the same seating capacity but spread out. Using only sidewalk seating can't work but having a few blocks with no cars would be worth it. I understand that it will create additional parking nightmares for the surrounding area.

30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



Sophia Smith, Ventura

It reminds me: when traveling in Italy or Greece, the waiters from restaurants carrying trays and plates would cross a street, sometimes even street with cars driving through, to get to their restaurant's outdoor seating area on the other side of the street ...

30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



C Carol Scott, Evergreen Park ▼

Yes, Britt, it will. Thank you for acknowledging it. Can we park at your house??? Cars from dining leave late at night. People do not leave quietly, but talk loudly especially when they have been drinking or on their cell phones. They slam car doors. They roar off, revving their engines. The people in the home in front of which they parked cannot sleep. I know -- I live on Park Blvd just across from Stanford, and on evenings where Stanford has had an event, it is loud even when windows are shut. It is lovely to support restaurants -- I agree -- but the City has to have a plan to keep people in the neighborhood who are already innudated with worker parking during the day protected from intrusions even at night. Add the constant traffic at night with the airplane noise overhead, and it becomes intolerable. Demand that residents get some consideration from the City and the rest of us who only drop in for entertainment.

Edited 30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

 1

 Add a reply...

P Perry Randall, California ave Easy ▼

If you look at Santa Monica for example, the third street promenade has always been a gem of the retail world.

Their model relies on making ample parking available adjacent to major entrances to the promenade, using one way streets around the promenade, and making it accessible by effective public transportation.

I think this is something we should pursue permanently with University Ave. How can we bring this to the city's attention?

30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

 3

C Carol Scott, Evergreen Park ▼

Exactly. The City of Santa Monica has provided parking and not dumped everything onto the neighborhoods surrounding it. They acknowledge that people bring cars and plan for it. Palo Alto insists that no one drives and ignores the issue.

30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

 1



Judith Wasserman, Leland Manor



I am not at all familiar with Santa Monica, but University Avenue in Palo Alto is a freeway off-ramp and direct connection to Stanford (it's not called "University" Avenue for nothing!), so the amount of through traffic is something to be considered. I don't mean it should be the primary concern, but it is a factor.

Edited 30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



1



Perry Randall, California ave Easy



That's a great point.

I have seen Palo Alto take measures in the recent past to restrict the flow of traffic to promote neighborhood quality (narrowing of middlefield). That might be the compromise we make here to ensure our favorite local businesses can flourish in the age of distancing.

Do we have any open city data on traffic flow?

30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)

[↪ See 6 more replies](#)



Michelle Shabtai, Green Acres II



Great idea! If we could bring the farmers market there too it would be nice. And music in the summer evenings. Opening up this space will hopefully bring community together, while keeping mindfully safe.

30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park



Lovely. We'll all park at your house. We will leave late at night after the your kids and you have gone to bed. We will talk loudly as we come back to our car either to our friends or on our cell phone, we will slam multiple doors as we get into our cards, and roar off as we depart. I'm sure you will enjoy the experience. Nice idea, but the City has no plans for any useful public transportation and no plans to protect the neighborhoods. Demand that protection, and I'm all for it.

Edited 30 May

[Thank](#)

[Reply](#)



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park



Lovely. We'll all park at your house. We will leave late at night after the your kids and you have gone to bed. We will talk loudly as we come back to our car either to our friends or on our cell phone, we will slam multiple doors as we get into our cards, and roar off as we depart. I'm sure you will enjoy the experience. Nice idea, but the City has no plans for any useful public transportation and no plans to protect the neighborhoods. Demand that protection, and I'm all for it.

Edited 30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Britt Richards, South of Midtown



Carol Scott there is plenty of parking on University ave away from the restaurants. There is parking on the backside of the police station. There are spaces that are still commercial and residential and have parking. That is what I'm speaking about. Most of Hamilton has parking and is non-residential and has few restaurants on it. That would be ok to park there. It's for a limited time - not a permanent change.

30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Cynthia Hamilton, Evergreen Park



I think this would be great. As for the parking situation, there are plenty of spaces in the garages and non residential side streets to accommodate locals. This would be a temporary solution for the restaurants during the pandemic. There won't be hoards of out of town-ers coming down for brunch, dinner, and bar hopping.

The only doubt would be the fact that it is a main artery to and from Stanford/101. Though that could easily be diverted to Embarcadero (which is also a traffic nightmare on a regular day, but basically all of Palo Alto is... On a regular day.)

6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park



Britt Richards I hope you are right. Every time I have been downtown, I have had a very hard time finding a place to park. Everyone is always eager to volunteer someone else's neighborhood.

Edited 6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

B Britt Richards, South of Midtown ▼
Carol Scott I understand NIMBY for new housing developments and other things (I lived in SF and had a homeless shelter put in the parking lot across from my apartment!) Supporting and ensuring the survival of small businesses increases the value of the community as it keeps the vibrancy. The surrounding streets and some parking space towers and other streets can take the burden. People just won't be able to "park directly in front" of the business for awhile. Small price to pay for ensuring livelihoods and keeping Palo Alto a good place to live. Walking a few blocks more doesn't seem to be too much to ask for a limited time.
6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

 Add a reply...

 **Elsie Garetto, Triple El/Leland Manor** ▼
Yes, great idea!
30 May [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

H Hilary Glann, Barron Park ▼
Yes! It's safer for everyone if we can eat outside AND it helps local businesses
6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)  1

H Hayat Saba, Midtown ▼
Excellent idea.
6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

 **Maureen Roddy, Midtown** ▼
Thank you for trying to help local businesses! I know Zombie Runner on California Ave declined offers of people to do a Go-Fund-Me for them because they didn't want to distract donations from food kitchens and other essential charities - but I'm sure they need support too. I am buying their beans and hot drinks on Wed. & Sun. 10-1 when they are open.
6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)  2

E Emily Young, South of Midtown ▼
Great Idea!!!!!!
6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

A

Andy Daniel, Fairmeadow

First of all, I find the two choices you are offering loaded. I would enjoy dinner al fresco and I do care if the restaurants close. But closing a main street like University would cut off streets behind it create a bunch of cul-de-sacs making the trarrfic situation worse, and it would be harmful for those business that are doing take-out or that are not restaurants. It would also be more difficult for people who depend on handicapped spaces.

