

**Baumb, Nelly**

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**From:** Minor, Beth  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 2:51 PM  
**To:** Baumb, Nelly; Brettle, Jessica; Kang, Danielle  
**Subject:** FW: Council's Annual Retreat

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Thanks and stay healthy.

**BETH MINOR**

City Clerk

(650)329-2379 | [Beth.Minor@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Beth.Minor@cityofpaloalto.org)[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)CITY OF  
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**From:** Pat Burt <pat@patburt.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 1:02 PM  
**To:** Minor, Beth <Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Council's Annual Retreat

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

Beth,  
Below are my comments for P&S on the 2020 Cc Priorities.  
Thanks, Pat

**Recommended 2020 City Council Priorities**

- **Economic Recovery**
- **Housing for Social and Economic Balance**
- **Social Justice**
- **Climate Change - Protection and Adaptation**

**Economic Recovery**

As Palo Alto is approaching a year of severe COVID impacts on our community, city budget, and city services, , we need to transition from reactions to a crisis to a strategic focus on recovery.

We should re-examine which budget items should be cut or delayed, prioritizing services that are particularly important during the emergency, including needs beyond what the city traditionally focused on providing.

We should also evaluate how the city can leverage resources to help community-serving businesses survive and recover, despite limited city resources. With the likelihood of vaccines in the coming few months, we need to plan for recovery by attempting to identify the next actions we should plan to take.

### **Housing for Social and Economic Balance**

A healthy community and economy are built on recognizing the strength of social and economic balance. The city must build on the policy changes in recent years that have moved us toward better balancing job growth with housing growth. But locally and regionally, new housing has been overwhelmingly market rate and affordable for high-income residents. The city must take a more active role toward zoning, incentives, and financial support for moderate- and low-income housing that is essential for the diversity of residents who provide the public and private services we rely upon.

### **Social Justice**

The City has enacted a strong plan and progress for public safety reforms in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. We should continue to evaluate study best practices to identify additional actions and we should support Council directions to actively measure and monitor our reforms.

We must continue to proactively promote social justice and equity initiatives that will not only protect the lives and wellbeing of our residents, but also promote greater diversity and inclusion in our community by providing affordable housing, preventing the displacement of people of color, and encouraging more diversity within city hiring and promotions, and with boards/commissions recruitment.

### **Climate Change – Protection and Adaptation**

**An increasing urgency.** Over the past two years, we have faced an accelerating necessity to fully mitigate climate change. The latest scientific consensus is that global warming is occurring even more rapidly and severely than had been predicted. At the same time, new, compelling political voices have emerged including the youth climate movement which has brought to the forefront a massive voice expressing the overriding existential threats to future generations.

**A present threat.** During the pandemic shutdown, we experienced firsthand the striking contrast between the health benefits of crystal clean air resulting from travel restrictions that were soon followed by the extreme health impacts of choking smoke from our now annual megafires. These fires are just the first wave of drastic climate impacts that will undermine our health while threatening our lives, property, economy, and natural environment. We can now see that climate change is not only a dire future threat, but its impacts are already harming our lives and those effects are only accelerating. Severe weather events, flooding, water supply jeopardy, sea-level rise, and other impacts are on the horizon.

**COVID lessons.** This year, we have also witnessed the unexpected proof that the global community is actually willing and able to make massive responses to a common emergency. The pandemic has proven that governments and societies can make the drastic changes and investments necessary to take on a dire global threat. As we transition out of the COVID crisis, we must pivot with that same commitment and urgency to our even greater emergency - the impacts of climate change.

**A growing commitment.** These developments have driven a greater sense of urgency across generations, economic classes, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds. For the first time, we have the potential to harness a broad consensus for government and society to focus the resources and societal changes needed to meet our challenges.

**Our role.** Palo Alto has long been one of a few small cities leading on national and international environmental and climate initiatives, from recycling and energy efficiency to be one of the first cities globally to achieve 100% carbon-neutral electricity, and at ⅓ lower cost than the PG&E private utility. Our groundbreaking initiatives helped lead the way by proving out models that resulted in impacts orders of magnitude greater than our direct actions. We must continue to lead by quickly developing the plans and actions needed to meet the challenges before it is too late.

