



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk's Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

From: [Pat Marriot](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External Sender]PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #7 CONTRIBUTIONS MAY 23, 2023
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:27:57 PM

Council Members:

Supervisor Joe Simitian is aware of the article about WomenSV (below) and has forwarded it to County Counsel and the District Attorney's office for review, consideration and action, if appropriate.

It would be prudent to wait for results of this review before deciding on a contribution.

Respectfully,

Pat Marriott

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

EXCERPTS:

Nearly fifty women have spoken out about WomenSV, a nonprofit whose mission is to provide support services for victims of domestic violence going through a divorce. The whistleblowers allege the nonprofit rarely provided any meaningful support and instead referred them to high-priced divorce attorneys who provided poor legal services and charged outrageous fees.

... WomenSV's program offered no shelters, cash cards or emergency assistance, unlike other local nonprofits serving survivors of domestic violence. None of the staff or volunteers working for WomenSV identified themselves as certified victim advocates or licensed therapists.

In 2021, WomenSV was awarded \$250,000 in [taxpayer-funded grants](#) from Santa Clara County

... Several of the women came to WomenSV from the media coverage Ruth obtained. Namely, the [Los Altos Crier](#), whose co-owner, Dennis Young, also sits on the WomenSV advisory board and acts as the nonprofit's CPA for purposes of [filing tax returns](#).

... Several women found WomenSV after reading articles published in [the Los Altos Crier](#).

The articles featured composites of victim stories created by Patrick to attract the attention of vulnerable women struggling with domestic violence and divorce in the affluent communities of Silicon Valley.

... Between 2018 and 2021, WomanSV received \$1.6 million in grant funding yet has spent less than \$40,000 on services for the women who come to her for support, according to WomenSV tax records. This includes part of Santa Clara County's [\\$250,000 grant](#) to WomenSV at the recommendation of Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian which was awarded in 2021.

... In 2016 Ruth asked taxpayers in Los Altos to help fund a charity where she claimed to have helped over 480 women. A claim that resulted in a payment of \$15,000 to the charity.

From: [M Satterlee](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External Sender]AGENDA ITEM #7
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 11:22:28 AM

Build it and they will come. Well, you built a policy and they sure did show up for the money.

Our Capital Funds budget is bursting at the seams.

The streets I drive on are in the worst shape I have seen.

Our 'pretty' median landscaping is choked with weeds.

If there is some new revenue source to fund almost \$250K in donations, I haven't heard about it.

The city's primary responsibilities are public safety, infrastructure (roads, public buildings, etc) and planning.

What City purpose do these organizations serve? Is that purpose a higher need than other budgetary items that go unfunded?

Why is the City a new funding source for an existing organization previously not funded?

Why should the City increase its contribution for organizations it has funded in the past?

I am expressly opposed to funding Arts Los Altos. We have a Public Arts Commission and fund public art. If we want to increase arts funding, then I would like to see that managed through the Public Arts Commission.

The History Museum is often called out as an example. Built with private money and privately managed. Is this what we can expect to see from the proposed Theater project? An exponential increase in funding? How was \$65K sufficient last year and now \$120K is needed?

I have never heard of Community Builder Toolbox or their events. I went to the website on the application: losatloschinese.org. The mission is to bring together Chinese Americans.

The Morning Forum has existed for years without City funding.

None of these questions and comments should take away from the value these organizations bring, especially to the communities that take part in what they offer. I personally donate to some of them. I do question why public funds from the City of Los Altos should be used.

Los Altos is a small city with a small budget. We need to be very mindful of donations that will lead to an expectation of the same amount year after year and in all likelihood additional requests from additional groups when they see the amounts being given away. With so many worthy organizations, what you do this year will set the tone for what organizations can expect in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Megan Satterlee

Arts Los Altos - \$25,000
Community Builder Toolbox - \$20,000
Community Service Agency - \$25,000
Los Altos Chamber of Commerce - \$80,000
Los Altos History Museum - \$55,000 (additional to funding provided by contract)
The Morning Forum of Los Altos - \$7,200
Women SV - \$30,000

The Non-Profit and Civic Organization Contributions Policy requests total \$242,200.