

**Baumb, Nelly**

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**From:** Terùn Pizza <info@terunpizza.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** California Ave Shopping Center

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

Dear City Council Memembers

Thank you again for all you do for the Cal Ave business district. We are now thriving again but can't hide the fact that I am a little worried about the possible changes happening to the Avenue in the near future.

The first time I drove to California Ave I was following the sign "Shopping Center" but never found it! Looks like the Pandemic gave us an opportunity to "keep" that sign up on Page Mill.

I am aware of the retail stores complaining about loosing business but I strongly feel like the loss is not about the street closure.

Unfortunately the combination of having growing presence of on line stores and working remotely did not help those type of businesses.

Must say though that my restaurants ITALICO was also down 70% in 2020 and down 40% as of now nad Terun was down 40% in 2020 and still down 10%. Can't imagine what numbers would have been and will be with the street open.

I would love to keep California Ave closed to traffic and make it look more appealing to all the visitors and new coming businesses. We all hate seeing empty spaces.

100% of my guests wants Cal Ave to remain closed to traffic. I am a home owner and resident of Palo Alto and all my neighbors are in favor of the permanent closure and expressed concern about the possible reopening.

We do not have to look at Italy or Europe to see the benefits of street closures, many other "domestic" situations have revealed to be extremely successful .

The opportunity is big and appears like the legislators are favoring that :

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/04/us/outdoor-dining-covid-california.html>

Thank you for reading

Maico Campilongo

Owner

Terun & Italico

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Lisa Nissim <lisa.nissim@nissimspace.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 1:41 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Keep University, Ramona & Downtown Streets Closed

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Please keep the downtown streets closed to traffic and our restaurants open indefinitely. As a longtime resident I have never been inconvenienced by these street closures and thoroughly enjoyed the look and feel of the outdoor dining vibe. It's so Palo Alto!

Without the option of sitting outside in the street or in a parklet, I won't be dining downtown on California Avenue. Currently, my husband and I dine at a downtown or California Avenue restaurant approximately five times a week. We won't be doing this if the outdoor spaces are closed.

Please preserve our wonderful Palo Alto restaurants. One of my favorites, Tea Time, just told me his revenue in 2019 was 20 percent of 2018, but has risen to 75 percent in the last two months. A small business like this will spend years trying to pay their debt from COVID. They have no chance of surviving if you take away their outdoor space.

Restaurants like Tea Time help define what I like best about Palo Alto. Please don't take this away from me and my fellow residents.

Please extend the street closures indefinitely.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nissim  
1645 Escobita Avenue

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Chris Robell <chris\_robell@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:42 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Cc:** Minor, Beth  
**Subject:** Re: Jan 7 consent item #9

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Apologies, I meant June (not July) 7th.

(Beth, thanks for catching this).

Chris

> On Jun 3, 2021, at 8:34 PM, Chris Robell <chris\_robell@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

> Dear City Council,

>

> I request that you please pull item #9 from the July 7 consent calendar. I don't have any preconceived notions regarding the item, but I am not aware of any outreach to residents. If only businesses have been polled, it is problematic that the #1 constituent (residents) haven't been polled,

>

> Please wait to take action on this until resident input is obtained.

>

> Thank you,

> Chris Robell

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Chris Robell <chris\_robell@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:34 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Jan 7 consent item #9

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Dear City Council,

I request that you please pull item #9 from the July 7 consent calendar. I don't have any preconceived notions regarding the item, but I am not aware of any outreach to residents. If only businesses have been polled, it is problematic that the #1 constituent (residents) haven't been polled,

Please wait to take action on this until resident input is obtained.

Thank you,  
Chris Robell

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** becca Younkman <beccawhy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 5:34 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** I'm Voting to keep Ramona St Closed

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Palo Alto City Council: I enjoy the safe outdoor experience created with the closure of Ramona St. Please count my vote to CLOSE Ramona St, through the summer.

Thank you

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Teresa Flagg <teresa.flagg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Extend the Uplift Local Streets Program!

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I support our local restaurants and encourage you to vote for an extension of the Uplift Local Streets Program and the temporary parklet program in Palo Alto to support our community in recovering from the Pandemic.

Teresa Flagg  
Boyce Ave.

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Carol Scott <cscott@crossfieldllc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 1:23 PM  
**To:** Council, City; Shikada, Ed; Kamhi, Philip; Baird, Nathan  
**Subject:** June 7 Consent Calendar: Staff Report ID #12302

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Dear City Council and City Manager,

I am writing to ask you to remove an item from the Consent Calendar for your meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021 unless it is amended.