**What's next?** So where do we stand now and what must we do next? In 2016, the city adopted its groundbreaking Sustainability and Climate Actions Plan (SCAP) "80/30" goal - one of the most aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals by any city; 80% GHG reduction (vs a 1990 baseline) by 2030. After strong initial advances, little progress has been made in subsequent years despite the accelerating urgency. The next steps are more complex than was achieving carbon-neutral electricity. **We must also move to fully integrate our emergency preparedness and response programs to reflect the full threats from climate change.** We need to pursue established and emerging technologies, develop policies, strategies, and plans, move aggressively with implementation, and adapt to evolving information. **If we do not move more aggressively, our climate protection goals will be out of reach.**

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**From:** Minor, Beth <[Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 12:03 PM

**To:** Pat Burt ([pat@patburt.org](mailto:pat@patburt.org)) <[pat@patburt.org](mailto:pat@patburt.org)>; Greer Stone <[gstone22@gmail.com](mailto:gstone22@gmail.com)>; Alison GMail <[alisonlcormack@gmail.com](mailto:alisonlcormack@gmail.com)>; Cormack, Alison <[Alison.Cormack@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Alison.Cormack@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Filseth, Eric (external) <[efilseth@gmail.com](mailto:efilseth@gmail.com)>; Fine, Adrian <[adrianfine@gmail.com](mailto:adrianfine@gmail.com)>; Greg Tanaka <[greg@gregtanaka.org](mailto:greg@gregtanaka.org)>; Kou, Lydia <[Lydia.Kou@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Lydia.Kou@CityofPaloAlto.org)>; Kniss, Liz (external) <[lizkniss@gmail.com](mailto:lizkniss@gmail.com)>; [tomforcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:tomforcouncil@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Council's Annual Retreat

Good morning,

In looking forward to January and the new year, we traditionally schedule the Council's annual retreat on either the last Saturday in January (30<sup>th</sup>), or the first Saturday in February (6<sup>th</sup>). Please let me know if you have any commitments for either of those dates. I believe we will still be in Covid-19 restrictions and this will be done via Zoom.

Thanks and stay healthy.



**BETH MINOR**

City Clerk

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## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Minor, Beth  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** Baumb, Nelly; Brettle, Jessica  
**Subject:** FW: Request: Action for Policy & Services December Mtg.  
**Attachments:** CC 2021 Priorities .pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Thanks and stay healthy.



**BETH MINOR**

City Clerk

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**From:** Greer Stone <gstone22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** leConge Zieshenne, Monique <Monique.leConge@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
**Cc:** Minor, Beth <Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Stump, Molly <Molly.Stump@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Shikada, Ed <Ed.Shikada@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Request: Action for Policy & Services December Mtg.

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

Good morning, Monique.

Thank you for your email and request for my comments. My apologies for my delayed response, but glad I'm getting this to you before the noon deadline. Please find attached my comments to the P&S Committee.

I look forward to working with you.

Be well,

Greer

On Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 5:09 PM leConge Zieshenne, Monique <[Monique.leConge@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Monique.leConge@cityofpaloalto.org)> wrote:

Dear Council Member-Elect,

As you may be aware, the Policy & Services Committee will review the process for Council priority setting at the December 8 meeting. I am asking you to help in this activity, if you like.

Each year at the annual retreat, the Council establishes the priorities for the coming calendar year. Policy and Services discusses this process and provides suggestions of potential topics. Please send your list of potential priorities in a reply to me. You can, of course, make suggestions at the retreat. We will also gather suggestions from the community as we've done in the past.

If you have comments, **please reply no later than noon on Monday, November 30**, to be included. I am happy to discuss this with you further, if you have any questions; feel free to let me know.

Thank you for your assistance. Happy Thanksgiving.



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**MONIQUE ZIESENHENNE, PhD**

Assistant City Manager

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Policy and Services Committee  
250 Hamilton Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**RE: 2021 Council Priorities**

Dear Chair Cormack and Councilmembers Filseth, and Kou.

I am writing to you in hopes that you will include the following priorities in your discussion on the 2021 Council priorities at your December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**1) Economic Recovery**

Palo Alto is experiencing an unprecedented economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overcoming this crisis should require prioritizing people first and focus on long-term recovery. Budget cuts, while necessary, should prioritize people and the services we rely on over investments in infrastructure that can be postponed or even reevaluated in the context of a new future. All effort should be made to prevent cuts to essential city services like public safety, libraries, senior and teen services.

The City's priorities for a balanced budget should focus on areas that can be temporarily suspended without long-term consequences, such as restoring critical services and meeting emerging needs resulting from unforeseen emergencies while managing a reduced budget.

