



# City of Palo Alto

## Policy and Services Committee Staff Report

(ID # 7509)

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**Report Type: Action Items**

**Meeting Date: 11/29/2016**

**Summary Title: 2017 City Council Priorities**

**Title: Discussion and Recommendations for 2017 City Council Priority Setting Process**

**From: City Manager**

**Lead Department: City Manager**

### **Recommendation**

Policy and Services Committee to discuss and consider making recommendations to the City Council in January on the process to be used at the Annual Retreat to identify the 2017 Council Priorities.

### **Background**

On October 1, 2012, the City Council approved the Council Priority Setting Guidelines included as Attachment A. The guidelines define a Council priority and lay out the purpose, process and general parameters for annual priority setting. Consistent with these guidelines, the Council established early December as the deadline for Council submitting 2017 priorities to staff.

Each year the Policy and Services Committee at its December meeting reviews the priorities suggested and considers making recommendations to the City Council about the process that will be used to identify priorities at the Annual Retreat.

As the Council directed, after the submittal period closes, staff is to collect and organize the Council recommended priorities into a list and provide to the Council no later than two weeks in advance of the 2017 Annual Retreat.

This year, due to the Policy and Services schedule, staff is bringing the item forward in November.

### **Discussion**

A Council priority is defined as a topic that will receive particular, unusual and significant attention during the year. The purpose of establishing priorities is to assist the Council and staff to better allot and utilize time for discussion and decision making. There is a goal of no more than three priorities per year and priorities have a three year time limit.

The Policy and Services main focus is to make process recommendations for Council conduct of the priority setting at the retreat. In some years, the Council used the “nominal group voting technique” (dot voting) to work through suggestions and generate a collective recommendation. In recent years, Council Members briefly presented their suggestions and explanations as needed and Council discussion led to relatively easy decisions. The 2012 policy helped add definition and limitations on the priorities.

Policy and Services may want to offer some suggestions to staff regarding groupings. Council may wish to amend or modify the recommendations as part of their discussion at the retreat.

On January 30, 2016, at the Annual Retreat, Council adopted the following priorities for 2016:

- The Built Environment: Housing, Parking, Livability, and Mobility
- Infrastructure
- Healthy City, Healthy Community
- Completion of the Comprehensive Plan 2015-2030 Update

#### **Input from City Council**

Staff will provide an At Places Memo on the input received from Councilmembers on recommended priorities. On November 9, after the general election, staff will poll newly elected Councilmembers for their input and include the results in the At Places Memo for Policy and Services consideration.

#### **Input from Community**

In October 3, 2016, the City posted the question, “What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?” to its Open City Hall online civic engagement site to solicit input and feedback from the community. As of November 1, 2016 a total of 180 individuals had visited the topic with 68 posting responses. The community is still able to provide feedback on Open City Hall, but below is a summary of comments received to date, and identification of a number of themes that emerged from the responses:

- Airplane noise
- Traffic and bike safety, enforcement, parking
- Infrastructure
- Public transportation, increase in multimodal options
- Housing, creating more, affordable, granny units
- Jobs/housing balance
- Social equity, community, diversity
- Long term financial planning
- Sensible architectural review process
- Ground floor retail, development cap

Attachment B is the detailed responses from Open City Hall. There were also a number of responses posted on Nextdoor that are also included in Attachment C. As of November 1, 2016 no feedback was received from the community through email, telephone or mail.

### **Timeline**

Upon the Policy & Services Committee's approval, staff will forward the recommendation to the City Council in January. Staff will update the January staff report to include any additional community feedback received prior to agenda publication. Upon approval by the City Council in January, staff will publish results in advance of the retreat. At this time, the Council's 2017 Annual Retreat has not been schedule.

### **Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Priority Setting Guidelines (PDF)
- Attachment B: Open City Hall 2017 Priorities Comments 11-1-16 (PDF)
- Attachment C: Nextdoor 2017 Priorities Comments 11-1-16 (PDF)

## City Council Priority Setting Guidelines

**Approved by City Council:** October 1, 2012

**Last revised: October 1, 2012**

### Background

The City Council adopted its first Council priorities in 1986. Each year the City Council reviews its priorities at its Annual Council Retreat. On October 1, 2012 the City Council formally adopted the definition of a council priority, and the Council's process and guidelines for selection of priorities.

### Definition

A Council priority is defined as a topic that will receive particular, unusual and significant attention during the year.

### Purpose

The establishment of Council priorities will assist the Council and staff to better allot and utilize time for discussion and decision making.

