

Melissa Thurman

From: patmarriott@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2024 12:24 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #6 MAY 28, 2024

Council Members:

I urge you to challenge Kevin Shenkman's demands to divide the city into voting districts.

Some cities are big enough and diverse enough where districts might be important for fair representation. Los Altos isn't one of them. We're a small city that's pretty homogeneous, with Asians living all across town. I don't think we have an "Asian district" that lacks representation.

Districting will limit voters to electing only one candidate – and perhaps a mayor. Finding qualified candidates in each district will be a challenge. If only one emerges, he or she will have a council seat by default, regardless of abilities.

Each district representative will be elected by a very small number of voters. In 2022, roughly 11,000 Los Altosans went to the polls. If we had five districts with 2,200 voters each, a councilmember could be elected with just 1,101 votes in a two-person race.

District representatives will have to cater to local demands instead of looking at the good of the city as a whole. Even now, we often hear complaints that "South Los Altos" isn't getting as much attention as "North Los Altos." Imagine five districts vying for resources!

Shenkman Told the Town Crier "a group of residents asked us to investigate whether Los Altos' at-large elections violate the California Voting Rights Act ..." Have you seen the evidence or is that one of Shenkman's standard tactics?

Have you done any surveys of our Asian residents or reached out to Asian organizations? How many of the city's total Asian population think they're victims of a "minority vote dilution"?

Shenkman has made himself a \$15M fortune by changing the face of California politics – and not necessarily for the better. Forced districting will be a detriment to democracy in Los Altos.

The irony will be if no Asians from any district run for council.

Pat Marriott

Melissa Thurman

From: Roberta Phillips <robertaphillips1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Public Comment; City Council
Subject: May 28,2024 Council meeting Item #5 Public Comment

Dear Council Members

I was looking at the requests from different non-profits . The City Policy states : "The organization must provide a direct benefit to the Los Altos community. "

In Los Altos we already have a Commission that does Calls for Art. Over the years they have been instrumental in providing art at the new Community Center and around town with the approval of the City Council and set policies. Arts Los Altos works with private property owners. They do not have criteria to evaluate the art they want to place nor oversight from the City. Please deny their application.

The funds requested by Compassion Week do not directly benefit Los Altans. They are requesting \$2000 for 500 homeless hygiene kits.

We do not have 500 homeless people in Los Altos. Currently California has spent \$17.5 billion dollars on the homeless, yet the homeless numbers keep growing. (* please see attached article below) They are also asking for \$2500 to build a playhouse and \$2000 for fleece blankets. These items will not directly benefit Los Altans

Jasper Ridge Farms is located in Portola Valley. There is no local direct benefit.

Please deny the application

LAMV Community Foundation is asking for \$5000 for website and branding. They already have a good website. \$3000 for production. \$12,000 for staff and \$5000 for virtual meetings. They already have zoom and staff , many of whom are volunteers/

RLA is asking for \$50,000. This amount is exorbitant.

Los Altos should not be handing out money like it is candy so that other nonprofits can claim they are charitable when in fact the money is coming from the City.

Former Mayor and Council woman Megan Satterlee often said that the City is Not " Social Services"

Los Altans work hard to earn a living. Inflation is hitting us hard. The City should be focusing on providing basic services to the community and stop doing "feel good" things that do not fall into the agreed upon City Priorities. Charity is not a priority. Los Altans are free to donate to the Charity of their choice.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips

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<https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/11/us/california-homeless-spending/index.html>

Melissa Thurman

From: Arthur Whipple <awhipple@whipples.us>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 2:04 PM
To: Public Comment; Anthony Carnesecca
Cc: Harry Guy
Subject: Fwd: Non-Profit and Civic Organization Contribution FY24-25
Attachments: Letter to City Council 20240527.pdf

Also copying public comment.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Arthur Whipple <awhipple@whipples.us>
Date: Mon, May 27, 2024 at 12:14 PM
Subject: Non-Profit and Civic Organization Contribution FY24-25
To: <council@losaltosca.gov>
Cc: Anthony Carnesecca <acarnesecca@losaltosca.gov>

Dear City Council,

On May 28, 2024, the City Council will review this year's Non-Profit and Civic Organization Contribution applications for FY25 as item 5 on the agenda.