Specifically, the Staff has submitted a report and recommendations in its report ID #12302:  
Summary Title: Adopt Legislation Continuing Temporary Regulations for Outdoor Dining, Retail, and Personal Services. Although this appears to be a simple continuation of activities already in the works surrounding Uplift Local efforts on California Avenue and University Avenue, it contains and perpetuates a serious omission.

Specifically, under Stakeholder Engagement on page 5, the Staff write:

"The City Manager's Office has continued to lead bi-weekly meetings with local businesses. More recently, and in light of diminished attendance due to the improving business climate, the meetings have become monthly."

Notably missing is any outreach to the residents of the neighborhoods surrounding California Ave or University Ave. even though residents of these communities will be affected by whatever decisions are made. Residents of adjacent neighborhoods should be included in any plans to deal with increased spill-over traffic to residential streets, additional demands for parking from property owners who claim they cannot lease their commercial buildings unless they are able to offer unlimited free parking to their prospective tenants that they failed to include in their developments,\* and the elimination of some parking spaces due to parklets and other areas given primarily to property owners whose current tenants are restaurants. In the California Avenue area, these resident neighborhoods include Old Palo Alto, College Terrace as well as Evergreen Park and Mayfield.

I ask you to direct the City Manager and the City Staff to include residents in the planning process before approving this item. It is frankly astonishing that residents have been systematically excluded from discussions regarding matter which have a direct impact on the quality of life where they live. I ask that you heed the directive in the City's Comprehensive Plan that "encourages commercial enterprise, but not at the expense of the City's residential neighborhoods" (pp. 4-5). Residents should be a part of the group providing ideas and solutions so that business can flourish, but not at the expense of their quality of life.

Thank you.

Carol Scott  
Evergreen Park

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Carol Scott



## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Christopher A Kantarjiev <cak@dimebank.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 8:34 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Please keep California Avenue closed

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Dear Mr. Mayor and Council Members:

I've lived in Palo Alto for more than 30 years, most of them near the "Mayfield" community - I've lived in Southgate since 1996. I chose Southgate because it is easy to walk from there to California Avenue, and have watched with interest and pleasure as that area has been transformed over the years (admittedly with some hiccups).

One of the best things to happen to Cal Ave was when the sidewalks were widened and the street was narrowed. Yes, it made parking a little more challenging, but it encouraged more people to walk. It turned a relatively busy street into a more pleasant boulevard.

The traffic has never flowed well on Cal Ave - there are too many stop signs. Anyone that is in a hurry, or has a destination other than something directly on Cal Ave, turns at the light on Cambridge, which has better access to parking and fewer stops and pedestrian crossings.

(Now that the Sherman Ave garage is complete, that has changed the parking equation - but it's easier to get there from Ash Street, anyway

- from Southgate, I now drive down Alma to Oregon if I want to park there! It's much faster than trying to make a left turn from El Camino.)

The Sunday farmer's market was a great step forward and an excellent example of how pleasant those blocks are as a pedestrian area. I was thrilled when this became a more-permanent arrangement during the pandemic.

So you can imagine my disappointment when I heard that you are planning to open this back up to automobile traffic. I think that's a terrible idea. Now that we are emerging from the strict social distancing tiers, the area is packed and vibrant with diners all day long. Take a walk and see for yourself how lovely it is.

Please, keep Cal Ave closed. At the very least, do an experiment after our restrictions are lifted - but I urge you to make it permanent.

Thank you,  
Christopher A Kantarjiev

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Hana Kay <hanakay25@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 7:40 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** I'm Voting to keep Ramona St Closed

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Palo Alto City Council: I enjoy the safe outdoor experience created with the closure of Ramona St. Please count my vote to CLOSE Ramona St, through the summer.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** William Roth <williamroth100@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 5, 2021 7:17 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** I'm Voting to keep Ramona St Closed

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Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Surabhi Gopal Mundada <surabhim@stanford.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 6, 2021 2:04 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** I'm Voting to keep Ramona St Closed

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Palo Alto City Council: I enjoy the safe outdoor experience created with the closure of Ramona St. Please count my vote to CLOSE Ramona St, through the summer.