### Process

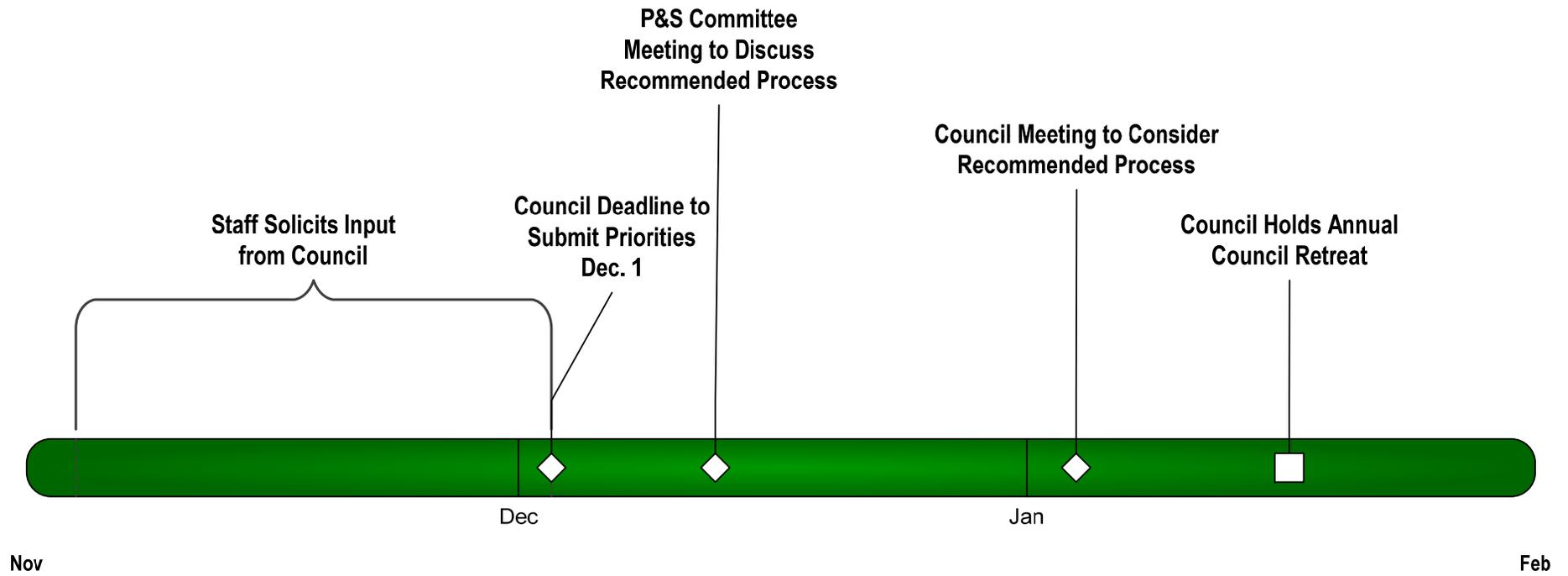
1. Three months in advance of the annual Council Retreat, staff will solicit input from the City Council on the priorities to be reviewed and considered for the following year.
  - a. Council members may submit up to three priorities.
  - b. Priorities should be submitted no later than December 1.
  - c. As applicable, the City Manager will contact newly elected officials for their input by December 1.
  - d. The City Clerk will provide timely notice to the public to submit proposed priorities by December 1. The Policy and Services Committee shall recommend to the Council which suggestions if any shall be considered at the City Council retreat.
2. Staff will collect and organize the recommended priorities into a list for Council consideration, and provide to Council no less than two weeks in advance of the retreat.
3. The Policy and Services Committee, each year at its December meeting, shall make recommendations about the process that will be used at the Annual Retreat paying particular attention to the number of priorities suggested by Council members. The recommended process is to be forwarded to Council for adoption in advance of the Council retreat.

### Guidelines for Selection of Priorities

1. There is a goal of no more than three priorities per year.
2. Priorities generally have a three year time limit.

Attachment A  
City of Palo Alto

**City Council Priority Setting Schedule**



# 2017 Council Priorities

*What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?*

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of November 1, 2016, 10:11 AM



*Open City Hall is not a certified voting system or ballot box. As with any public comment process, participation in Open City Hall is voluntary. The statements in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.*

# 2017 Council Priorities

*What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?*

As of November 1, 2016, 10:11 AM, this forum had:

Attendees: 180

All Statements: 68

Hours of Public Comment: 3.4

This topic started on October 4, 2016, 4:04 PM.

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

Joerg Rathenberg in Crescent Park (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:43 PM

The single most important issue is to stop the jet noise from SFO over Palo Alto.

If you live in the 1.5 mile corridor under the flight path nothing else really matters, as it makes living here extremely undesirable, unhealthy, and will lead to more people selling their houses to foreign investors who don't care, don't live here, and have no interest in this community.

You may think this is an exaggeration, but it's happening already.

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Name not shown in Crescent Park (registered)

October 31, 2016, 4:39 PM

I would like to see some really imaginative thinking by the Council and Staff. After all, we are the center of innovation, next to a university known for the same. Here are some ideas:

1. A traffic plan involving a combination of remote parking, jitneys on city streets and connecting neighborhoods with commercial/shopping areas, and street closures. Included in this could be many roundabouts that would speed existing intersection traffic, and a computerized red/green light system that would be responsive to ambient traffic flow.
2. Innovative housing that uses low use space for small apartments, co-living communities, and vertical space above low commercial structures.
3. Research on solar energy generation from black-top streets; this could be a great project with Stanford.
4. Active planning in commercial areas for attractive architecture that is more integrated than the present pattern of glass and concrete inexpensive construction distributed randomly where land is available. (Town and Country is an example of this sort of idea; the new construction downtown is not.

1 Supporter

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Larry Kavinoky in College Terrace (registered)

October 31, 2016, 4:35 PM

I would like to see the city immediately increase housing in Palo Alto by finding a way to all existing granny units that are safe, even if not up to Palo Alto code, be encouraged to relieve our housing shortage and thus provide more affordable units. Palo Alto makes exceptions for zoning, height and density for all kinds of "public benefit" reasons. Lets do that type of thing now to begin to alleviate the housing shortage.

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Gary Gechlik outside Palo Alto (registered)

October 31, 2016, 4:30 PM

It is important to treat people equally and address real world needs. Right now, there is significant fire risk in the Open Space. Given the recent Loma Fire which destroyed multiple homes, Palo Alto needs to encourage

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

defensible space management. Residents in the Open Space should be encouraged to follow Cal-Fire guidelines of 100 feet of defensible space.