Resilient Los Altos is an applicant and would like to provide additional detail to you and city staff regarding our activities for the City.

Please see the attached letter.

I plan to be at Tuesday's meeting to answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you,

Resilient Los Altos
Art Whipple, Director

May 27, 2024

Members of the City Council
City of Los Altos
1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Members of the City Council,

Resilient Los Altos (“RLA”) is invested in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery relating to disasters and significant emergencies that can and will occur in Los Altos. We are sponsored by the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation but have separate finances.

Most of us have never had a house fire but we still buy fire insurance every year. We don’t expect our house to ever burn down, but we mitigate the risk, prepare for the worst and expect to recover. The City has not faced a regional disaster since the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, almost 35 years ago. The leadership of several City Councils and city management organizations will soon be providing a secure and robust Emergency Operations Center that will be invaluable for the City for many years to come. Kudos to the City for wanting to be prepared.

The City of Los Altos has an Emergency Operations Plan that focuses on continuity of government, City personnel and City assets. One of the Planning Assumptions for that plan is that “Residents may need to be self-sufficient for one week or more” (pp. 4). This is appropriate given the size of the City’s staff and the distance from their homes to the City. City and County staff will be overwhelmed trying to support more than 30,000 residents and non-resident employees, students and visitors that could be here when bad things happen. The 300 trained members of RLA have taken on the task of helping neighborhoods organize and prepare for the next disaster and being the “civilian side” of emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for Los Altos.

While we will bring dedicated and trained volunteers to the City in crisis, we need financial support to function in this role, not for wages but for long-lived assets and infrastructure that will help us save lives in a disaster or severe emergency in the future.

We train continuously to be competent in this role. The cost of travel, lodging and meals is paid by the individual taking the training.

The California Specialized Training Institute (“CSTI”), a part of the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), offers training to law enforcement and emergency response personnel. RLA members have earned certificates in classes like these:

- EOC Management and Operations (including multi-agency coordination)– G775
- Incident Command System and Emergency Operations Center Interface – G191
- Local Volunteer and Donations Management – G288
- Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters – G489
- Standardized Emergency Management System – SEMS G606
- Multi-Hazard Planning for Schools – G364
- Emergency Planning – G235

The Bay Area Training and Exercise Program (“BATEP”) is supported by the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative. RLA members have taken classes like these:

- Disaster Volunteer Management
- Recovery From Disasters: The Local Community Role
- Community Preparedness Coordination
- Government – CBO Coordination – Map Your Neighborhood for First Responders

The Santa Clara County ARES/RACES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services / Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services) organization offers classes to licensed amateur radio operators (“hams”). In the calendar year 2023, Los Altos hams logged 907 hours of training and community service. Los Altos hams have completed classes like these:

- Introduction to Emergency Communications
- Fundamentals of Emergency Communications
- Field Operations
- Net Control
- Packet Operations
- Message Passing
- County EOC Radio Room Orientation
- Creek and Shelter Survey
- Cross-Band Repeating / Antenna Fundamentals

Three RLA volunteers were certified by the FEMA Emergency Management Institute to teach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes. More than 90 Los Altos residents were trained by these volunteers following the FEMA CERT curriculum during 2014 and 2015, until the City Council approved adding CERT training to the SCCFD service contract.

RLA staff also teach members of the community aspects of emergency preparedness.