Thank you

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Manan Shah <manan.shah.777@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 6, 2021 2:04 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** I'm Voting to keep Ramona St Closed

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Palo Alto City Council: I enjoy the safe outdoor experience created with the closure of Ramona St. Please count my vote to CLOSE Ramona St, through the summer.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Abdullah Alhlou <hilou123@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 6, 2021 4:08 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** I'm Voting to keep Ramona St Closed

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Palo Alto City Council: I enjoy the safe outdoor experience created with the closure of Ramona St. Please count my vote to CLOSE Ramona St, through the summer. <BR><BR>Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** herb <herb\_borock@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 6, 2021 7:24 PM  
**To:** Council, City; Clerk, City  
**Subject:** June 7, 2021 Council Meeting, Item #9: Use of Public Property for Outdoor Dining

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

June 6, 2021

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

**JUNE 7, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING, AGENDA ITEM #9  
USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY FOR OUTDOOR DINING**

Dear City Council:

The public property directly opposite City Hall (Lane "L", otherwise known as Centennial Walk) that connects Hamilton Avenue with Bryant Street is occupied by tables and chairs that seem to be for outdoor dining use in violation of the existing and proposed Ordinances regulating such use that require a separate Ordinance or Resolution to authorize such use, and in violation of Planned Community Zone District Ordinance 3872 (PC 3872) that requires that the public space be permanently restricted to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Amendment of PC 3872 requires an Ordinance and environmental review subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Planned Community Zone Ordinance 3872.**

**Section 3(d) Parking and Loading Requirements.**

5) The alley "L" connecting Bryant Street and Hamilton Avenue shall remain accessible to emergency vehicles at all times, including during construction.

8) Between 11:00 a.m. and 3.00 a.m., Monday through Friday, and all day Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays, use of the alley "L" connecting Hamilton Avenue and Bryant Street shall be permanently restricted to pedestrian and bicycle traffic, exclusive of vehicles using the subsurface loading dock at 545 Ramona Street,

emergency vehicles, and refuse collection trucks. At all other times the alley "L" shall be open to vehicle traffic, with the portion from Bryant Street to the University Art underground garage ramp restricted to one-way, entering on Bryant Street and exiting on Hamilton Avenue. The portion from the University Art ramp to Hamilton Avenue shall be two-way at all times.

9) Use of the alley "L" connecting Ramona Street and University Avenue shall be permanently restricted to pedestrian traffic, exclusive of emergency vehicles.

The public space being used in violation of PC 3872 is adjacent to the Development Center and another building occupied by Planning Department staff.

Please direct staff to remove the illegal use of this public space.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Herb Borock



## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Melanie Grondel <mel.grondel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 7, 2021 12:16 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Cc:** Melanie Grondel  
**Subject:** Retail in Palo Alto. Open Streets and Town & Country.

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Dear Mayor Dubois and City Council Members,

I am writing you to emphasize the importance of the Open Streets program that is proven such a big success. Let's support when things are finally looking up, rather wringing our hands with yet another complication or demand. This success is hard won, thanks to monumental efforts of the retailers who invested hard work and precious last dollars to survive. Building parklets and setting up umbrellas and heaters are only some examples of those big efforts. The merchants were promised time to realize a return on their investment. The community has embraced the Open Streets. Both merchants and the public were told that serious consideration would be given to options to extend the programs beyond the dates set.

It would be unheard of and unreasonable now to cut back on agreements approved by the City Council just a few months ago. That is no way to do business with small merchants, who have invested so much to provide life and joy to our community.

Mr. Shikada, do not kill the Joy, wherever you can find it.

Let's help our merchants succeed and give them a leg up, now and in the near future as well. For example by NOT charging for the street space they are using. Help them continue music programs outside. The Joy translates into sales tax revenue to the City's coffers, besides all the other good it brings.

Pedestrian zones have proven to be exceptionally worthwhile for economic activity in prosperous destination areas in the US and all over the world. University Ave and Cal Ave are already proven to be a success. These are very small pedestrian zones as pedestrian zones go, and the public can learn to modify their route a little for the benefit of success and pleasure of most. In every change, even the most positive ones, there will be a few complaints for a mix of reasons.

I live in College Terrace and I have stopped going to Molly Stone's because of their sour demeanor and high prices, there are better options around, nearby. For fine groceries I drive to the Edgewood Market for high quality and a fair price delivered with a smile. It is not accessibility that is the matter with Molly Stone's it is their style of doing business. Many people just do not want to bother any more to go.

As far as banking goes, most people use ATM's for modest amounts of money. One can go inside to cash larger amounts and put it away safely before leaving the bank. Palo Alto is quite a safe city. Cash is no longer the major form of payment; it is more the exception.

I think complaints can be mitigated in most cases. Sometimes the greater good of success and Joy for many, achieved at considerable efforts, may have to win out in the long run. Pedestrian zones enjoyed over time, once had a few issues to deal with at their beginning.