More work needs to be done on social equity for families. We have to be realistic and be careful not to substitute abstract goals and a specific agenda for well established and moderated property rights. We also have to be careful to follow federal guidelines, as Palo Alto, like all municipalities often receives matching funds and federal grants. For this reason, a moderate approach by Palo Alto with a goal of service to citizens is the best approach.

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Anna Wichansky in Green Acres (registered)

October 31, 2016, 1:38 PM

1. Decrease traffic, crowding, parking hassles. This means stop new building ASAP. The only things that should be built would be replacements for existing buildings. The reason people used to want to live in Palo Alto was because it had nice residential neighborhoods. I don't think we need another start-up or coffee place or hotel anywhere in Palo Alto.

2. Find a way to decrease the overhead plane noise. It is a reminder day in and day out of how much everything has changed in Palo Alto. No longer quiet even at night. We need to gain some traction over this problem. The big time politicians are not solving the problem; absolutely nothing has changed since they started flying NextGen flightpaths over our heads.

3. Pick up garbage all over the city. Pick it up even if it isn't the city's "jurisdiction". I'm talking about the feeder ramps and bridges to Oregon Expressway, Embarcadero, San Antonio. The same garbage has been laying there for months. If you need to work with Caltrans, do it. It reflects on our city, it's spreading to our local streets, and the city is starting to look like a garbage dump along major thoroughfares. It also fosters an I-Don't-care attitude on regular streets, which I see much more garbage around the schools and parks. If needed organize a citizen clean up day and close the access roads so we can all get out with garbage bags and get rid of this stuff.

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Joel Davidson in Barron Park (registered)

October 31, 2016, 1:13 PM

I have been waiting for many years for the city to have city wide wifi.

Traffic is getting worse daily. It takes between 15 to 20 minutes to get to 101 or 280 from my house in south Palo Alto near the El Camino.

1 Supporter

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Sharon Dickson in University South (registered)

October 31, 2016, 1:10 PM

Infrastructure needs to be very high priority, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. Many streets and sidewalks still need serious repair. New lighting is inadequate for nighttime walking. The streets are lit, but the sidewalks are in shadow and present trip hazards. Sewers do not adequately drain streets during wet periods. University overpass is way overdue for renovation.

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Name not shown in Crescent Park (registered)

October 31, 2016, 1:02 PM

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

The top priority for the City Council should involve addressing the erosion of the quality of life for Palo Alto residents. Palo Alto is no longer a desirable place to live. Two factors that contribute to this erosion should be addressed immediately by the City Council. First, the intolerable and incessant whine of aircraft overhead must be eliminated in order to restore any sense of peace and quality of life to our city! Second, the aggressive takeover of downtown by office buildings and developers has to be stopped. Additionally, the encroachment of employees parking into the surrounding neighborhoods has to be reversed and resident only parking implemented. Our neighborhoods are now parking lots for employees with the consequence of increased traffic and decreased safety. Greed and an aggressive type of competitiveness appear to be the city's values rather than a concern for quality of life for residents. Finally, of course, addressing the yearly threat of flooding would be welcome!

1 Supporter

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Valerie Stinger in Palo Verde (registered)

October 31, 2016, 12:18 PM

The 2016 priorities remain unfinished and important. So I wonder if process is as important as priority. I would urge the new council to focus, commit to a planning schedule.

For myself, the priorities are housing and transit. How do we accommodate diversity? How do we progress to a transit system, which does not center on automobiles?

1 Supporter

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Sheri Furman in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

October 31, 2016, 12:17 PM

The 2016 priority "The Built Environment: Housing, Parking, Livability and Mobility" was overly broad and should be redefined into separate priorities, which would help achieve "Livability."

- Transportation: Realistic TMA, require fully parked projects, residential shuttles, strict RPP programs
  - Housing: Below market housing, Airbnb, ADUs, redefine mixed use to favor housing over retail
  - Complete the Comprehensive Plan Update and zoning updates (retain office cap, protect ground-floor retail, reduce condition use permit allowances, increase code enforcement)
  - Infrastructure
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Geri Spieler in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

October 31, 2016, 11:55 AM

There are many issues for every community, however, for me, an issue not being well addressed is the incessant jet noise over our city. It appears with all the meetings and comments; nothing is being done. Besides being an annoying issue, it is also a health issue. We didn't have this problem several years ago, so how did the FAA get permission to do this without input from the communities that are affected most?

1 Supporter

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 31, 2016, 11:40 AM

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

I would like to see the only development be parking garages. We have done enough building to last for a lifetime, but without the requisite parking. More development is going to make the traffic unbearable.

I would also like to see the city go around and replace all of the dead trees, and trim the dead branches off of other trees. The draught has taken its toll on the trees in town.

The roads could use some work too. Many roads need to be repaved.

I would like to see our police department patrol the downtown area more closely. Many drivers run through stop signs.

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Name not shown in Palo Verde (registered)

October 31, 2016, 11:17 AM

Lower utilities bills. And, yes, I do think those full color flyers that come with my bill are a waste!

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Shelly Gordon in Green Acres (registered)

October 31, 2016, 11:09 AM

Consider passing an anti-idling ordinance to help reduce air pollution and improve air quality. More than 40,000 tons of carbon are emitted daily in US cities from drivers sitting in parked cars with their engines running, while texting or engaging in other activities. Turning off and starting gas-powered engines reduce gas consumption, green house gas emissions, and wear and tear on engines. Parents picking up elementary school children are the biggest offenders. Sometimes they wait 10 minutes for their children with their engines running, spewing particulate matter into the air and contributing to respiratory illness, especially asthma in children which is on the rise.