- Since 2017, RLA staff have conducted 11 neighborhood drills to practice collecting injury, building damage, and hazard information that would be reported to authorities in a disaster
- We support the Santa Clara County Fire Department by teaching new CERT members and CERT “refreshers” radio communications skills.
- We support the Los Altos Hills County Fire District by teaching TEEN CERT classes to mostly Los Altos High School students in emergency communications and disaster psychology.
- We teach Los Altos church congregations about resilience, emergency preparedness, first aid and emergency communication for their members and their neighbors.
- We have taught classes to Los Altos School District elementary school staff in light search and rescue and emergency communication and we have assisted in the management of their local emergency supplies.
- We have arranged talks at Los Altos libraries about building community, earthquake science, insurance for disasters and emergency preparedness.
- We are offering five free emergency preparedness classes a quarter at the Los Altos Community Center.

- We offer four Zoom classes each quarter for residents who want to start and support a Block Action Team (“BAT”) in their neighborhood.

Historically, the City has supported our work through its Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (“CEPG”) program; however, this program was not funded for FY24.

In our request for support in this year’s Non-Profit and Civic Organization Contributions program, we identified over \$70,000 in proposed investments but are asking for \$50,000 in contributions. We hope that the City Council will have the wisdom to spend less than one tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the City’s budget or a little more than \$1.00 per person (residents, employees, students and visitors) to support our work to protect and potentially save the lives of people in Los Altos.

Sincerely,

Resilient Los Altos Leadership Group

Art Whipple, Harry Guy, Jim Clark, Patricia Evans, Fred Evans, Ed North, Don Gladstone, Jim Fenton, Charlie Mason, Lou Cartalano, Cookie Murata, Ian Massey

Melissa Thurman

From: Tina Swithin <tina.swithin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 7:56 PM
To: Public Comment; City Council
Subject: Women SV (Women of Silicon Valley) funding for \$60,000 grant

Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

It has come to my attention that Ruth Darlene, Founder and Executive Director of WomenSV (Women of Silicon Valley) will be asking the city council for a \$60,000 grant (or funding) at Tuesday's City Council Meeting.

I am writing in opposition of her request. While I do not reside in Los Altos (I reside in San Luis Obispo County), I oversee an international organization (One Mom's Battle) focused on supporting victims of domestic abuse when they enter the family court system. In my organization, we have chapters all over the world divided by geographical locations, including a very active chapter in California.

Over the years, I have encountered multiple survivors of domestic abuse who consider themselves to be further victimized by Women SV. I have also read articles in the media which paint this organization in a very unfavorable light. There are a lot of worthy organizations doing important work to help victims of domestic abuse, I do not personally believe this is one of them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Swithin

Melissa Thurman

From: Ca Grandparents United <cagrandparents@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 10:13 PM
To: City Council; Public Comment
Subject: Objection to Further Funding of WomenSV
Attachments: Objection Letter for WomenSV Funding Los Altos City Council.pdf

Good Evening,

Our group was just made aware of the funding request from WomenSV and its founder, Ruth Patrick Darlene. As local residents, grandparents and business owners , we strongly oppose the city providing more funding for the nonprofit.

We also ask that you have the city attorney look into investigating the nonprofit and its founder.

Attached please find our letter for your consideration prior to your vote on May 28, 2024.

Thank you,



May 27, 2024

Dear Los Altos City Council,

We are a group of grandparents based in Los Altos and Carmel, California. Nonprofit WomenSV came to our attention after a number of adults and young children reported concerning information about the organization, its founder and funding which came from Los Altos and Santa Clara County taxpayers and donors.

In 2023, the Davis Vanguard published a series of articles about WomenSV and the impact it had on many associated with our group. We are painfully aware of the accuracy of these articles, and the fact that the nonprofit, and its founder, Ruth Patrick Darlene, functioned as a referral business for local divorce lawyers who provided substandard legal services for WomenSV referred clients.

Ruth Patrick Darlene is not a therapist, nor an attorney. The so – called “help” she provided survivors of domestic violence came in the form of meetings with divorce attorneys, divorce attorney referrals and pressure to support Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen’s political campaigns.

According to the WomenSV tax returns, most of the revenue from the organization went to pay the salary of Ruth Patrick Darlene.