California Avenue is closed using the weekly Farmer's Market and it does fine, and with the Caltrain tracks it's already not a through street, so it might work better there.

6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

😊 +1 😊 5

C

Carol Scott, Evergreen Park

Not really. There are people trying to live their lives there, too.

6 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

D

Danny Epstein, Green Acres II

Agreed about the survey being biased but I think closing some core streets is a good idea. University Ave isn't a good street to drive on anyway.

Edited 3 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

+1 1



Glenn Story, Greenmeadow

I agree with you: the question as asked is highly biased. Whether you think closing University is a good idea or not, a poll with an answer "No I don't care about restaurants" is not going to garner many no votes.

3 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

😊 +1 2

P

Pattie Rotondo Rotondo, Monroe Park

Glenn Story It is pretty classic "push" poll wording. Hence, my concern that the poll will later be used to justify the permanent closing of streets, excluding a significant portion of the community from ready access to businesses on those streets.

3 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

😊 +1 2



Add a reply...



Katie Kamnetz, Ventura

Is it possible that people are more inclined to walk or bike to these streets now? Bicycles are on back-order around the country and more people are looking for ways to get exercise since gyms are closed. On the days that Cal Ave has a farmers market, there is a huge increase in bikes in the racks. I really don't know if it is enough to make a difference on university, but it might be a factor to consider.

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Eleanor Lin, Greenmeadow

It might be wise to add additional handicap parking on adjacent streets and/or parking for business employees. I am happy to walk or bike in.

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park

And where would you like to put these additional parking places? Over 150 permits for employees are already sold in Evergreen Park and 150 in Mayfield (south of California Ave.). My neighborhood should not be treated like a parking lot for the rest of Palo Alto.

4 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Annemarie Lekkerkerker, Evergreen Park

It's a shame they didn't close down Cal Ave for cars when they were restructuring a couple years ago. Blew my mind back then, such a great opportunity to have a European style promenade, works over there, why wouldn't it work here.

People need to get rid of that attachment to their car, a little stroll won't hurt you.

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



3



Pattie Rotondo Rotondo, Monroe Park

That's easy to say if you don't have mobility issues.

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Annemarie Lekkerkerker, Evergreen Park

But do you than always need a car or are there other means to get around even with mobility issues?

It definitely creates a more safe environment for all people .



Pattie Rotondo Rotondo, Monroe Park



Annemarie Lekkerkerker Perhaps it is safer without cars, but that excludes people who are less mobile from using these businesses. Actually, depending on the rules, some of these "no car" zones feel less safe to me because bicycles weave in and out of the area and are both more difficult to see due to size and moving faster than a car would in the same area .

I just hope that people consider that not everybody is able to do the same things. I often see comments when these sorts of posts come up to the effect of "We should ban cars there and people can walk or bike in." I'm just saying that not everybody can do that. Many older people can't just hop on a bike and ride into the area and many can't walk multiple blocks from their cars to get into an area where cars aren't allowed.

And having disabled parking nearby isn't helpful to everyone. Some older people aren't technically disabled - they just find it more difficult to walk longer distances. I am hoping that people consider the abilities of everyone when they talk about making things more difficult to do. Maybe it isn't a big deal for me to walk 5 blocks to get to a restaurant, but that doesn't mean my 80 year old cousin feels the same.

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Add a reply...



Luis Carreno, Barron Park



I support this idea, hope they do it soon

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 1



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park



Great. Then can we all park in front of your house over the weekend, coming and going at all hours, making noise, and leaving trash?

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)

T**Tom Knotts, Duveneck - St. Francis** 

I don't want to die an agonizing death of Covid-19. But I can live without restaurants. The choice for me is an easy one. Stay away and be safe. I feel bad for businesses that are suffering but this virus was thrust upon us and we have no choice but to adjust to the new reality. Instead of focusing our efforts on opening restaurants in parking lots we should be focusing our efforts on preventing the wet markets in China for reopening. Otherwise we might all have to go through this yet again.

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)**B****Britt Richards, South of Midtown** 

The restaurants will open and life will go on in a modified manner. It will be important to support ways where we can both have businesses and restaurants open and do it safely. I think for a certain part of the population staying away from everyone is critical to staying safe. The wet markets - good luck petitioning China. Maybe after the investigation into the virus' origin is determined to be from there, we may see some changes. No country (Democratic or communist) will submit to a change of traditions. We too would give a stiff middle finger if someone told us no more BBQ after the swine flu epidemic. No chance of us quitting pigs especially at a foreign government's request/demand. Stay safe!

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 2**T****Tom Knotts, Duveneck - St. Francis** 

Good point about the swine flu.

5 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)**H****Henry Heller, Leland Manor** 

The options could've been worded a bit better.. you're shaming ppl into choosing the first option. Closing the streets where the restaurants can (keyword CAN) prevent ppl like the elderly or handicapped from otherwise having a short clear path into the establishment.

Edited 4 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 1

B**Britt Richards, South of Midtown** 

Sadly, for many restaurants, there are no options. It will be either open the street or they will close the restaurant. It's not meant to shame. We have had a number of views that said disturbing neighborhoods or, as you mentioned, a handicap person can't easily get there are critical issues to consider. Both valid reasons for you to say don't open the streets because there are issues for the community that outweigh the benefit of opening the restaurants- 6% feel this way. Many people often vote and then not realize the downstream consequences! :) My intent wasn't to shame but ensure a clear decision would be made. For you, handicap accessibility to park right in front of the restaurant > keeping a restaurant open.

4 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)**C****Carol Scott, Evergreen Park** 

The point is not whether or not to open the streets, but whether the City has a plan that consider these issues. My point is that the City has a tremendous outreach to businesses, but NONE to residents or to people in the community that would surface these issues. The City should have consulted ALL 'stakeholders' as they like to call us and made a better plan. Maybe it has such a plan, but if it does, I have heard nothing about it.

