



Council Consent Agenda Responses

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of City Manager Ed Shikada, please find below the staff responses to questions made by Councilmembers Cormack, DuBois, and Tanaka regarding the [Monday, February 7th Council Meeting](#) consent agenda items:

Item 4, Authorize and Approve a Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) Loan From the Housing In Lieu and Impact Fee Funds for the Development of an Affordable Workforce Housing Project Located at 231 Grant Avenue; Approve the Budget Amendment in the Residential Housing In-Lieu Fund; Authorize the City Manager to Execute Associated Agreements

Item 9, Policy and Services Committee Recommendation that City Council Approve the 2022 Legislative Guidelines; Utilities Advisory Commission Recommendation that City Council Approve the 2022 Utilities Legislative Guidelines

Item 10 (Action Item), Discuss the FY 2022 Mid-Year Budget Review and Approve the Following: 1) FY 2022 Budget Amendments in Various Funds, and 2) Amendments to the FY 2022 Table of Organization to Add 11.00 FTE Positions

Item 11 (Action Item), California Avenue and Ramona Street Temporary and Permanent Closure: Direct Staff to Issue RFP for a Feasibility Study and Return for Contract Approval, and Provide Direction to Staff on Activities and Programming

Staff responses are below:

Item 4, Authorize and Approve a Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) Loan from the Housing In Lieu and Impact Fee Funds for the Development of an Affordable Workforce Housing Project Located at 231 Grant Avenue; Approve the Budget Amendment in the Residential Housing In-Lieu Fund; Authorize the City Manager to Execute Associated Agreements

- 1. What are the benefits of having educators from surrounding communities reside in Palo Alto? Would teachers from areas in other towns or counties benefit from residing in this affordable housing development?**

Answer: Palo Alto and surrounding jurisdictions benefit from a diverse housing stock. Providing affordable workforce housing opportunities in this instance enables educators to live closer to and be part of the communities they serve. Spending less time commuting to jobs enhance one's quality of life, reduces carbon emissions, saves resources and enriches our community.

2. **Why was the site at 231 Grant Avenue selected for this housing development? What were the characteristics of the area and the site that made it the optimal location?**

Answer: Santa Clara County owns the land and has contracted with non-profit home builders to develop the project. The characteristics that make this site optimal for development is a question best directed to the project applicant. It is worth noting that the City of Palo Alto is not the lead agency and is not processing this application.

3. **Are there any anticipated drawbacks to surrounding communities associated with the construction of this housing development? If so what are potential solutions to the adverse impacts?**

Answer: The project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. A final environmental impact report has been prepared, which details potential impacts, including construction-related impacts and mitigation measures. The document is accessible on this webpage:

<https://ffd.sccgov.org/capital-projects/231-grant-educator-workforce-housing>.

Item 9, Policy and Services Committee Recommendation that City Council Approve the 2022 Legislative Guidelines; Utilities Advisory Commission Recommendation that City Council Approve the 2022 Utilities Legislative Guidelines

1. **Item 9 does not have the two attachments mentioned. Can staff please provide those?**

Answer: The revised [agenda packet](#) is now online, and the two attachments for Item 9 has been added.

Item 10 (Action Item), Discuss the FY 2022 Mid-Year Budget Review and Approve the Following: 1) FY 2022 Budget Amendments in Various Funds, and 2) Amendments to the FY 2022 Table of Organization to Add 11.00 FTE Positions

1. **What are the next 3 highest priority positions if the council added some additional staff?**

Answer: Staff is not prepared to identify additional positions for restoration, and will be better able to respond through discussion with the City Council.

2. **Can you show a table of our police staffing totals of the last 20 years? And Fire staffing?**

Answer:

City of Palo Alto Fire and Police Staffing Levels (FTE) - Fiscal Years 2003 - 2022

| | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | FY 2008 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 | FY 2011* | FY 2012* | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | FY 2022** |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Fire | 128.50 | 128.00 | 125.00 | 127.00 | 126.69 | 126.69 | 129.69 | 122.69 | - | - | 116.24 | 115.74 | 107.50 | 106.50 | 108.65 | 108.65 | 97.85 | 97.85 | 97.85 | 95.25 |
| Police | 171.00 | 168.75 | 164.50 | 156.00 | 164.00 | 164.00 | 164.00 | 161.50 | - | - | 153.00 | 154.50 | 154.00 | 155.00 | 155.00 | 155.00 | 155.00 | 149.00 | 149.00 | 125.33 |
| Total | 299.50 | 296.75 | 289.50 | 283.00 | 290.69 | 290.69 | 293.69 | 284.19 | 277.24 | 278.24 | 269.24 | 270.24 | 261.50 | 261.50 | 263.65 | 263.65 | 252.85 | 246.85 | 246.85 | 220.58 |
| Total YoY Change | - | (2.75) | (7.25) | (6.50) | 7.69 | - | 3.00 | (9.50) | (6.95) | 1.00 | (9.00) | 1.00 | (8.74) | - | 2.15 | - | (10.80) | (6.00) | - | (26.27) |
| Total YoY % Change | - | -0.92% | -2.44% | -2.25% | 2.72% | - | 1.03% | -3.23% | -2.45% | 0.36% | -3.23% | 0.37% | -3.23% | - | 0.82% | - | -4.10% | -2.37% | - | -10.64% |

* Police and Fire consolidated into Public Safety Department

** Up to and including mid-year (Fire: 5.0 FTE SAFER grant Firefighter; Police: 1.0 FTE Public Safety Communications Manager)

3. **In October, Council had discussed the need for a Senior planner in the planning department but that position was not included in the mid-year request. Why wasn't it included? When is that position needed?**

Answer: Overall, departments limited requests for general fund positions during Mid-Year to be modest and have the highest impact, reflecting reinvestments that could be acted upon before the end of the fiscal year. The Mid-Year request includes additional contract dollars to allow the Department to utilize our on-call consultants to shore up operations in a more flexible manner. It is expected that the department will review and include additional requests for planning staff as part of the FY 2023 budget process.

Item 11 (Action Item), California Avenue and Ramona Street Temporary and Permanent Closure: Direct Staff to Issue RFP for a Feasibility Study and Return for Contract Approval, and Provide Direction to Staff on Activities and Programming

1. **How does staff anticipate handling noise impacts to hotels on Ramona and Cal Ave? Would be good to hear conditions to mitigate impacts.**

Answer: There are limited hotels near areas considered for street closures, such as the Cardinal Hotel. That said, there are ways to mitigate noise. First, the existing noise ordinance continues to govern noise in Palo Alto. The Police Department responds to noise violations and they should be reported using the non-emergency number. Second, limitations on outdoor amplified music and sound can decrease noise. Lastly, limited the hours of outdoor dining areas to no later than 10 pm or 9 pm (or 9 pm during the week, 10 pm on Fridays and weekends) could prevent conflicts regarding noise by minimizing outdoor activities in closed streets past certain hours.

Thank you,
Joanna



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ALTO**

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