Palo Alto should also work on supporting our community-serving businesses and invest in helping our business community recover from the economic devastation caused by the pandemic. The promising efficacy of multiple vaccines provides great hope that this pandemic may soon come to an end, but we are likely entering the darkest months of this pandemic before those vaccines are widely available. Until that time, we should provide help and resources to those impacted businesses in order to help them through the winter months.

**2) Affordable Housing**

Access to quality affordable housing has vexed Palo Alto for decades. There's no question we need more housing for all income levels, but Palo Alto's housing policies should prioritize the needs of our most vulnerable residents and provide protections against displacing communities of color.

I'd like to see a more focused strategic plan to address our affordable housing crisis. The steps to our housing strategy should be: 1) rebalance the jobs-housing ratio, 2) preserve existing affordable housing, and 3) invest in affordable (BMR) housing.

Palo Alto must aim for jobs-housing parity, and the only way to do that is to make building offices less lucrative for developers. Instead, we should strengthen our existing office caps, increase the impact fees developers must pay, and require full mitigation of impacts from large corporations.

The second step is to preserve existing affordable housing. Palo Alto should adopt a “no net loss” policy. This policy should prohibit the destruction of housing, if it is not going to replace that housing with an equal or greater amount of housing. It should also prohibit the destruction of below market rate housing, unless the current residents are guaranteed a right of first refusal on the newly built units, rental assistance during their time of displacement, and a guarantee that the newly built units will be offered to them at the same rental price or less.

Finally, we need to directly invest in affordable housing. We should create opportunities for our teachers, first responders, nurses, and others who serve our community, so that they can continue to live in the same city they serve. In order to create this housing, we should explore other income sources. We should have businesses pay their fair share through a business tax for the imbalance in jobs-to-housing that has allowed corporations to thrive at the expense of our community. We should explore other tax sources being used across the country such as: speculation tax, and a vacancy tax to prevent Palo Alto homes being used as merely an investment tool. We should look at the viability of building housing in the Stanford Research Park. We can boost our impact fees on new commercial development, and study the viability of increasing our inclusionary zoning.

Finally, I believe the City can do more to protect the approximately 45% of Palo Altans who, like myself, are renters. We should enact the Palmer fix to require a percentage of rental units be reserved for low-income earners. In addition, I’d like to see the City study various common-sense renter protections in order to provide greater stability and peace-of-mind for our renters.

### **3) Social Justice**

The City of Palo Alto has made great gains in response to the important Black Lives Matter movement by implementing various police reform measures. As a community we cannot become complacent and allow these reforms to be the end. Palo Alto should continue to study best practices around the country in order to promote meaningful police reform and actively monitor our reforms to ensure they are successful.

It is critically important that we actively promote diversity and inclusion within our community by adapting housing policies to promote the construction of affordable housing, and preventing the displacement of people of color. Additionally, we should encourage more diversity within city hiring and through our boards and commissions recruitment.

Palo Alto can also do more to help those who are most at risk in our community. Many Palo Altans suffer from poverty, homelessness, addiction, mental health, physical disabilities, etc. One of the ways in which we can do this is by providing more support to our local non-profit organizations.

#### 4) Climate Change

The recent fires in the Santa Cruz Mountains and across the state have reminded us of the increased urgency regarding climate change and the direct threat it has on our region. Fortunately, the unintended benefits of shelter-in-place has shown we can still make positive societal changes in order to combat and reverse many of the troubling climate trends over the past several decades. In order to do this Palo Alto should make climate change a key priority.

We should explore city policies to indefinitely extend telecommuting policies, similar to what the County of Santa Clara has already done for their county employees and require employers to develop a telecommuting policy for those employees who are able to work from home. During a 7-week span at the height of shelter-in-place, the Bay Area saw a 32% reduction in CO2 emissions. Not only will this help improve our region's air quality, but it will continue to address our city's traffic and parking problems.

In addition to reducing commuter impacts, there are several other policy changes Palo Alto can embrace in order to address some of the major issues caused by climate change, such as the adoption of a bird-safe glass ordinance. Palo Alto should continue to maintain and preserve its parks and open spaces as they provide habitat for many species. We must also maintain a healthy tree canopy as it is essential in reducing GHG emissions due to their carbon sequestration and cooling effect on the environment, as well as the habitat they provide. More work can be done on pursuing electrification and providing alternative modes of transportation rather than SOV. Palo Alto already has an ambitious goal of reducing GHG emissions to 80% of 1990 levels by 2030. I'd like to study the possibility of having zero net energy consumption by 2040.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with all of you in the new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greer Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

Greer Stone  
Palo Alto City Councilmember-Elect