Edited 4 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)**P****Pattie Rotondo Rotondo, Monroe Park** 

I think my greatest concern is that people will, should this plan be implemented, resist returning the street to its current usage after the need for outdoor dining. They will only think of how much they personally like it without regard for the large percentage of the community that will be excluded from using those businesses. I don't object to temporary changes to deal with the current situation. I object to using the current situation to make a permanent change that excludes people.

4 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 2**C****Carol Scott, Evergreen Park** 

Once this is done, it is going to be extremely hard if not impossible to change it back.

4 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Andrew Lum, Midtown

kinda biased poll

4 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 😊❤️👍 3



Janice Bruner, Fairmeadow

I think it's an absolutely lovely idea. I remember being entranced with Verona, Italy for the streets closed to traffic at night. Restaurants carried tables and chairs outside to serve dinner late into the night. Elderly men carried their chairs out to the sidewalk to sit and chat with neighbors they had probably known their entire lifetime.

Suddenly, the little city belonged to the people, their families, friends and lives. The cars were relegated to an indifferent spot, quiet, out of the way taking their raucous foul smelling exhaust with them.

I say let the cities belong to the people!

3 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 😊❤️ 3



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park

And where is that quiet, indifferent spot for cars? I would love it if the City would tell me where that is.

3 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Janice Bruner, Fairmeadow

Carol Scott I don't know Carol, but their cities are built of stone and have been around for hundreds of years so restructuring would be a bit more difficult than here. However, they did and got to enjoy their neighbors rather than their cars.

Seems like a worthwhile exchange to me.

2 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#) 😊 2



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park

The City should belong to all of its residents. Pitting one resident's enjoyment against another resident's ability to sleep is not a good solution. The City has a responsibility to provide the transportation, traffic control, and parking that will protect residents negatively affected. I support trying to help restaurants and other retailers. I do not support the City making plans based solely on input from the business community with no known plans not to just dump all of the negative consequences on adjacent neighborhoods.



Sophia Smith, Ventura



Carol Scott It is impossible to please everyone. When i go visit my cousin, there is a noisy bar nearby, so i sleep with earplugs. Makes huge difference!

2 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Carol Scott, Evergreen Park



Sophia Smith This is about the most insensitive comment I have ever read. You go to a noisy area by choice. I did not move to a neighborhood that was used as a parking lot. There were no problems until the City decided to building large office buildings with no parking. If the City wishes to decide now to make California Ave, then it has a responsibility not to destroy homes. You live in Ventura. You should be aware of the problems that are caused when the City doesn't not consider the views of its residents. Wow. Telling people that they have to sleep with ear plugs in their own homes so someone else can use their neighborhood as a parking lot for their own pleasure is pretty rich.

2 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Sophia Smith, Ventura



Carol Scott You totally took it wrong way! I was just trying to help and suggest a solution -- in case the streets do get closed and people will park near your house.

Edited 2 days ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Add a reply...



Erika Enos, College Terrace



Why not try to close the street 1 night a week (like Mtn Vw does w/Castro st on thurs nights) & see if it's workable-even for a single night or a couple nights a week. Much easier to put 1 toe in the water than jump in from the diving board
-erika enos

22 hr ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Sophia Smith, Ventura



Erika: The current plan is "The pilot closures would initially run from Thursday mornings through Sunday evenings"

Edited 22 hr ago [Thank](#) [Reply](#)



Brettle, Jessica

From: Catherine Fitzgerald <cathy@fitzgroup.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 9:30 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Close University and California Ave's!

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

Hi City Council,

What a great idea given our times: close traffic on University and California Ave's, and turn the streets over to restaurants and pedestrians! This will support the small businesses to get back into business and provide citizens a lasting sample of one of the good things Covid gave us: walking on our peaceful streets!

Please VOTE YES on this! Increase the quality of life in Palo Alto.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Catherine Fitzgerald
765 University

Brettle, Jessica

From: Christopher Gaines <chris@performancegaines.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 9:50 PM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Cc: Nick Weiss
Subject: Re: Pilot Shared Streets for California Avenue

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

Hi Ed and Palo Alto City Council,

I hope this message finds you all safe and healthy. An email was forwarded to me regarding the upcoming discussion on street closures for University and California Avenue streets. While I cannot speak for the businesses on University Avenue, as a co-owner of PerformanceGaines on California Avenue, the idea to close California Avenue to traffic sounds like a good one. I would also suggest that Birch remain open as it's a common thoroughfare that many people use to access California Avenue from Oregon Expressway.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to help with this pilot.

In Health,
Chris

When you change how you move, you change how you live.

Christopher Gaines, Founder/Director of Programming, PerformanceGaines


www.ccgaines.com
Direct: 650.387.5400

Time is precious. We require 24 hours notice if you wish to cancel an appointment.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Dave Armstrong <DArmstrong@sakata.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:18 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Outdoor dining

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

Dear Palo Alto City Council,

I would respectfully urge the council to approve measures to allow the set up of sidewalk and street dining on California Ave and University Ave during the COVID pandemic.

Sincerely

Dave Armstrong
President-CEO
Sakata America Holding Inc
1920 Bryant St
Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: James Stoyell <jamesstoyell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:34 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Supporting closing streets for dining and retail

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

Hello,

I wanted to voice my strong support for closing sections of University Ave and Californiaave streets 7 days a week for dining retail. I think the economic and health benefits of having the additional space far outweighs the costs, and it encourages eco friendly forms of transport.

Thank you,

James Stoyell

Brettle, Jessica

From: brian@bulkowski.org
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:36 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: please close University and California Ave for dining and retail

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

Dear Palo Alto City Council ---

Please close off a section of University and California avenue during our COVID epidemic.

First, these two streets have pedestrians right now, and those pedestrians are not social distancing, and mostly not wearing masks. If those two streets were closed, people could walk in the center, and be safer – and be safer while enjoying vibrant downtown districts.

Second, the restaurants should have the ability to add more tables, and more tables with space between. Without, we will either have a poor recovery, or we have the potential of increased cases – a “double dip” creating far more economic damage than today.

Third, the area around both University and California does not need car traffic in the center. There are delivery alleys in the back. There is minimal parking on those streets already, today. There is certainly very little traffic.