Cities throughout the US have anti-idling ordinances that are effectively educating drivers on the benefits of not idling. So working models already exist, as well as a number of public relations materials to change this unconscious behavior, making it easier to implement.

1 Supporter

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Shannon McEntee in Evergreen Park (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:53 AM

1. We need frequent, convenient and reasonably priced transportation to SFO. Trains: we need to see a huge improvement in frequency including early morning and late nighttime trains. Buses: we need frequent buses to SFO every day, including early morning and late night. Our airport access is unforgivably poor considering our traffic and air pollution problems. PA must work with the various transportation authorities to improve this deplorable situation.

2. Reduce Noise: Our city is now so noise polluted that it's almost unbearable. Planes, street sweepers,

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

garbage trucks, recycling trucks, honking cars -- it NEVER stops. Begin to replace noisy vehicles with electric-powered vehicles.

3. Honking car noise: NYC has an ordinance that fines people for car honking. Most of the cars on our roads honk loudly when they lock their doors, unlock their doors, and when they hit the wrong button on their key. Solve this problem - cars don't need to honk loudly all the time. They can chirp softly.

4. Crack down on speeding cars in our neighborhoods, rolling through stop signs and ignoring red lights. We want a courteous and safe city.

5. Fix the roads that cross the train tracks so traffic doesn't have to stop every time a train goes by. Trench the tracks or trench the roads, but we must eliminate the needless delays, traffic congestion, added air pollution, and the stress associated with our inadequate road system. Will it be expensive? Yes, but we need to do it.

6. Keep making improvements to our bikeways and continue to encourage adults and children to get out of their cars and bike, walk, or use public transportation.

7. Figure out how to monitor and invoice water consumption in multi-home and multi-office buildings. In my 55-unit condo building, the HOA pays the water bills and individuals aren't held accountable for their water usage. When people have to pay, they reduce their waste. This drought is not going to end. We need to make changes to reduce water use and we need to start now. We also need to incentivize new methods to capture rainwater and greywater in order to water our trees and gardens -- rather than wasting precious potable water.

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 31, 2016, 10:53 AM

youth mental health initiative

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Joe Baldwin in University South (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:52 AM

HOUSING: 1. Allow Granny units built for family members or as BMR units.

2. Require 25% BMR units on all housing development of 4 or more units.

PARKING: 1. Require 100% parking provided for all new commercial development.

2. Raise current downtown RPP employee permit goal from zero to 1,000 with support from both Neilson Buchanan and Chamber of Commerce.

3 Supporters

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Bob Moss in Barron Park (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:45 AM

These are my suggestions for 2017 priorities:

1) Infrastructure

2) Long term financial planning

3) Impacts of commercial and residential development

2 Supporters

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Dov Shiffman in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:42 AM

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

Please address aircraft noise

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Steve Ludington in Palo Verde (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:36 AM

Get serious about promoting cycling instead of driving. This means bike routes that are separated from auto traffic and it means spending a lot of money.

2 Supporters

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Darryl Fenwick in Downtown North (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:33 AM

I can't believe there has not been a single statement I have noticed which has mentioned the homeless and beggars on the streets of Palo Alto. Addressing this problem is not the same as addressing affordable housing (which should also be a top priority). Almost every block on University has someone begging and homeless, and it is often the same people day after day, month after month, year after year. This is clearly something where the city could make a huge impact in someone's life.

And I am surprised by the number of comments about the airplane noise, especially if they don't consider that planes that don't fly over Palo Alto necessarily fly over another city. The solution requires a regional balance and we need to be able to agree upon our fair share of plane traffic overhead.

1 Supporter

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Briggs Nisbet in Palo Verde (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:31 AM

1. Cumulative ambient noise in the residential neighborhoods is increasing and increasingly unhealthful. This includes nearly constant commercial jets at low altitudes overhead, leaf blowers and power tools related to tree trimming, housing construction and other activities; other types of aircraft including private planes and jets, helicopters, military aircraft; even the street cleaning vehicles approach the sound levels of overhead aircraft.

2. In South Palo Alto the amount of housing demolition and construction is increasing rapidly, adding to noise and traffic disruption and, ultimately changing the character of the neighborhoods. Small, relatively "affordable" one-story houses are being transformed into large, multi-level structures that cover most of the residential lot, in many cases loom over their next door neighbors, and radically change the landscape, including fewer and smaller trees, the addition of lawns and watering systems, and, I assume, increase energy and water use. How can the city address the issue of "affordable" housing and not consider the exchange of less-expensive existing housing stock for new, larger housing units that are likely twice as expensive and house the same number of people?

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 31, 2016, 10:31 AM

The healthy community priority to include reduction of airplane noise and pollution of our environment. If the

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

FAA does not respond to the published City of Palo Alto's recommendations, further action may be required to address this continuing threat to a healthy community.

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 31, 2016, 10:28 AM

Airplane noise must be a priority.  
City shall negotiate directly with FAA and if not favorable resolution is achieved, joint forces to prepared for legal battle with federal government

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Name not shown in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

October 31, 2016, 10:15 AM

The jet noise is intolerable. The frequency and volume is disrupting our lives. I cannot work at home because I can't concentrate, I get woken up multiple times a night unable to block out the noise, we don't hang out in our yard much any more every few minutes the belly of a plane is right over our heads and one can't even carry on a conversation without stopping to let the planes pass. I can't imagine the quality of the air we breathe is any good with constant jet fumes spewing at such a low altitude. It was not like this when we first moved here to Palo Alto, and I hope the City will make it a high priority to ensure the FAA creates more reasonable flight paths instead of directing a disproportionate number of flights over Palo Alto.