In her 2024 application seeking \$60,000 from the Los Altos taxpayers, Ms. Patrick has no verifiable information. Further, it is our understanding that Ms. Patrick sold her home in Los Altos, and now operates out of Hawaii. We continue to receive complaints from residents and donors about the operation of this nonprofit and the harm it continues to inflict to benefit private divorce attorneys.

Funding from local taxpayers would support Ms. Patrick’s lavish out-of-state lifestyle and do little for victims of domestic violence. It would also likely expose the city to vicarious liability and unnecessary expense.

Further, WomenSV has a history of engaging in **racist and discriminatory practices**, which has been confirmed by Black and Asian women who reached out to WomenSV for help, alleging domestic violence in connection with a divorce. Additionally, the nonprofit has a pattern and practice of discriminating against men who can be victims of domestic violence as well.

Last year the city of Los Altos provided funding to WomenSV, but not to other locally based charities that provide a positive impact for the Los Altos community.

We ask that you reject WomenSV’s 2024 application and launch an investigation into how WomenSV and Ruth Patrick Darlene used over \$350,000 in local taxpayer money and deceptive promotion in the Los Altos Crier, to inflict harm on our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you,

Sara Logan

Spokesperson for California Grandparents United

Melissa Thurman

From: Monica Waldman <contact.mlw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 7:59 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [External Sender]Public Comment Agenda Item 5

Dear Council Members,

Last year when the Council deliberated giving funds to local nonprofits, then Mayor Meadows realised there was a conflict of interest giving money to Arts Los Altos when there is a Commission chartered and capable of choosing art within the City with public oversight by Council.

Arts Los Altos' website (<https://www.artslosaltos.org/>) says:

*Arts Los Altos is dedicated to implementing public art that elevates the cultural identity of Los Altos. We have the unique ability to work directly with artists, the downtown business community and property owners to achieve vibrant, curated public art on **private property**.*

Arts Los Altos places artwork on private property, therefore public funds should *not* be used to fund art on private property. Arts Los Altos has returned this year asking for \$15,000 for "Artist, Materials, Marketing" and "Community Outreach" without an explanation of where they plan to put the art, what kind of art, with no public oversight. Again I ask that public funds not be used to place art on private property.

Included is a copy of the statement I read to Council last year in regards to funding Arts Los Altos in 2023 which still seems relevant today

My name is Monica Waldman. I have been a resident of Los Altos for almost a quarter of a century and proudly served on the Los Altos Public Arts Commission for the last 8 years. Today I speak for myself.

The last time the Council discussed what to do with Commissions, numerous Council members stressed how they value Commissions and Commissioners. Tonight Council will continue to discuss combining the Public Art Commission with the Parks and Recreation Commission. If the City Council values Commissions and Commissioners, shouldn't they allow the new Commission to explore what kind of art they can bring to our City instead of funding an outside non-profit with tax payer money known as Arts Los Altos?

Until recently, Arts Los Altos' main webpage said this about their organization, "Arts Los Altos volunteers have the unique ability to work directly with artists and the

downtown Los Altos business community and property owners to achieve vibrant, curated public art without the need for a municipal process.”

Note the phrase, “without the need for a municipal process.” This phrase is disrespectful to City Staff, the Public Arts Commission and you, our City Council who are part of the municipal process.

Arts Los Altos was born from frustration with the “municipal process” and quitting from the Public Arts Commission when not getting what they wanted from a previous City Council with the rejection of our Master Art Plan. Some of us on the Commission, while disappointed with the decisions of that previous City Council, stuck it out with the Commission and worked to make change for the benefit of all Los Altos.

I ask Council members: Why would you fund and reward an organization with taxpayer money who flaunts avoiding a municipal process until they smell free money? I ask that you not fund an organization that is hostile to the municipal process that you are part of.

Melissa Thurman

From: Katie Zoglin <kzoglin@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 8:28 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: City Council Meeting--May 28, 2024, Agenda Item #6 (Transitioning to District-Based Elections)

Dear Mayor Weinberg and City Council:

I served on the Santa Clara County Advisory Redistricting Commission and am writing to share some observations based on that experience. I am writing in my individual capacity.