Would I like Palo Alto to consider this pattern for the long term? You bet! It’s never seemed clear why we need those streets. But I won’t insist on keeping this pattern longer than needed. I suggest doing this pattern just for the next few months; see how it goes.

I’m a resident of Menlo Park (the willows). I attended PALY in the mid-eighties. My office is on California Ave (on Cambridge across from the post office). I’ve lived in the bay area for 30 years, lived in Palo Alto for one of those, and Menlo Park for a decade.

This appears a “no brainer”. Please just do it.

Thanks,
Brian Bulkowski
950 Arnold Way
Menlo Park

Brettle, Jessica

From: Elizabeth Whalley <ewhalleyus@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:48 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: I whole-heartedly support the closing of California Avenue and University Avenue.

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

Dear City Council of Palo Alto,

This would help business and would make those streets more visually appealing.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Whalley
2111 Bowdoin Street
Palo Alto, Ca 94306-1213

Brettle, Jessica

From: Anna Jaklitsch <annajak14@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:50 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: support for temporary dining on California Ave and University Ave, Downtown.

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

Dear City Council,

Since safety is more important now than ever--

It's important that we (1) provide sufficient, safe table space (2) provide safe access to pick up takeout orders without congregating near tables, AND (3) maintain safe pedestrian space.

City Council is discussing a proposal that many retailers, restaurants, and residents have advocated for — closing blocks on University Ave and California Ave to cars (while still keeping cross streets open, so as to minimize the impact on traffic). This will allow restaurants to offer more outdoor dining, and allow pedestrians more space to walk around safely as well.

I add my voice to the recommendation for the temporary street closure.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Anna Jaklitsch
1850 Hamilton Ave.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Christine Boehm <cboehm@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:51 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: Shikada, Ed
Subject: support for pedestrianizing roads

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

Dear City Council Members,

I am a long-time Palo Alto resident.

I understand that you're considering a proposal to make University Ave and California Ave fully available to pedestrians, cyclists, and diners by closing them to cars.

I support this plan. I also support making additional roads fully available to pedestrians, cyclists, and diners.

Best,
Christine

Brettle, Jessica

From: Melanie Grondel <mel.grondel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 11:13 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: Melanie Grondel
Subject: Temporarily closing of California Ave. and University Ave. to allow for outdoor space for restaurants and foot traffic.

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

Dear City Council,

It would be a great benefit to the businesses, residents and guests of Palo Alto to have the heart of town come to life again by being able to stroll and stop by our warmly appreciated restaurants for food and refreshments.

It is very important that we preserve the spirit of our town both at University Avenue and California Avenue by having the street open as a pedestrian zone with space for outdoor seating and walking by in comfort and safety. The entire street activity will benefit business all around.

This support is what we can do for our business staffs and entrepreneurs who are putting on an all out effort to survive and in doing so, keep our Palo Alto alive as we know and love it.

This trial period will be our best ticket out of the pandemic depression.

With hope for a positive decision from your side,

Melanie Grondel
Yale Street
Palo Alto, Ca.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Peeyush Ranjan <peeyushr@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 11:47 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Re closing Univ/California Avenue for evening dining/retail

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

Hi, I am a Palo Alto resident and I support this move. Please consider making this even permanent if possible, walkability will increase the attraction, and hopefully ample parking can be made available on the nearby streets/structures.

Thanks.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Sam Jackson <sam@samjackson.org>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:01 AM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Cc: Anna Ershova
Subject: Shared Streets - Let's do it for our community!

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

Hello Palo Alto officials: a quick note in support of the push to take back our key commercial streets from cars and give them to people. I live one block from California avenue, and see the restaurants excited to reopen. I also see people eager to keep their distance. Yet, still, we give huge amounts of free real estate to cars -- both parking or cruising.

Let's close or reduce the key streets to traffic and make it possible for people to enjoy them - for exercise, for strolling, for eating. There is huge amounts of parking just blocks away, should people really need it, but more biking or other means of transport could be encouraged.

We've gone daily since shelter in place began to check on the businesses that make our neighborhood dynamic. They need our help, and the public needs space to stay safe. Other cities are seeing great success. Can't we give a try?

Thanks,
Sam Jackson
Anna Ershova

Residents at Grant Ave Palo Alto CA

Brettle, Jessica

From: Alexandra Konings <agkonings@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:19 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: Shikada, Ed
Subject: Support for closing Cal Ave to cars

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

Dear Councillors and Manager Shikada,

I am a Palo Alto resident writing to strongly urge you to adopt the plan to close California avenue to cars. My family and I regularly shop and eat in the district - it is one of our favorite features of living in Palo Alto. We are very worried that many of our favorite restaurants will have to close their doors because of the COVID-19 crisis, and many of the restaurant employees and owners of Cal Ave restaurants have told us they are excited about the plan and think it will help them to be able to set out more (socially distanced) tables. This is consistent with the survey and press release from the Palo Alto chamber of commerce. Closing California Avenue to cars will not only bring joy to us and the many other families that can then enjoy the restaurants, it will also bring more sales tax dollars to the city (both in the near-term and especially in the long-term, by preventing these restaurants from going out of business), which is particularly valuable given the city's large budget shortfall.

Although we are able to walk to Cal Ave easily from College Terrace, I have heard of some opposition to this plan based on the fact that it would lead to a reduction in parking availability. However, the overwhelming majority of parking for Cal Ave is accessible from side streets and would not be affected by the closure of Cal Ave itself. Indeed, the popularity of the farmer's market every Sunday suggests that this is not a problem.

I urge you to adopt the plan to close Cal Ave to cars. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Konings

Brettle, Jessica

From: Barry M Katz <bkat@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:41 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Street closure: University and California Avenues

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

To the City Council:

I would like to add my voice in support of the closing of University Avenue and California Avenues to vehicular traffic. In the short term, I believe that this measure will provide vital assistance to restaurants and other businesses that have suffered terribly during the past three months. But please consider the long term as well: I urge you to treat street closure as an experiment which, if successful, should be made permanent.

In the rush to return to business as usual, we risk squandering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to think deeply and boldly about how we want to live. It would only compound the tragedy of the corona pandemic if we narrowed our thinking to the quick fixes and short-term solutions.