2 Supporters

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 31, 2016, 10:08 AM

Continued and increased access to city services and the city council through development of mobile tech.

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Name not shown in College Terrace (registered)

October 31, 2016, 2:41 AM

1. More Low Income and Affordable Housing and programs for all ages but specifically seniors. Leaving nobody behind.
2. More opportunities to hear each other, learn from each other, get to know each other.
3. More opportunities for local groups and neighborhoods to work with each other and guests, through temporary residencies by outside artists, scientists, and others that can help us learn and look beyond what we expect or already know and that create participatory projects to enrich the social, economical, and creative quality of our living together.

1 Supporter

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Amy Christel in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

October 29, 2016, 11:01 AM

Rather than a vaguely defined topic like "Healthy City" focus on issues that contribute to ill-health in our city. Air quality and "Soundscape" are big QOL issues. Address noise and air pollution sources with better ordinances

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

and better enforcement; monitor aviation noise and chemical pollution from both commercial jets and General Aviation (PAO), ban leaf blowers, address horrendously noisy garbage trucks and street sweepers (invest in quieter machinery or better maintenance of current), curb train horns in overnight hours. Ban the sale of leaded avgas at PAO effective 2018, and insist that fuel vendors there offer Swift 94 (unleaded gas) as a contingency of renewed leases. Work with the FAA to reduce the overflights of GA aircraft approaching PAO and SQL over neighborhoods, and limit the training operations at PAO which force arriving/departing air traffic over residential populations.

On the issue of housing, don't assume cars will not come with new housing. Require developers to provide complete parking.

Re traffic and congestion: STOP the office growth. Period, no exceptions. Enough jobs. Wait 50 years for the housing to catch up.

1 Supporter

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Name not shown in Community Center (registered)

October 27, 2016, 9:41 AM

The jet noise is unbearable, quality of life has plummeted. Palo Alto will no longer be "a little gem of a city" if the noise persists and if, as expected gets worse with continued next gen implementation. Please continue your substantive support via consultants and direct support to Sky Posse Palo Alto. Get the city on the SFO roundtable. Push back on the politicians waving hands about 'not moving noise' (the noise has been moved, to us). Let's get this fixed. For us. For our neighbors.

1 Supporter

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Mel Kronick in Crescent Park (registered)

October 22, 2016, 5:56 PM

More support for mass transit, especially more capacity on Caltrain. Work with Menlo Park and Redwood City to reactivate the rail line that connects Redwood City to East Menlo Park (very near Facebook with its thousands of employees) and then on across the bay south of the Dumbarton Bridge.

1 Supporter

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Michelle Arden in University South (registered)

October 21, 2016, 5:45 PM

Please address aircraft noise as a priority for the community. In the past several years, aircraft noise has increased to the point where it significantly impacts my quality of life, and that of my family.

2 Supporters

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 21, 2016, 4:43 PM

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

The things I would most like to see the City prioritize:

1. Airplane noise
2. Airplane noise
3. Airplane noise

Thank you.  
Margaret Clayton

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 21, 2016, 4:07 PM

The most immediate problem I would love to see tackled is the extreme airplane noise -- because of the impact on health, quality of life and likely on property values. Palo Alto is a much less pleasant and desirable place to live since airplane noise has increased and a less healthy & happy place to raise kids. For me and my family, the noise is disruptive & finding a solution is a top priority.

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Name not shown in University South (registered)

October 21, 2016, 12:16 PM

Please consider the airplane noise problem a priority for the city council. About 1/3 of the citizens are experiencing it and the children suffer daily at school.

2 Supporters

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Joan Hancock in Old Palo Alto (registered)

October 20, 2016, 12:58 PM

As I walk around our neighborhood...I'm saddened by the empty dark houses that are like holes in the neighborhood. I know New York and London have the same situation with out of town property investment that is held as a commodity. Could Palo Alto have an ordinance that houses have to be occupied at least half the year? Just wondering...Joan Hancock

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Name not shown in Community Center (registered)

October 20, 2016, 11:42 AM

The incredible increase in airplane noise over the past year must be addressed - this is a serious quality of life issue and also could affect property values. Also traffic safety (cracking down on speeding and red light running) and bicycle route safety need addressing. Fix the traffic mess at Embarcadero and Town and Country/Paly -- it's no better than it was.

2 Supporters

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Name not shown in University Park (registered)

October 20, 2016, 10:34 AM

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

1. Development cap in all of Palo Alto until we've solved parking and traffic issues
2. Crackdown on residential burglary/auto theft

2 Supporters

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Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

October 19, 2016, 10:14 PM

My opinions on top 2 city priorities:

1. Funding and executing infrastructure improvements
2. Public safety - apply more resources to traffic enforcement and crackdown on residential burglary/auto theft

Please do not put city resources towards building more/BMR housing. It is not the responsibility of the city to ensure everyone who wants to live in PA can do so. There are lots of places I would like to live or own a home but I don't expect those cities to subsidize my ability to live there.

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Name not shown in Green Acres (registered)

October 19, 2016, 10:10 PM

By far the most important issue for me is the elimination of the constant barrage of loud, annoying, intrusive aircraft noise that has been occurring at my home since Mar. 2015.

1 Supporter

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Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

October 19, 2016, 9:23 PM

Please find a way to reinstate traffic enforcement. The speeding, red-light running and stop-sign running is such a huge problem. If people thought they might get ticketed for these infractions, maybe it would help discourage it. Our streets are becoming like a free-for-all and are not safe places for bikers or pedestrians.

2 Supporters

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Stephen Rock in Charleston Terrace (registered)

October 19, 2016, 9:17 PM

Reducing single occupancy auto traffic.

