

**From:** [Lait, Jonathan](#)  
**To:** [slevy@ccsce.com](mailto:slevy@ccsce.com); [Klicheva, Madina](#)  
**Cc:** [Sheryl Klein](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Wong, Tim](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Memo on HE update program review and strengthening  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 7:53:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)

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Thanks for your email, Steve. I appreciate your comments and agree more work is needed. We are in fact working on a number of items included in your letter and developing other programs too. We'll share our progress at the next working group meeting and this will continue to evolve as we go through the public process.

By way of this email, I'll ask [@Klicheva, Madina](#) in my office to find some time for us to meet, in person if you'd prefer, to learn more about your concerns and consider options to address them. Please feel free to include others in the meeting too.

Thanks again for reaching out and participating in this process.

Jonathan

## JONATHAN LAIT

Director

Planning and Development Services

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**From:** slevy@ccsce.com <slevy@ccsce.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 6:50 PM  
**To:** Lait, Jonathan <Jonathan.Lait@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Wong, Tim <Tim.Wong@CityofPaloAlto.org>  
**Cc:** Sheryl Klein <sklein@altahousing.org>; Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@cityofpaloalto.org>  
**Subject:** Memo on HE update program review and strengthening

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some thoughts and concerns

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Rebecca Eisenberg](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [friendsofcubberley94303@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcubberley94303@gmail.com); [Salem Ailuni](#); [Jack Ailuni](#); [Stump, Molly](#); [ParkRec Commission](#); [Planning Commission](#); [bibrauer@aol.com](mailto:bibrauer@aol.com); [councilmember.tanaka.office@gregtanaka.org](mailto:councilmember.tanaka.office@gregtanaka.org); [Josh Becker](#); [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](mailto:citycouncil@mountainview.gov); [friendsofgrannies@grannies.com](mailto:friendsofgrannies@grannies.com); [wilpfpeninsulapaloalto@gmail.com](mailto:wilpfpeninsulapaloalto@gmail.com); [Angie Evans](#); [Holman, Karen \(external\)](#)  
**Subject:** The use of a police canine unit should be banned in Palo Alto -with the possible exception for search and rescue missions  
**Date:** Saturday, April 23, 2022 3:43:50 PM

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See below edits to my previous email. aram

On Apr 23, 2022, at 12:19 PM, Aram James  
<[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)> wrote:

April 23, 2022

From: Aram James long time Palo Alto  
resident, attorney and community activist

To: City Manager Ed Shikada

Re: Qualities I would like in our next police chief

Dear City Manager Ed Shikada:

As you know I attended all three of your listening sessions regarding qualities Palo Alto community members would like in their next chief. I made detailed comments during the five minutes that you allowed each speaker to have.... to express their view points ....at each of the sessions.

Starting yesterday I began giving you written suggestions re the particular qualities I personally want in our next chief. Yesterday, as you recall, I suggested

our next chief should ban the use of Tasers in Palo Alto and sent along a video for you and other to watch on the subject.

If you ask or request me to do so I can send you and others additional articles highlighting the very real dangers that Tasers pose to public safety both to members of our community and our police officers that actually use a taser on another human being.

Today I am suggesting that our next chief ban the use of any canine unit in Palo Alto with the possible exception of using canines for the very limited use of search and rescue missions.

I am requesting that you and other city officials become fully informed on how very dangerous canine units are both in Palo Alto and across this country.

To assist you in learning more re the very real dangers posed to both community members and members of law enforcement that are attacked by police weaponized canines....I am providing you and other city officials the link. ( see below) to the Pulitzer Price winning 13 part series: ***Mauled: when police dogs are weapons.***

Certainly I would hope that any candidate for our next police chief would be asked their views on both banning Tasers in Palo Alto as well as banning canine units with the exception I noted above.

As the individual most responsible for overseeing our police I would hope that you would take the time to read the full series linked to below.