It has been reported that greenhouse gas emissions are down 17% globally; that Mt. Everest is visible from the Kathmandu Valley for the first time in living memory; that fish can be seen swimming in the once-polluted waters of the Yangtze that run through Wuhan. Locally, pedestrians in the congested parking lot known as University Avenue have enjoyed some relief, and it is possible to stroll along California Avenue without our conversation being drowned out by automobiles and our lungs filled with the exhaust of delivery trucks.

Big ideas are never easily realized: Returning our streets to the people will require that we protect surrounding neighborhoods and provide transportation facilities that are both sensible and sustainable, and much more. Risky? Sure. But the alternatives—doing nothing—are riskier still.

BK

Barry Katz
233 Margarita Avenue
Palo Alto, CA. 94306
bkat@stanford.edu
m: 650.644-8697

Brette, Jessica

From: Friederike Buelow <ikebuelow@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 4:47 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: PedestrianZones

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

Dear City Council,

Our whole family supports the idea of using this time to test a European style, car-free pedestrian zone! Works great in other places.

Best,

Friederike Bülow

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Marie-Jo Fremont <mariejofremont1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 6:02 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Yes to parklets

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

Please allow restaurants outdoor dining space.

These are extraordinary times that require getting out of "business as usual".

Parking is plentiful around University and California avenues. In addition, the number of parking spots that would no longer be available is quite small.

If you want to support local businesses, this is the simplest action you can take is to allow parklets.

Please act swiftly. Please act now.

Thank you for considering my input.

mjf

Brettle, Jessica

From: John Cala <johnjcala@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 6:55 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: In support of street closures

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

City Council,

I am writing to you to express my support and that of my wife for the prospective closing of University Avenue and California Avenue to allow for outdoor dining. There are many potential benefits to such a plan and it is an idea that is appropriate for the time and place that we find ourselves in from a public health stand point.

Please take the necessary actions to allow for this idea to be put into effect.

Regards,
John Cala
Susan Cala
1420 Parkinson Ave
Palo Alto, 94301

Brettle, Jessica

From: David Chan <dmchan@cs.stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 7:12 AM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Subject: University and California open to pedestrians and bikes

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

Dear City Council Members,

I'm a long time Palo Alto resident. I've been living near University Ave for 14 years and a Stanford student for 4 years before that.

I understand that you're considering a proposal to make University Ave and California Ave fully available to pedestrians, cyclists, and diners by closing them to cars.

I **strongly support** this plan. The vibrancy of downtowns is critically supported by accessible retail like restaurants, art stores, toy stores, music stores, bakeries, and the like.

Portions of University Ave have always been nearly impossible to drive down in normal times except in the early morning or late at night anyway. Residents already know that you have to drive to a side street to make it across downtown in a reasonable amount of time.

Besides giving downtown restaurants a life line during the COVID-19 crisis, this proposal would make University Ave even more pleasant and enlivening as a public space in normal times as well.

Thanks,
Dave

Brettle, Jessica

From: Evan Johnson <evanj517@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 8:02 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: University and California Street Closures

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

Hi,

I'm writing to express my support for the 7 days per week closure of University and California avenues to cars and parking. Great idea to help the restaurants and retailers and will revitalize the city. Pearl Street in Boulder is a great example.

Thank you,
Evan Johnson
2275 Ramona Street
Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Kimberley Wong <sheepgirl1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 8:08 AM
To: Council, City; City Mgr
Subject: Fwd: Please close University and California Ave to help restaurants expand into streets and recover

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

Mayor, City Council and City Manager

I am forwarding this letter I wrote previously since the subject of closing California and University Streets may be discussed in tonight's City Council Meeting.

To add to that, I have recently seen the success blocking off some parking spaces at Town and Country for restaurants such as Mayfield Bakery and Gott's Roadside to place more tables. I see a successful return of customers to those restaurants.

Thank you,
Kimberley Wong

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kimberley Wong <sheepgirl1@yahoo.com>
Date: May 25, 2020 at 3:57:13 PM PDT
To: City.Council@cityofpaloalto.org
Subject: Please close University and California Ave to help restaurants expand into streets and recover

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members,

I'd like to support closing off University and California Ave at least temporarily at least until the flagging restaurant business can get back on their feet again while adhering to social distancing of tables and customers during this financially strained period!

Thank you for your consideration! Menlo Park and other cities are doing this. We should follow suit. The shelter in place has reduced traffic on these roads considerably so I believe this is the opportune time to put these measures in place to test out the new normal and help one of our most viable and profitable sectors to recover from shutdown.

Thank you!

Kimberley Wong,
Longtime resident of Palo Alto and granddaughter of owner of City Cafe, established on University in 1905

Brettle, Jessica

From: shelly <sheldon.kay@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Pedestrian Mall on University Ave

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

Even before the Virus, I thought this would be a great idea.

A city I visited many times did it and never looked back. Boulder CO.

You make Lytton and Hamilton 1 way streets, and 2 cross streets on either side of the pedestrian mall 1 way.

The mall would only be between Emerson and Cowper. The traffic lights remain on University Ave.

The traffic lights might even be removed from Lytton and Hamilton with dedicated merge lanes for cars.

Pedestrians can cross those streets under or over (with construction), or leave the lights for pedestrians only with a long delay between activation.

Traffic will flow better than it does now, even without the light removal.

Sheldon Kay

Brettle, Jessica

From: melissa <melissa@kirvenbrooks.org>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closure of University and California Avenues

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

Dear City Council members:

I am a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto and the Cool Planet Working Group at First Pres. I am writing to urge you to close University Avenue and California Avenue to cars, to benefit businesses, our community and our environment. This will allow maximum physical distancing and build community while experimenting with a culture that relies less on cars. Imagine a boulevard where we can dine, shop, stay physically distant and enjoy our beautiful commercial areas without the smell and noise of cars

Let's seize this opportunity to pilot a program and help businesses, our environment, and our community gain strength and health.

Melissa Kirven-Brooks
690 Wildwood Lane
Palo Alto

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Ed Sterbenc <ed@sterbenc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: Ed Sterbenc
Subject: Close University and California Ave's!