First, the process takes time and the proposed schedule is a tight one. Under Elections Code section 10010(e)(3)(C), I believe the plaintiff could grant an extension so that the City Council would have until the end of November to approve the districts. I suggest that the City request additional time under that section if it has not already done so.

Second, there must be robust outreach in order to obtain public input. Public comment is challenging until a draft map has been presented because there is too little information upon which to base input. The schedule and outreach should take this reality into account.

Third, the City needs to take care in selecting the demographer. Even experienced demographers may not be familiar with the Los Altos community and therefore may not offer the most appropriate maps.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Katie Zoglin

Melissa Thurman

From: Anne Paulson <anne.paulson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 9:06 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Adopting a Nexus Study, Item #4, May 28, 2024

May 28, 2024

City of Los Altos
City Council

By email: PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

Re: Adopting a Nexus Study, Item #4, May 28, 2024

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council,

The Development Impact Fee Study, as it is now, has several errors with significant consequences. It should not be adopted without revision.

1. As I brought up when the initial draft was released, the average unit size for multifamily units (calculated in footnote 14 on page 12) is not correct. This results in the impact fees for multifamily projects being much higher than legally permitted.
2. The Public Art Development Fee is listed as an in-lieu fee. But it is not an in-lieu fee, because R3 developers have no option to provide art instead of paying the fee (Municipal Code 3.52.030 B). And it doesn't work as an impact fee, because the nexus provided is not an adequate nexus for an impact fee and the fee is not calculated per square foot as required for impact fees.
3. The Public Safety Impact Fee is not calculated correctly. The weighting is incorrect (Tables 27, 28 and 29 on p 24). The document provides data that existing residents use emergency services about twice as much per resident as commercial business use emergency services per employee. Therefore, new residents should be charged about twice as much as new businesses per capita, but the proposed fee does the opposite. Moreover, the allocation of costs between existing residents/businesses and new residents/businesses is incorrectly calculated (Table 24 on p 22).
4. The Transportation Impact Fee follows completely different growth assumptions than those outlined in the Projected Growth and Development section. At the least, there needs to be an explanation of why the Transportation Fee calculations assume robust commercial growth whereas the rest of the fees assume virtually none.

The Development Impact Fee Study binds the city for the next eight years. It must be revised to correct these issues, before it is adopted.

Sincerely, Anne Paulson

Melissa Thurman

From: Laura Roberts <laurabob0421@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Bob Jones & Laura Roberts
Subject: Arts Los Altos Deserves a City Grant

My husband and I have been very excited to see the many new murals and lively artworks by Arts Los Altos springing up downtown over the past few years. It brings a youthful cultural vitality that has been missing. This nonprofit has established a reputation and proven ability to work with the local community and produce results in a way that honors Los Altos's history and culture. They are deserving of City support to continue this amazing work. Please vote YES tonight to award a Nonprofit grant to Arts Los Altos.

Laura Roberts & Bob Jones, residents of Los Altos for 34 years.

Melissa Thurman

From: Madeleine Fackler <mfackler949@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:07 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: I'm a huge supporter of Arts Los Altos and believe they should be given a nonprofit grant ...

During challenging times for any downtown area (with so many retail stores closing post Covid), Arts Los Altos has been a positive force for Los Altos. They have found a way to get attractive murals and other art works to adorn the downtown and provide another reason for people to come to our small city. I have had several friends who live outside of the area comment how impressed they are by the various artworks and how much they have enjoyed coming into downtown to see what is new.

I'm impressed by their overall approach and continued advertisement for their work and want to see our community embrace them in every way possible !

I'm hopeful that the City Council sees the value that Arts Los Altos has already provided and will support them more through a nonprofit grant as they continue to expand their work.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Fackler
400 East Edith Ave
Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 949 5725

Melissa Thurman

From: Kyle Hurlbut <kyle@graphicslab2.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Please Support Arts Los Altos at Today's Meeting

Hello City of Los Altos,

I am a big supporter and fan of Arts Los Altos and I hope you will support them as well. When I first came to Los Altos 31 years ago, I was a bit horrified at the bronze realistic sculptures and my guess is most people would agree they haven't aged well. But Art Los Altos have done art pieces and events that are terrific.