Town & Country is doing very well, it is packed !! Several days now, I had to go way into the back lot to find a parking space. It is a retailers dream, a packed shopping center of high end stores and restaurants in a prosperous city. No doubt, merchants can be found soon for the open spaces, to add even more variety, provided that the Mr. Ellis offers favorable terms.

This is not something Mr. Ellis is well known for, despite his self promotion. The well known clothing store Patrick James closed its doors because they could not agree on a favorable lease agreement after decades of businesses there, at their

flagship location; although affected by the pandemic, Patrick James did not close other stores. This is just one example, there are more.

Retail is a finicky business. This is a shopping center, and it takes effort to run it well with the right mix of establishments. Mr.Ellis has done very well, until he was hit by the pandemic as most businesses.

It is more convenient to set up medical offices right next to a wellknown Medical Center, since once built-out for medical services with a 10 year lease, the spaces will never be converted back to retail at another expense. That means longterm stability for leases to very well paying occupants.

However, medical treatment offices kill retail and send foot traffic into a death spiral. That would result in more medical offices and retail will be gone from Town & Country Shopping Center before long, leaving all of us in Palo Alto poorer, but Mr.Ellis alone, a lot more wealthy.

These proposals by Mr.Ellis, favoring medical offices over retail, stem from a wish for higher profits for less effort, it is a money gambit rather than a cry for help to save a popular shopping center.

Town & Country is a thriving shopping center, beloved in the area, it is zoned as a shopping center and needs to remain so with retail that supports foot traffic on the ground floor.

Thank you much for your consideration.  
Melanie Grondel  
Palo Alto

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Palo Alto Forward <palo.alto.fwd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 7, 2021 12:52 PM  
**To:** DuBois, Tom; Burt, Patrick; Filseth, Eric (Internal); Stone, Greer; Tanaka, Greg; Council, City; Kou, Lydia; Cormack, Alison  
**Subject:** Open Streets/UpLift Local  
**Attachments:** June 2021 Open Streets letter.pdf

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June 7, 2021  
RE: Open Streets

To: Mayor DuBois, and City Council Members  
Cc: Ed Shikada

Dear Mayor DuBois and Palo Alto City Council Members,

Thank you for making our business districts a priority during this pandemic by implementing and extending the Uplift Local program. This program has made it possible for many small businesses and their employees to recuperate from financial losses related to COVID-19. The closure of University Avenue and California Avenue to vehicles have allowed for restaurants and retail to operate safely under social distancing guidelines.

We understand that the City of Palo Alto must re-evaluate this initiative as communities re-open. Palo Alto Forward hopes you will extend the closure of California Avenue and University Avenue indefinitely to preserve the vibrancy of our downtowns. By transforming our public spaces, we can support small businesses at a critical time and allow for residents of all ages and abilities to better utilize our downtowns. And while many have embraced a post-COVID climate, we recognize that thousands of children under age 12 in Palo Alto are still unable to get vaccinated. Allowing for continued social distancing in public spaces helps our schools, camps, and childcare facilities remain open.

There have been tradeoffs in the Open Streets initiative, but we hope as the City of Palo Alto weighs the benefits, you will see the value they have added for residents and the business community.

Thank you for focusing on helping Palo Alto move forward in this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Angie Evans  
Palo Alto Forward

# PALO ALTO FORWARD

June 7, 2021

RE: Open Streets

To: Mayor DuBois, and City Council Members

Cc: Ed Shikada

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Thank you for focusing on helping Palo Alto move forward in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Angie Evans

Palo Alto Forward Board

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Kamran Tahamtanzadeh <kamran@epicelona.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 7, 2021 1:34 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Cc:** Shikada, Ed  
**Subject:** Ramona Street

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Dear Ed, ( City of Palo Alto),

My name is Kamran Tahamtanzadeh a local biotech executive. I regularly meet with numerous clients, colleagues, friends and family at Coupa cafe on Ramona street for so many years.

All of my colleagues, friends and clients have unanimously expressed to me how delightful and relaxing it is now that the space in front of Coupa cafe has been sectioned off to the noisy and often times dangerous drivers ignoring the safety of people relaxing outside the cafe.

I hope and urge you to keep the street space in front of Coupa cafe as it is now, a safe, pleasurable, delightful piece of heaven in the city of Palo Alto.

Best regards,  
Kamran Tahamtanzadeh  
Mobile: 925-518-3658

Sent from my iPhone