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

>
> Hi City Council,

> What a great idea given our times: close traffic on University and California Ave's, and turn the streets over to restaurants and pedestrians! This will support the small businesses to get back into business and provide citizens a lasting sample of one of the good things Covid gave us: walking on our peaceful streets!

>
> Please VOTE YES on this! Increase the quality of life in Palo Alto.

>
> Thank you!

>
> Sincerely,
> Ed Sterbenc
> 765 University Avenue

Brettle, Jessica

From: Lisa Rayle <lrayle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Support dedicating University and California Ave to people

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

To council members:

As a resident of Palo Alto, I would like to voice my support for the proposal to dedicate blocks of University Ave and California Ave for pedestrians, and close them to cars. The measure will allow people to move around safely and for restaurants to offer outdoor dining, with minimal impact to traffic. This is an opportunity to show we care about the safety of our community and the health of local businesses.

Thank you,
Lisa

Brettle, Jessica

From: Gail Thompson <Gail.thompson2018@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closure of University and CA avenues to vehicle traffic

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

I support the closure to support restaurants and other businesses and also for the environment and our health.

Thank you.

Gail Thompson RN

Palo Alto resident,

Member of the Cool Planet committee at the First Presbyterian Church of PA

Brettle, Jessica

From: Steve Pierce <pierce@zanemac.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closing Univ and Cal Av

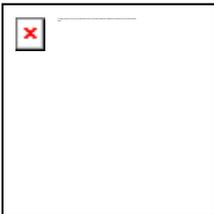
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Council Members,

I fully support the program to close streets to allow businesses and pedestrians to expand into the street. There are a number of reasons why this is a good idea, Covid or not.

I am a downtown PA resident and would welcome the pedestrian friendly environment that would result. Good time to test out a program that could be adopted in the post Covid world.

Steve



STEVE PIERCE

Real Estate Advisor & Broker

ZANE MACGREGOR

Real Estate Advisors & Brokers 621 High Street Palo Alto CA 94301

cell 650 533 7006 main 650 324 9900 fax 650 323 5431 zanemac.com

Brettle, Jessica

From: Zachary Bogue <zackbogue@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Monday night: Please temporarily close blocks of University Ave for dining and retail

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

Dear City Council,

As a longtime Palo Alto resident, I'm writing in strong support of converting University Avenue to orient it around pedestrians and retail, per the list of items below.

This is the prevailing view among a large group of my neighbors and the handful of restauranteurs I know. We ask you to please hear and support us.

My company leases an ~10,000 s.f. office on University Ave, and the situation looks dire with many of my neighboring retailers (just on my block) fleeing downtown: Joseph A. Banks, Walgreens (@ Bryant), La Strata, etc. These are just the ones I know of.

As our councilmembers, it is your imperative duty to ameliorate this. I realize it maybe counterintuitive, but eliminating cars and parking spaces actually has been shown to increase foot-traffic to support our retailers.

The future of our downtown is at stake.

At least on University Avenue this summer, parklets or sidewalk tables alone WON'T be a sufficient solution to address the table space shortage due to COVID-19.

With 6 foot spacing, parklets alone represent perhaps 10-15% of former restaurant table space. Without a wide pedestrian walkway, parklets and sidewalk tables also impede 6-foot spacing of tables from pedestrians and order-pickup areas. It's far from the best solution, at least for the restaurants on University Ave.

We ask you to:

- **Open University Ave to pedestrians, retail, and dining tables.**
- **Put a wide bidirectional walking path down the center of the street.**
 - This keeps pedestrians away from tables, servers, and order pickup traffic.
- **Make this change 24/7.**
 - A partial-week schedule limits options and investment in the right experience.
- Keep cross streets open to cars.
 - There could be dedicated order-pickup and handicap parking places on the side streets. Restaurants on side streets can use parklets as the best available solution.
- Schedule this plan through this summer.
 - To mitigate below concerns, commit to not making it permanent without continued support from businesses and those concerned about parking and traffic.

Best regards,

Zachary Bogue

Brettle, Jessica

From: Harriet Stern <jacobearice@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Closing California Ave and University Ave

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

Dear City Council,

Please vote to create pedestrian areas of California Ave and University Ave so that local restaurants and businesses can increase their ability to serve guests while maintaining safe distancing due to the Covid virus. What I have observed thus far in current outdoor seating, is that there is no way for most restaurants to serve meals safely in a capacity which makes it fiscally viable to be open.

Even if temporary, please implement this enterprise zone immediately in order to save our important independent small businesses.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Harriet Stern
Middlefield Road

Brettle, Jessica

From: Irina Beylin <irina.beylin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: support for closing traffic on University and California Ave

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

Dear Council members,

We support to allow restaurants to use the streets. It is a great idea.

Irina and Boris Beylin
771 Ames Ave Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Shirley Eglington <shirleyeglington@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: closing University Ave. and California Ave. to cars

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

Dear City Council members:

I urge you to close University Avenue and California Avenue to cars to benefit businesses, our community and our environment. This will allow maximum physical distancing while experimenting with a culture that relies less on cars. I look forward to avenues where we can dine, shop, stay physically distant and enjoy our beautiful commercial areas without the negative effects of cars. My daughter and family live in Burlington VT where the main shopping street, Church Street, has been closed to cars for years. It is a joy to dine and shop in that car-free space.

Let's seize this opportunity in Palo Alto to pilot a program to help businesses, our environment, and our community.

Sincerely,
Shirley Eglington
Chair, Cool Planet Working Group
First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto
1140 Cowper Street
Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Farzi R. <seflog@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: supporting Street closing - University ave, Cal ave

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

Dear City Council members,

I am in support of “temporary” closing of both avenues to offer space for restaurant to be able to seat enough people on the sidewalks that would allow for their business to survive. Having a handful of tables while adhering to social distancing guidelines really doesn’t help the bottom line. With the current WFH approach that is in place in all tech related jobs, the adverse traffic effects on the neighboring streets would be minimal at this point. I also worry about the restaurants on Hamilton and Lytton. So we need to start an experiment and then expand it after a few weeks.

Thank you.