Please support them at today's vote,

All the Best,

Kyle

Kyle Hurlbut
kyle@graphicslab2.com
650-714-1855 m
650-941-1413 h
graphicslab2 (instagram)
portfolio.graphicslab2.com

Melissa Thurman

From: Monica Waldman <contact.mlw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:57 AM
To: Public Comment; Jonathan Weinberg; Pete Dailey; Sally Meadows; Neysa Fligor; Lynette Lee Eng
Subject: Public Comment on Study Session Agenda Item 1

Dear Council Members,

Cities are governed by laws but have a choice in what laws they are governed by. I urge you to add "investigating the City of Los Altos becoming a Charter City" to the list of Council priorities to allow Los Altos more autonomy over how the City is run.

Monica Waldman

Melissa Thurman

From: Julie Mahowald <jmahowald@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 12:15 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Los Altos should grant \$15K to Arts Los Altos

Hello Council Members,

Thank you for considering this grant to Arts Los Altos. I am incredibly grateful to this proven nonprofit for bringing a variety of art and culture to our town to brighten our lives. They have been so prolific and so cooperative with local businesses and nonprofits bringing 12 new art pieces to bring us joy. They demonstrate the wisdom of public-private partnerships in that they can progress faster than a city can all while carefully collaborating within the community. At the same time many of the pieces honor Los Altos history and culture. Their communications are strong and their events bring people downtown. The monarchs just make me smile each time I go by.

Arts Los Altos' work is genius in these ways I have noted. I put my full support behind them, including donations. It's a win-win for the city to contribute as well.

Warm regards,

Julie Mahowald

resident for 27 years

Melissa Thurman

From: Marissa Song <marissasong@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 1:04 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Support Arts Los Altos

Hello. I hope you are well. My husband and I have been very excited to see the many new murals and lively artworks by Arts Los Altos springing up downtown over the past few years. This nonprofit has established a reputation and proven ability to work with the local community and produce results in a way that honors Los Altos's history and culture. They are deserving of City support to continue this amazing work. Please vote YES tonight to award a Nonprofit grant to Arts Los Altos.

Marissa and Young-Sae Song, residents of Los Altos for 20 plus years

Melissa Thurman

From: Geoff Davis <geoff@geoffdavis.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 1:10 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Nonprofit grant for Arts Los Altos

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support of a nonprofit grant to Arts Los Altos this year. My family and I are big fans of the public art that Arts Los Altos has organized. I love that we're able to support local artists and make their work available for the whole community to enjoy on a daily basis. I'm particularly happy that our children, who are just finishing kindergarten and first grade at Almond, get to be inspired and entertained by all the murals and sculptures.

Sincerely,

Geoff Davis

Melissa Thurman

From: Dan Perkins <dan.perkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 1:20 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Re: 28 May Council Mtg, Agenda item 5 (grants), Resilient Los Altos (attachment 5)

28 May 2024

Dan & Nancy Perkins
Grant Park Neighborhood
Los Altos, CA 94024

Re: 28 May Council Mtg, Agenda item 5 (grants), Resilient Los Altos (attachment 5)

Grant Park is not an appropriate site for container storage, particularly by a third-party organization seeking public funding for their project(s). We join with Steve Smith and others against creating an eyesore/nuisance that would better be housed at the City Maintenance Yard on Foothill expressway, which already provides public emergency supplies (sandbags) and has better vehicle access. Moreover, Los Altos has long-already parked a “temporary” storage structure in front of the Grant Park multipurpose room, occluding a beautiful Redwood Grove — just another eyesore that attracts trouble (teenagers climbing and “hanging-out” on top the structure, as they do on the trash-can housing). The proposed storage use will be no different — unsightly, obtrusive, and imposing.