1) Public Transportation should be a very high priority. Getting people to their jobs, to shopping, to entertainment.

a) Much more frequent bus service and many more routes. Faster service (dedicated lanes) Perhaps follow the model of the Stanford Margarete system.

bus routes to California Ave Cal Train.

b) Frequent Minibuses, perhaps private, along designated routes. This is done in many countries.

b) Increased Cal Train

c) Coordinate with neighboring cities. e.g. route between Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

2) Shared Taxi service/minivans from Train Stations and Bus stops to work places.

3) Designated parking places for car pools (as at Stanford).

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

- 4) Designated parking for small cars. Put large vehicles on the top of the garages.
- 5) University Av pedestrian only.

2 Supporters

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Name not shown (unverified)

October 19, 2016, 9:15 PM

- 1) Decrease exposure of PA residents to jet produced noise and pollution
  - 2) Increase recreation areas for people and their dogs
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Angela Holman in Downtown North (registered)

October 19, 2016, 8:10 PM

I would like to know which, if any, of these priorities include addressing the serious housing problem in Palo Alto. Those of us who are renters have no protections against enormous rent increases, making it virtually impossible to maintain any kind of economic diversity in the area. In addition to renter protections though, I'd really like to see more of an emphasis on low-income and affordable housing development. As the cities around us continue to allow company growth to outpace housing stock, people are getting pushed further and further out and making traffic worst for everyone. Again, how will these priorities address housing needs?

1 Supporter

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Name not shown in University Park (registered)

October 19, 2016, 5:55 PM

Creating more housing needs to be a number one priority. Any way the council can change the requirements to incentivise smaller dwellings, granny units and other creative ways to increase housing should be considered. using technology to improve parking accessibility is also a worthy endeavor.

3 Supporters

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Name not shown in Downtown North (registered)

October 14, 2016, 10:40 AM

More housing, more housing, more housing. Everything else is a distant second.

1 Supporter

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Rachel Croft in Southgate (registered)

October 14, 2016, 9:05 AM

I would like the city to take as a top priority making Palo Alto a more bike friendly place. This should include considerations for bike safety (including providing separate roadways for bikes, ensuring cars can't park near intersections, and putting better separation rails in places where bikes are near fast-moving cars like Embarcadero Caltrain underpass) and bike parking. The city should consider both adult and kid bike drivers in their plans.

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

2 Supporters

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Patama Gur in Old Palo Alto (registered)

October 13, 2016, 1:32 PM

Preserve ground floor retail at least two blocks off University Ave and keep California Avenue zoned for local, non-chain businesses.

Better balance the needs of existing local residents with growth initiatives especially around parking and traffic concerns.

2 Supporters

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Hamilton Hitchings in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

October 11, 2016, 4:19 PM

1) Complete the Comprehensive Plan Update

2) Significant progress on Infrastructure: Public Safety Building, new Parking Garages, Newell St. Bridge & Fire Stations Seismic Safety

3) Extend zoning changes to favor housing over office (extend and strengthen office cap, rezone some office to residential, TDRs for residential only, more focus on below market housing, try to save Bueno Vista, more focus on mitigating development impacts on neighbors, traffic and parking, etc...)

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Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

October 9, 2016, 11:10 PM

Thank you for asking. My top issues are unbearable jet noise, and cut through traffic on my street, Loma Verde Ave, which has made my home more noisy, polluted and dangerous. Thank you again.

1 Supporter

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Name not shown in Evergreen Park (registered)

October 9, 2016, 5:48 PM

My highest priorities for Palo Alto center around quality of life: safety - traffic law enforcement (speed limits! stopping at stop signs) and parking (parking permits in neighborhoods near commercial areas)

1 Supporter

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Irene Au in Evergreen Park (registered)

October 9, 2016, 4:16 PM

- Preserve quality of life for existing residents by addressing transit and parking issues. Evergreen Park in particular is suffering without an RPPP. Please implement an RPPP and commit towards a 100% phase-out of employee parking in the neighborhood within 5 years.

- Commit to ground-floor retail and grow and keep local businesses in our community

- Encourage businesses that help foster community and serve as gathering points for people / places of attraction; we need to serve not just one particular demographic but different places for people at different

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

stages of life (e.g. teens, young adults, young families, middle-aged adults, seniors)

- Make walking and biking around the city easy, accessible, and safe
- Create a sensible architectural review process that promotes great design and aesthetics -- please prevent monstrous UGLY buildings like the new development on El Camino between College Ave and Stanford Ave!!! (Does \*anyone\* think that yellow building with the phallus looks good?)
- Reduce airplane noise

2 Supporters

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Michael Hodos in University South (registered)

October 8, 2016, 4:27 AM

Adopt the following tenet as an overarching operating principle for each and every proposal considered by City Staff and the City Council: "How will this proposed change help maintain and/or improve the quality of life for the residents of this community?"

3 Supporters

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Jean Libby in Community Center (registered)

October 7, 2016, 9:06 AM

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Palo Alto City Council for their dedication to the community and thoughtful stewardship. This is a group statement and to each individual as well.

As a low-income homeowner struggling to remain where I have lived for 50 years, I earnestly seek equitable proposals that do not devalue my property.

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Name not shown in Crescent Park (registered)

October 7, 2016, 5:46 AM

Reduce the number of city staff in proportion to residents, to match the ratios of surrounding high-performing cities.

Reduce the number of management layers in city staff to match the "management span of control" of surrounding high-performing cities.

A staff reduction of about 30%, if done on a merit basis (not seniority), would:

- Free funds to pay for improved roads, parks, and other services.
- Improve staff responsiveness by reducing bureaucratic steps.
- Prevent our future bankruptcy that will result from growing numbers of retired staffers on high pensions that are funded by an essentially constant number of residents.