Best,
Farzi Rau
1820 Channing

Sent from my iPad

Brettle, Jessica

From: Rachel Schuh <schuhr@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Support for proposal to close University Ave. to Cars

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

Hello,

I am writing in support of the proposal to close sections of University Avenue and California Avenue to car traffic to allow restaurants more space for socially distanced outdoor dining. This seems like an excellent way to allow more businesses to open safely and promote the local economy. I imagine it could be done on a trial basis at specific days or times to test the traffic effects.

Best,
Rachel Schuh

Brettle, Jessica

From: Sally Nordlund <sbn764@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Council, City

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

Dear City Council members:

I am writing to urge you to close University Avenue and California Avenue to cars, to benefit businesses, our community and our environment. This will allow maximum physical distancing and build community while experimenting with a culture that relies less on cars. Imagine a boulevard where we can dine, shop, stay physically distant and enjoy our beautiful commercial areas without the smell and noise of cars

Let's seize this opportunity to pilot a program and help businesses, our environment, and our community gain strength and health.

Sally Nordlund
764 Garland Drive, Palo Alto

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Brettle, Jessica

From: Mary Jo Ricci <mjmricci@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: California Ave Pedestrian Proposal

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

To my City Council:

Hello, I am a midtown Palo Alto resident who frequents the California Ave area probably more than any other shopping district within Palo Alto! I've just learned of the proposal to close Cal Ave, and possibly University Ave, to motorized traffic. It's a wonderful idea! In my home town, I have seen the vitality that comes from the HUGE draw of designating such a pedestrian area. I do not see any major drawbacks, and access TO CalTrain will still be easy and access FROM CalTrain to Cal Ave would be great too!

We go to Cal Ave for many different reasons on many different days. I think it should be consistently 7days/week for us to not have to wonder if it's an open or closed day; I'm sure the prep businesses and restaurants would be minimized too. It's in everyone's best interest.

I would love to see tables from the restaurants and displays from the businesses outside. It's California weather!!!! That draw in to the stores and other establishments would be lovely.

Everything is so in flux these days, I want to give this at least 1 month for a routine to be established so we can form an opinion whether the street closure is successful or not. I am SO grateful that the pause that the pandemic imposed on us might allow us to reopen our stellar small businesses in an even better format than before.

Thanks so much for supporting us,
Mary Jo Ricci
3556 Ramona St
PA, Ca 94306

Brettle, Jessica

From: Sunita de Tourreil <sunita@chocolatedividends.org>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: OPEN UNIVERSITY AVE AND CAL AVE Streets to local businesses.

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

Dear City Council,

Here is the perfect moment to support local business, build community and keep people safe.

Please consider making UNIVERSITY Ave and CALIFORNIA Ave closed off pedestrian streets, so local businesses can re-open at a more reasonable operating capacity, while keeping patrons and staff safe.

Thank you,

Sunita

Sunita de Tourreil, Founder

The Chocolate Garage® and Happy Chocolate® Experiences
708 Ramona St Palo Alto, CA 94301
Cell: +1 650.796.5287

Check out our first three episodes on Happy Chocolate® in [Cuba](#) and [Nicaragua](#), [Hawaii](#)... or our latest release visiting the land of chocolate: [Switzerland!](#)

Brettle, Jessica

From: Gayle Laakmann McDowell <g@gayle.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Supporting closure of University Ave for dining and retail

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

Dear City Council,

I wanted to voice my enthusiastic support for closing down University Ave (and California Ave) to traffic, 7 days per week -- while still allowing cross-through traffic on the intersecting streets.

I would love to have a safe dining option, for outdoor dining. Closing university ave will allow restaurants to significantly increase capacity — to something close to being sustainable for them — and keep pedestrians and diners more physically distant from each other.

Moreover, offering this 7 days per week will offer consistency to pedestrians and drivers, and allow restaurants to invest in creating a good outdoor dining experience.

I would also love to see retail shops, and the Downtown Palo Alto farmers market, able to take advantage of this extra space too.

Thank you,
Gayle

Brettle, Jessica

From: Leora Tanjuatco <leora.tanjuatco@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Shikada, Ed; Council, City
Subject: BLM and Open Streets

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

Dear Palo Alto city council,

Thank you for your leadership during this chaotic time.

I am writing to express my support for:

- the Black Lives Matter resolution, and
- closing Cal Ave and University Ave to cars and opening up the streets for restaurants. It will be great for the local economy and safer! Last weekend, I went to a restaurant that was socially distancing patrons and it was great. It would've been better and more enjoyable if there had been more space between the patrons and a more open air setting. People (myself included) love going out to eat, and places are opening up again, so the safest thing to do is make sure that we can go to restaurants in a hygienic way.

Thank you all!

Leora
215 El Verano Ave.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Emilee Chapman <emileebooth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Council, City; Shikada, Ed
Subject: Expressing Support for Cal Ave Shared Streets Pilot

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

Hi,

I am a resident of Palo Alto and wish to write in support of the Shared Streets Pilot for California Avenue. Pre Covid, my family has been a frequent patron of Cal Ave restaurants, and we would welcome the opportunity to enjoy outdoor dining without having to worry about crowded sidewalks!

Thank you,

Emilee Chapman
(2500 Columbia St., Unit 106)

Brettle, Jessica

From: Ken Thom <kenthom@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Yes vote on closing University and CA Avenues for restaurants

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

Hi - please vote to close the commercial sections of University and California Avenue so restaurants can use the space for seating.

Thanks!

--
Ken Thom
180 Santa Rita Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301
kenthom@gmail.com
650-224-4344

Brettle, Jessica

From: Alexei Andreev <andreev.alexei@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Strongly in favor of closing University and California Ave. Time to bring a proven European city planning solution to US.