The city has many other options — Please keep our city parks clean, welcoming, uncluttered and a source of enjoyment for the community, esp. children, youths and adjacent neighbors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dan & Nancy Perkins
Grant Park Neighborhood
Los Altos, CA 94024

Melissa Thurman

From: Vivien D'Andrea <mamadoc650@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 1:25 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [External Sender]Arts Los Altos

Hello

I'm sending this email in support of Arts Los Altos and hoping the city can fund them. They're doing an amazing job with their hard working volunteers. The Los Altos walls are so much more interesting now with the various murals. We can become a destination for art lovers to come to our town, tour the art, and then perhaps shop and eat here.

Please support their nonprofit grant request.

Vivien D'Andrea
Los Altos resident since 1992

Please excuse any typos from my slow first-finger typing!

Melissa Thurman

From: Susan Bassi <gilroybassi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 1:31 PM
To: City Council; Public Comment
Subject: Objection to Funding WomenSV and founder Ruth Patrick Darlene

Dear City Council Members,

By way of introduction, I am a 35 year Santa Clara resident and former local magazine publisher and investigative journalist who reports locally on police, the courts and domestic violence in Silicon Valley.

In 2017 I was introduced to Ruth Patrick Darlene and the nonprofit WomenSV by individuals who had donated to and supported the organization. In my work as an investigative reporter, I referred donors and sources to the nonprofit based on the community support and funding that appeared to legitimize the nonprofit's activities.

In 2018 I referred Ms. Patrick to my associates at NBC and the San Jose Mercury, which brought Ms. Patrick media attention she desperately craved, despite an abundance of publicity she had been afforded through the Los Altos Town Crier. At the time, I was unaware the Crier's publishers sat on the WomenSV nonprofit board, raised funds through their publication and also prepared the nonprofit's tax returns.

Ms. Patrick referred women to me, knowing our team was reporting on high asset divorce and domestic violence cases in the area.

In 2020 our team began to get complaints from the women referred to the group. We were provided recordings from group meetings where the women "clients" were brought to WomenSV, not for a meeting to assist them move through allegations of domestic violence and related divorce, but to hear presentations from private divorce lawyers and the Santa Clara County District Attorney, Jeff Rosen.

We heard recordings of meetings where Ms. Patrick referred and recommended private divorce attorneys and told "clients" to vote for DA Rosen as he "supported" those associated with WomenSV. We are aware that Mr. Rosen and countless divorce lawyers who benefited from WomenSV referrals attended their fundraisers at the Los Altos Country Club.

In 2021 our team began actively investigating Ms. Partick and WomenSV in connection with a divorce attorney and real estate referral scheme. Ultimately we found 80 donors and former clients who came forward to report an appearance that the nonprofit acted as a predatory business that largely benefited divorce lawyers, local real estate agents and the publishers of the Los Altos Crier.

Ruth Patrick is not a therapist, or an attorney. She did not offer services vulnerable women needed. Further, she openly discriminated against women of color and men who are often victims of domestic violence.

Ms. Patrick Darlene sold her home in Los Altos shortly after our reporting. The real estate agent who assisted in that sale, Patricia Horwath, was appointed to the WomenSV board and continues to seek public funding and private donations for this group in a manner that is deeply troubling.

Links to our reporting are here:

Tainted Trials. Tarnished Headlines. Stolen Justice. Part Three: Ex-Wives of Silicon Valley

Posted by Robert JHansen | Date: February 24, 2023 | in: [Breaking News, Everyday Injustice](#) | [Leave a comment](#)



WomansV founder Ruth Patrick-Darlene (Photo from WomenSV YouTube Channel)

Nonprofit Exploits Ex-Wives of Silicon Valley

February 2023 : <https://www.davisvanguard.org/2023/02/tainted-trials-tarnished-headlines-stolen-justice-part-three-ex-wives-of-silicon-valley/>

Silicon Valley Nonprofit Victim Shames over 50 Former Clients in Online Post

Posted by Robert J.Hansen | Date: April 12, 2023 | in: Breaking News, Everyday Injustice | [Leave a comment](#)



The Gilded Cage of WomenSV (WomenSV Facebook)

By Robert J. Hansen & Susan Bassi

Complaints from 53 women alleging Los Altos-based nonprofit WomenSV referred clients to high-priced divorce attorneys who provided poor legal services and charged outrageous fees has [published a response](#) following The [Vanguard's reporting](#).