4 Supporters

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 6, 2016, 8:16 PM

I have asked the CAC to insert a policy in the Environment element re vehicle idling, pertaining specifically to

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

parked cars -- not idling in traffic. Idling emits about 40,000 tons of carbon daily in the US. The problem is particularly problematic at local schools, as parents and bus drivers waiting to pick up children leave their engines running and subject them to carbon monoxide which is increasing asthma, respiratory disease, heart disease and cancer. And it's completely unnecessary. Turning off the engine instead of letting it idle saves on gas, engine wear and tear and carbon emissions. I'd like to see the city pass an ordinance against idling. Fremont has incorporated an anti-idling policy in its CAP. So should Palo Alto, as a leader in green cities.

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Andrew Sharpe in Downtown North (registered)

October 6, 2016, 7:07 PM

Street repair, bicycle lanes, traffic calming on Everett, 4 way stop signs at Everett and Bryant, and Everett and High. Invest in the folks that live here and pay for these things!

1 Supporter

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Stephen Rosenblum in Old Palo Alto (registered)

October 6, 2016, 6:47 PM

Commit to achieving a carbon neutral environment as soon as possible, including transportation. As a part of this commitment, the city should make a plan o implement Mobility as a Service for all residents and workers in Palo Alto.

1 Supporter

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 6, 2016, 4:43 PM

In a time of climate change and population growth, greater protection and sustainable use of our natural environment: our canopy, our groundwater, our streams, our air quality, our foothills and bay lands.

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Name not shown in Midtown/ Midtown West (registered)

October 6, 2016, 4:34 PM

1. Reduce airplane noise
2. smart way to monitor water consumption. For example, monitor consumption from phone rather than looking at the hard-to-get-to-outdoor meter

3 Supporters

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Name not shown in University South (registered)

October 6, 2016, 2:38 PM

Traffic enforcement for motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrian , and special attention to heavy construction vehicles on residential streets.  
Public transportation that is also green, a la Marguerite; push employers to provide discounted public transit passes, and design the transit to meet the needs of the people.  
Conservation incorporated in all new construction and remodeling: more solar panels, etc.

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

Cease allowing commercial building without adequate parking. The "public benefits" never seem to materialize, but the parking problems do.

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 6, 2016, 11:40 AM

Preserving the quality of life in neighborhoods.

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Jane Volk-Brew in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

October 6, 2016, 11:39 AM

1) increased traffic enforcement on city streets, i.e., drivers who speed and/or run or disregard traffic signals; 2) Sand Hill Properties' lack of compliance with the planned community requirements of Edgewood Shopping Center; 3) noise from low flying helicopters and general aviation aircraft arriving at and departing from the Palo Alto airport; 4) noise from airplanes inbound to SFO and SJC; 5) improved street cleaning, especially in bike lanes on city streets and at the baylands.

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Name not shown in Leland Manor/ Garland (registered)

October 6, 2016, 11:38 AM

Everyone is 'connected' to their electronic devices in their daily lives particularly in their homes. It's essentially that we keep up the infrastructure to meet the current as well as anticipate the future demands. Additionally, we currently have very limited choices, with Comcast essentially holding a monopoly albeit on a suboptimal service which is sometimes reliable. I'd like to see a city wide push towards Fiberoptic internet. It's already available throughout many condo buildings in SF and really game changing, particularly for those of us who want the flexibility to do data intensive work at home. Even for casual users, having consistent super high speed internet really is time saving, whether for school related work, doing things related to one's occupation, or just entertainment. I've seen reports of the city looking into fiber whether Google fiber or some other company. I think it's time to make a push forward and come up with a plan that can be acted upon in a short term (3-5 years go-live goal?) to make fiber available to all residents. We are in the center of Silicon Valley, a technological epicenter. Many other small cities in the midwest and elsewhere have passed us in this internet infrastructure investment. It's time for us to catch up and keep relevant to all the exciting technological activities and resources going on in the Bay area.

1 Supporter

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William Brew in Duveneck/ St Francis (registered)

October 6, 2016, 11:11 AM

Priorities: reduce airplane noise, solve Edgewood Shopping Center problems, stop red light and stop sign runners.

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Frankie Farhat in Green Acres (registered)

October 6, 2016, 10:45 AM

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

Here are my 4 priorities:

- Airplane noise - Help reduce it and make sure it remains low. The current situation is unjust and untenable for those like me who now live under both the SERFR route and the hundreds of vectoring planes.
- Airplane noise - Please start considering what legal actions are available to the City of Palo Alto either if the select committee does not come up with recommendations or if the FAA does not implement procedures that will help us. Note that according to the city noise ordinance in Palo Alto, if I use a gas-powered leaf blower anytime during the day, or if I do construction work before 8am, after 6pm, or anytime on Sundays, I am punishable to up to 6 months in jail, up to \$1,000 in fines or both. May I suggest that the City of Palo Alto review and update their codes and use the legal tools in their power to ensure that airspace violators are properly fined and prosecuted. Furthermore, I'd like to suggest that we start such process with the top offenders like Asiana OZ 286 and Korean Airlines KE 213 who fly low and loud, every night typically around 12:30am.
- Airplane noise: study the impact on health (physical and mental), learning, and properties value.
- Airplane noise: denounce publicly the impact of Nextgen on the Palo Alto community, in order to help raise awareness at the national level and grow the pressure on FAA and Congress to do something right for all of us who now live on Airport runways.

