



CITY OF  
**PALO  
ALTO**

# 2023 CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY-SETTING PROCESS

December 13, 2022

# Council Priority Setting

- A Council priority is a topic that will receive significant attention that year (priorities have a 3-year time limit).
- Council reviews its priorities each year at its Annual Council Retreat.
- In advance, the City Manager's Office engages the community through an online survey. Survey results inform the Council decision making process for the retreat and with workplans. The National Community Survey results also inform the Council.
- Status updates on current Council priorities can be found at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/councilpriorities](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/councilpriorities).



# City Council Values and City Council Priorities

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*The Palo Alto City Council has universally shared values that help guide our decisions and the work we do. These values include:*

- 1. We will make decisions that balance revenues and expenses, now and in the future.*
- 2. We will make decisions that are environmentally sustainable, now and in the future.*
- 3. We will integrate equity into our decisions, considering how decisions affect people differently based on their identity or circumstances.*
- 4. We will make decisions that create a healthy, safe and welcoming community for all.*
- 5. We will safeguard public trust through transparent practices and open communication.*
- 6. We embrace innovation.*

# Initial Feedback from Councilmembers and Elects

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- Cormack: For a new priority, add "Redevelop Cubberley Community Center"; for a retained priority, "Climate action mitigation and adaptation"
- Lauing: Maintain current priorities
- Lythcott-Haims: a. Avoid Triggering Builders Remedy; b. Develop Area Plans for regions slated to get bulk of housing; c. Determine Grade Separation Designs
- Kou: continue 2022 priorities into 2023
- Veenker: a. Climate action and adaptation; b. Housing, with an emphasis on affordable housing; c. Public services, with an emphasis on public safety

# Process Recommendations

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## Preparation for Council Retreat

- Complete ongoing surveys and distribute to Councilmembers upon completion
- Departments update status and prospective next steps on current Council priorities

## Retreat Program

- New Councilmember/Department Director introductions & icebreaker
- Review ongoing survey results
- Breakout groups: four-station reviews of current Council priority projects and prospective next steps
- Reconvened Council discussion
- Approval of 2023 priorities