March 2023 : [Silicon Valley Nonprofit Victim Shames over 50 Former Clients in Online Post | Davis Vanguard](#)

Nonprofit Founder Poised to Flee as Ex Wives Demand Fair Trials and Return of Funds Taken from Duped Donors

Posted by David Greenwald | Date: December 05, 2023 | in: Breaking News, Everyday Injustice | Leave a comment



Women financially and emotionally devastated by family court cases linked to alleged case rigging scheme through WomenSV distributed leaflets calling for the shuttering of the nonprofit and return of donor funds. Photo taken outside the Los Altos Crier Newspaper on Friday, December 1, 2023. (photo by Susan Bassi)

By Susan Bassi and Fred Johnson

December 2023: [Nonprofit Founder Poised to Flee as Ex Wives Demand Fair Trials and Return of Funds Taken from Duped Donors | Davis Vanguard](#)

Silicon Valley Ex-Wives and Duped Donors Silenced as Judge Orders Lawsuit into Arbitration

Posted by Vanguard Administrator | Date: January 21, 2024 | in: Breaking News, Everyday Injustice | [Leave a comment](#)



Judge Socrates Manoukian photo taken from a granted media request. (Photo by Stephen James)

By Susan Bassi and Fred Johnson

More than eighty women, elderly donors and local real estate professionals have joined forces to expose an illicit attorney referral scheme benefiting prominent Silicon Valley law firms. The scheme, primarily operating through the Los Altos-based nonprofit [WomenSV](#), uses misinformation, NDAs, binding [arbitration agreements](#), unfair business practices and swanky fundraisers to attract vulnerable victims of domestic violence and prospective donors from wealthy communities.

January 2024: [Silicon Valley Ex-Wives and Duped Donors Silenced as Judge Orders Lawsuit into Arbitration | Davis Vanguard](#)

We stand by our reporting and hope to give a voice to the 80 plus victims and duped donors we have interviewed. As a local resident, journalist and business operator, it is my hope that the city council will deny the 2024 WomenSV funding application and launch an investigation into how funds previously donated were used.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Bassi

Publisher, Investigative Journalist

Public Records & Local News Advocate

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Melissa Thurman

From: PJ 650 <pjboonester@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 3:25 PM
To: Public Comment; City Council
Subject: Women SV and \$60,000 Grant Request

Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

My name is Patricia and I am a 63 year old mother of three children. It is my understanding that Women SV is requesting a \$60,000 grant. I have not only been a victim of domestic abuse, but a victim of WomenSV. My children have not only been victims of sexual abuse, but also victims of WomenSV.

As a result of my individual involvement with this organization, I found out about almost 80 other women who went to WomenSV and who were all harmed by this so called “domestic abuse organization” through the divorce lawyers more than their former spouses. These are the same people WomenSV and Ruth Patrick herself claimed to have “helped.”

When we were in the greatest need, WomenSV did not offer shelter, employment, therapy, pro bono attorneys, nor positive ways to pivot from the abuse we and our children had endured. Instead, we were sent to divorce lawyers who overcharged us, offered subpar legal services and made any abuse we endured far worse.

In closing, I strongly urge the city council to cease funding Ruth Patrick and the nonprofit she has operated with funds from the Los Altos community for nearly a decade. Also, it is imperative to launch an investigation as to what was done with the funds given. It is my understanding Ruth Patrick does not even live in Los Altos any more and has moved to Hawaii. Many of us have not received the assistance promised and have lost so much more than when we signed our non disclosure agreements to obtain services.

Once again, please stop funding an organization that harms women, men, and children.

Respectively,
Patrica J. Boone