6 Supporters

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Name not shown in Charleston Terrace (registered)

October 6, 2016, 10:37 AM

Regenerating Nature in the City

2 Supporters

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Glenn Fisher in Charleston Terrace (registered)

October 6, 2016, 10:19 AM

Priority 1: The balance between offices/jobs and residents/housing is critical. Palo Alto is flooded by people who work here but don't live here, and it contributes to congestion. At the same time, housing is expensive and the Planning Commission, Architectural Review Board and Council create a long, expensive, and time-consuming path to new construction; restrictions on in-law units limit housing choices. We need a well-thought out comprehensive plan that addresses these issues, and a council that city government that directly conform to the plan so the requirements and process are clear for everyone. We also need a way to encourage high-density housing while confronting the transportation issues and realize that cars are not going away. So related priority 1A: Clarify, codify and streamline the process of approving remodels and new construction. The current process is broken and more often (for remodels) ignored because it is so complex and expensive. Priority 2: Infrastructure. We have to replace old sewers and utilities, maintain our parks, and also our urban forest. These all have a cost and time constraints that must be addressed.

1 Supporter

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Name not available (unclaimed)

October 6, 2016, 10:12 AM

Under health and safety, I believe the airplane noise over our heads is a top priority. There are numerous studies showing that ambient noise can affect our health. Even those who claim not to notice it are affected at

## 2017 Council Priorities

What are the priorities you would like to see the City Council adopt for 2017?

some subconscious level.

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## Nextdoor 2017 Council Priorities

Gargi, Jonathan, Kimberley, and [1 other](#) thanked you



[J. T. F.](#) from [Old Palo Alto](#) · 19 Oct

How much do the tax payers of Palo Alto pay to send council members on this retreat? Liz Kniss and others on the ballot this November, please answer. You are running for council, and I think we'd all like to know your thoughts about whether this is a wise use of tax payer dollars.

[Thank](#)

Maryann and Gargi thanked J. T.



[Barb J.](#) from [Palo Verde](#) · 19 Oct

I went to the website and checked it out. All of the critical topics are marked "closed." I find that typical: late or nonexistent notice of key opportunities to be heard. Instead, y'all spend a fortune on "experts" who are expert only in overcharging and underperforming. How about hiring no experts and listening to the folks who are still choking on \*last\* year's stupid, wasteful, business- (but not community-) oriented decisions?

[Thank](#)

Maryann thanked Barb



[Penny E.](#) from [Greenmeadow](#) · 19 Oct

The "retreat" is usually a one-day event in Palo Alto. It is run as an open meeting that any member of the public can attend--usually held at an in-town public facility like the library. They have done this every single year I can remember. I think it is good that they include the public in setting their priorities.

[Thank](#)



[City of Palo Alto](#) from [City of Palo Alto](#) · 20 Oct

@Barb J: The Council priorities question is the first topic listed on the Open City Hall portal (it's in green text) and is still open for comments and feedback.



[Jonathan C.](#) from [Midtown](#) · 20 Oct

Open City Hall is not very open for feedback when topics for discussion are marked closed. Perhaps a Council member will read this message and pass it along internally. My priority for the City of Palo Alto is that policies be set that result in benefits to all, not just to an individual. For example, I believe that property owners who want to dig out mega basements creating a need to lower the water table under them should NOT be permitted to do so. Water is central to the existence of all humans, animals, trees and plants. Under no circumstance should 1 person have the right take an action that so seriously affects the surrounding ecosystem. I had heard that the City had put a moratorium on such egocentric demands....what happened?

Hannah

[Thank](#)



[Madeleine Tammy S.](#) from [Meadow Park](#) · 20 Oct

I would like to see signs for street cleaning through out the city. Our street has a heavy leaf drop and we have major drains at the end of the street at Louis. The JCC people park on our street and prevent the street cleaner from doing it's job. We are a R-1 residential area, nor a commercial parking lot. Since we are going to vote on a additional tax for the storm drains then this is a major help in preventing the leaves and other street trash from going down the drains. East Palo Alto has signage throughout the city and there is signage in North Palo Alto. Also the street cleaner is now a weekly event instead of a bi-weekly event. Street maintenance starts with clean streets.

[Thank](#)

Carol thanked Madeleine Tammy



[Joan H.](#) from [Old Palo Alto](#) · 20 Oct

There are so many completely empty houses around here do to out of town investors. They are like holes in the neighborhood. Couldn't there be an ordinance that they have to be occupied through rentals or otherwise at least half the year? Just wondering...Joan H.

[Thank](#)

Maryann, Mary Jane, and Amy thanked Joan



[Heidi S.](#) from [Palo Alto Orchards](#) · 20 Oct

Arastradero gridlock.

[Thank](#)

Amy thanked Heidi



[Gargi K.](#) from [Midtown](#) · 20 Oct

Safety concerns: at grade train crossings, I trimmed trees blocking stop signs, poorly marked or non-existent bike lanes...and recent increase in armed muggings

[Thank](#)



[Jo Ann M.](#) from [Leland Manor](#) · 21 Oct

1) Get rid of the dangerous, unused Jordan bike lane barriers that are worsening gridlock and stranding cars in the middle of Oregon when a northbound car is waiting to turn onto N. California, 2) warn the few people bothering to vote on priorities that they're limited to only a few choices which invalidates the results of the survey because people can't vote on comments after one's first few votes.

[Thank](#)



[Maryann H.](#) from [Palo Verde](#) · 21 Oct

Joan Hancock: Great idea! It would make the neighborhoods a lot safer as well if there are more people around. Given the housing shortage, having more units occupied will help as well.

Edited on 21 Oct

[Thank](#)