Best regards,

Aram "Ban Canine Units Now" James

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/10/15/mauled-when-police-dogs-are-weapons>

**From:** [Aram James](#)  
**To:** [Perron, Zachary](#); [Jonsen, Robert](#); [Sean Allen](#); [Greer Stone](#); [wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com](mailto:wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com); [peninsula\\_raging\\_grannies@yahoo.com](mailto:peninsula_raging_grannies@yahoo.com); [Roberta Ahlquist](#); [Vara Ramakrishnan](#); [Portillo, Rumi](#); [Council, City](#); [ladoris cordell](#); [Jay Boyarsky](#); [Jeff Moore](#); [mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org); [Joe Simitian](#); [Sandy Perry-HCA](#); [melissa.caswell](mailto:melissa.caswell); [gmah@sccoe.org](mailto:gmah@sccoe.org); [chuck jagoda](#); [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Qualities I want in our next police chief -obligation for officers to intervene -and severe discipline for those who fail to do so  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 12:13:42 AM

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>  
> April 24, 2022  
>  
> From: Aram James long time attorney (statebar # 80215), long time Palo  
> Alto resident ....and long time community activist  
>  
> To: City Manager Ed Shikada  
>  
> Re: Obligation for officers to intervene and severe discipline, firing or prosecution for officers who fail to  
intervene when supervisors or fellow officers engage in acts of racially discriminatory policing, acts of police  
brutality and other acts of misconduct.  
>  
> The Palo Alto Police Department is plagued with recent cases where an officer-has brutally attacked an innocent  
community member while other officers have stood by and chief Robert Jonsen has failed to discipline the officers  
who at the scene failed to take steps to intervene: Robert Jonson has engaged in such a pattern of malfeasance on  
the job that city manager Ed Shikada should long ago have fired Robert Jonsen as our chief.  
>  
> 1. The Wayne "The Fuse" Benitez case is one example. Benitez brutality beat Gustavo Alvarez at the Buena Vista  
Mobile Park in Barron Park and then lied by failing to mention the beat down in his police report.  
>  
> 2. Three or four other members of the PAPD stood by at the scene and never mentioned the vicious beat down in  
their police reports or attempted to intervene while Benitez conducted his beat down.  
>  
> 3. Of course our heroic police chief Robert Johnson never took any disciplinary action against the stand by and do  
nothing officers.  
>  
> 4. In addition our city manager did nothing to disciple chief Robert Jonsen despite the fact that city manager Ed  
Shikada is his boss.  
>  
> 4. Both Shikada and Jonsen are arguably complicit in failing to punish the officers who failed to intervene.  
>  
> 5. Agent Nicholas Enberg released a vicious weaponized canine on an innocent sleeping man, Joel Alejo, ordering  
the dog to bite Mr. Joel Alejo multiple times without basis to do so.  
>  
> 6. Other officers were present while this torture by weaponized canine was allowed to occur and the other officers  
failed to take action to pull both the canine and Enberg off Mr. Joel Alejo.  
>  
> 7. Both Enberg and the other officer or officers at the scene were never disciplined by chief Robert Jonsen. And  
again city manager Ed Shikada took no action to discipline or fire the chief for his dereliction of duty.  
>  
> 8. All candidates for the next chief position must be asked if they are will to implement an absolutely duty to  
intervene when the officers under the chief's command see supervisor or fellow officers engaged in acts of  
misconduct.

>

> 9. In addition each candidate must be asked about there willingness to enforce swift discipline on the offending officers including firing them from their jobs and referring their cases to the district attorney for prosecution.

>

> Sincerely.

>

> Aram” Best Police Practices Advocate “ James

**From:** [Kerry Yarkin](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Lait, Jonathan](#); [Shikada, Ed](#); [Burt, Patrick](#)  
**Subject:** Analyze the variance  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:16:42 PM

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Dear Commissioners, City Manager and Mayor:

I request that the Commission review the variance findings that were published Nov. 2021. This week's hearing should have delved into why the CITY staff is supporting a variance and their reasoning for this support. I was not happy that the meeting was cut short Wed., and 1 Commissioner appeared to be stalling the Commission from doing their work. If Castilleja knew about this under counting of square feet, shouldn't they be held accountable for covering this up? It doesn't make sense to me that the actual variance (I think it is 47,000 sq. feet) was never verified by the CITY, nor the PTC when it was voted to deny in 2020. The City prides itself on transparency, accountability, and not encouraging "spot zoning". Please focus on this glaring omission and finish your deliberations on Castilleja.

Thank you for your hard work,  
Kerry Yarkin  
Leadership Palo Alto 2015