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

Sincerely,

Alexei Andreev, PhD, MBA
559 Everett Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Brettle, Jessica

From: James F. Cook <jamesfelixcook@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Cook, James F.
Subject: Seeking your support to close California Avenue to vehicle traffic to allow restaurants and businesses to use road space to accommodate social distancing

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

Dear friends and neighbors,

You can help by:

1. Express your support by email to the city.council@cityofpaloalto.org - they will be discussing this tonight
2. [Join the nearly 500 folks have signed the petition](#)
3. Participate in the City Council meeting tonight, Monday 6/8/20 around 8:30pm (see details below)

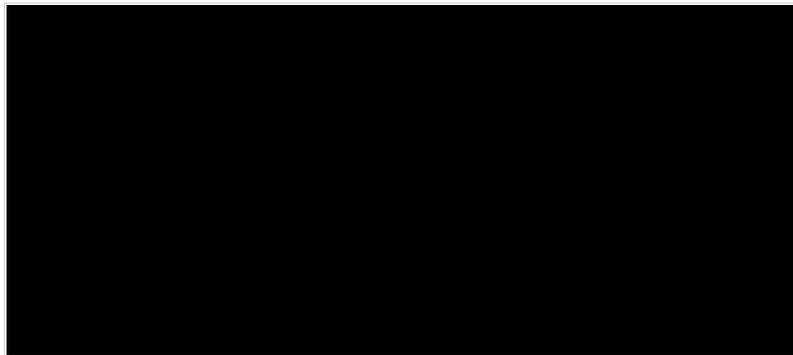
I've cribbed most of this language from posts on Nextdoor.

Save Palo Alto retail and restaurants - Support temporarily closing streets to auto traffic for dining and retail. This Monday evening, our City Council will be discussing proposals to support outdoor retail and dining in the University Ave and California Ave business areas. We need to find ways to keep customers safe while supporting our shops and restaurants.

We need your support with City Council: please email city.council@cityofpaloalto.org with your support. If you feel particularly passionate, please join the city council meeting. This agenda item is scheduled for 8:45-10:00pm Monday evening, but may start as early as 8:30pm, Zoom ID: 362 027 238.

Another way to express your support is to sign this petition:

[Sign the Petition](#)



Now is the time! Help Cal. and University Avenue businesses get back on their feet!

Right now, restaurants are using their existing (limited) outdoor table space, with physical distancing between the tables. Under this system, many restaurants only have space for three or four tables. And, to make matters worse, now pedestrians are forced to walk near diners. This isn't good for anyone!

Safety is more important now than ever. It's important that we

- (1) provide sufficient, safe table space
- (2) provide safe access to pick up takeout orders without congregating near tables, AND
- (3) maintain safe pedestrian space.

City Council is discussing a proposal that many retailers, restaurants, and residents have advocated for — closing blocks on University Ave and California Ave to cars (while still keeping cross streets open, so as to minimize the impact on traffic). This will allow restaurants to offer more outdoor dining, and allow pedestrians more space to walk around safely as well.

We already close California Ave to auto traffic on Sundays for the farmers market.

Now is the time to try what places from Santa Monica, CA to many places in Africa, Asia and Europe, walkable feel for the commercial cores. If there's a tiny silver lining to the circumstances, it's that traffic and parking issues are way down, so it's an excellent time to temporarily close streets.

For California Ave, a pedestrian area is likely to happen at least Thursday-Sunday.

Additional support is needed to make it 7 days / week, which would allow for restaurants and retailers to better optimize the space and invest more in the experience. For University Ave there's been less leadership. A single landlord on University has complained that his business went down during the super unwelcoming sewer-line replacement, and he's worried that the same would happen here, and that it would be made permanent without further discussion. This has led to people saying that maybe parklets are "good enough" for University Ave. While they may be the best solution for restaurants like Zola off the strip, they just aren't the right path for University. There's not enough safe space for pedestrians and sufficient tables with parklets alone. It's something like 10-15% of former table space can be reopened in a parklet. We need a great deal more advocacy to get a pedestrian walkway down the center of University, with tables extending well into the street.

Brettle, Jessica

From: tiffany ann <tclute@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please Close university ave to cars

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

Hello City Council Members,

I am in support of the subject heading amendment. We need to support the businesses during the COVID outbreak.

When walking my baby through downtown yesterday I was not pleased to come near diners eating outside the restaurant. We need more space to SD and support the businesses.

Maybe we can designate times to accommodate rush hour, to serve as a happy medium?

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Tiffany Stensager
764 Bryant Street
Palo Alto

Brettle, Jessica

From: Gray Clossman <gray.clossman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: please try closing streets in business districts

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

This is a great time to try closing California and University Avenues to cars to let pedestrians walk at a comfortable distance and restaurants to serve dispersed tables.

-- Gray Clossman
1664 California Ave.
Palo Alto, 94306

Brettle, Jessica

From: Valerie Sarma <vsarma@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: California Ave.

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

Good Afternoon,

I would like to express my support for closing California Ave to vehicle traffic in order to accommodate more alfresco dining for the restaurants.

Kindly,
Valerie Sarma

2125 Wellesley St.
Palo Alto CA 94306

Brettle, Jessica

From: Ross Mayfield <goobox@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open street dining

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

I'm a Palo Alto native and the founder of the Silicon Valley Chapter of FrontlineFoods.org — a 100% volunteer organization that applies 100% of donations to save local restaurants and their jobs, while feeding the frontline of the crisis.

We have 7 Palo Alto restaurants in our program (we cover Burlingame to Gilroy) and I surveyed them. They are all in support of closing streets to enable outdoor dining.

The Restaurant Industry is the largest employer behind the Pentagon. 25% of the currently unemployed are from the industry. In Palo Alto, most had to lay off 90% of their staff.

While Palo Alto only has one Black owned restaurant, Coconuts, the industry employs more minority managers than any other. 9/10 managers had their first job in the industry.

Outdoor dining within safety guidelines can have a meaningful impact on saving local small businesses and their jobs. I urge you to act with swift prudence,

Ross

--

--

Ross Mayfield
goobox@gmail.com

Brettle, Jessica

From: Richard Such <wrichardsuch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Council, City; Cook, James F.
Subject: Closing Cal. Ave.

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

We support closing Cal. Ave. long enough to save restaurants and businesses.

Richard and Jane Such
College Ave.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Fernando Cabildo <fernando.cabildo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: California Avenue - support for closing to vehicle traffic

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

Dear Council:

I fully support closing California Avenue to vehicle traffic to allow restaurants and other businesses to use the road space to accommodate physical distancing during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Thank you,
Fernando Cabildo.
Resident of California Avenue in College Terrace