

From: [Lisa Lohmeyer](#)  
To: [City Council](#)  
Subject: [An open letter to the Los Altos City Council regarding zoning changes](#)  
Date: [Thursday, November 8, 2023 at 10:37:20 AM PST](#)

Hello Los Altos City Council,

We are writing to support the below perspective on re-zoning. We believe it has to be done thoughtfully, and with care, involving all the right entities. This takes time to do it right and that is a good thing.

Thank you,  
Durga

----- Forwarded Message -----  
From: Friends of Los Altos <[foalocalcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:foalocalcommunications@gmail.com)>  
To: "Durga" <[foalocalcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:foalocalcommunications@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:37:20 AM PST  
Subject: An open letter to the Los Altos City Council on regard zoning changes -that will affect every Los Altos resident

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## Friends of Los Altos (FOLA)



### An open letter to the Los Altos City Council as regard zoning changes –that will affect every Los Altos resident

*This is a letter to our City Council on the subject of making critical and impactful changes to our zoning laws which will have considerable permanent, long-term effects on Los Altos. It's written as an Open Letter because of the importance to every resident in our community and to how much we should all be aware of what these changes will mean for our town.*

Work in haste, repent at leisure. Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. There are these and many other expressions that urge caution when making change. Contrary to what some may proffer, these witticisms aren't meant to stop change, but to ensure that responsible change occurs.

Council began updating the Housing Element Update by making changes to the zoning of various districts within the City. The effort began in late September and will continue with the upcoming Council meeting in November (and subsequent meetings up through January 31, 2024). The January date is a State-imposed, non- negotiable deadline to make changes that were part of the approved/adopted Housing Element.

No one likes that deadline, but it should not be used as an excuse for making changes to our zoning that are not well thought out and will haunt all of us for decades to come. Silicon Valley has finally learned that the mantra should be move fast but DON'T break things. We need to heed that wisdom.

Zoning changes have already been made to the downtown (often abbreviated in "planning speak" as CD, CRS and CD-R3), commercial districts like Rancho and Homestead (CN zone) and the multifamily areas such as along Gablan, Lassen, Tyndall, etc. (R3). Up next at the November 14th City Council meeting are the OA zone, which is primarily located along San Antonio Road and Altos Oaks Drive (and includes smaller areas on Distel Circle and in Loyola Corners), and the commercial thoroughfare zone (CT zone) which runs along El Camino Real.

While we will address here the changes that should be made to the OA district, many of these comments apply to the other zones as well. Furthermore, residents who do not live adjacent to commercial districts in town need to be keenly aware of the proposed zoning changes. Why? Because Los Altos, like essentially every city in the state, is unlikely to meet its 4-year housing target at the midpoint of the 8-year Housing element timeframe. The State law mandates that missing the target unleashes further draconian steps in the State legislation which will allow almost anything to be built anywhere in the City. And even if we do, by some miracle, meet the 8-year housing target, the next cycle will necessitate allowing large, multifamily construction in every neighborhood, perhaps next door to you or across the street from your house.

We want to specifically address the changes that should be made to the OA district (quick reminder—the OA district is along San Antonio and Altos Oaks), although there are many similar changes that should be applied to the CT zone as well.

#### 1. Minimize impact of new housing on adjacent single-family residence

- If the City Council is serious about putting housing in along San Antonio Road, then change the zoning to residential only (i.e., no commercial or mixed-use buildings) and make existing commercial use non-conforming. This would accelerate the development of residential housing and eliminate the possibility of mixed-use buildings, which staff and planning commission have recommended with a height limit greater than "residential only" development. Better for residential neighbors, more housing, a win-win.
- Do not allow balconies that face adjoining single family residential lots – they will have a direct negative impact on the privacy of surrounding single-family residences as all the properties directly abut residents side or backyards. This limitation was actually applied at 5150 El Camino, for example. So, codifying it for all projects in the OA district makes sense.
- Incentivize lower impact, townhouse-type units. At the January 10, 2023, meeting members of Council agreed that any development along San Antonio should be "consistent with and compatible with the surrounding single family residential neighborhoods". There was talk about townhouse units that could provide needed housing while being of a height and scale compatible with the neighborhood. Unfortunately, at present, there is nothing in the zoning which encourages townhouses and disincentivizes overly tall, bulky, and out-of-scale buildings that are not compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and which are better suited for sites in the downtown.
- While we continue to support additional housing and more importantly affordable housing in the City, there needs to be a balance to ensure undue impact on surrounding neighbors. At that very same meeting in September that Council took up the rezoning of the CN and other districts, a resident was appealing a Planning Commission ruling on a new deck on their house that would have had little to no effect on the neighbor's privacy. The appeal was denied as 3 of the council members (all of whom have coincidentally been the most vocal advocates of adding housing with little regard to the impact on surrounding residents) voted against it, justifying their position that a variance for the deck setback would have undue impact on the neighbor and the neighborhood. We wish that same sensitivity permeated the discussions around where and how housing was added to areas that abut existing single family residential neighborhoods. It is puzzling that Council is seemingly willing to "protect" one neighbor deemed impacted from development but ignore larger scale development that impacts far more residents.

#### 2. Recognize and mitigate parking impacts

- Do a better job of planning for where the cars associated with the new housing will park. Our prior experience indicates that projects, that intentionally do not meet parking demand generated on site, will be under-parked by 20% or more. This translates into a need to park 25-30 cars at unknown, offsite locations if the City meets its target of 30 units per acre minimum at the 10 identified sites, encompassing 3.82 acres, are developed along San Antonio Road. The existing side streets along San Antonio are narrow and serve as the primary pathways for residents to get to the downtown; they cannot easily accommodate extra vehicles without creating a safety hazard for pedestrians, bicyclists and emergency vehicles.

#### 3. Be honest with the neighborhoods and overall community about heights, parking impacts and other impacts of state mandate which allow developers to exceed our zoning limitations.

- We remain disappointed that residents have not been given a detailed understanding of the changes that are being made to the zoning. Existing as well as proposed height limits and setbacks and the heights that will likely result from "benefits" under state law need to be clearly stated.
- Residents deserve to know that in almost every new development that is proposed, those projects will need to meet the 20% inclusionary affordable housing requirement and required densities – which in turn allows greater height, reduced setbacks, and less parking than specified in the nominal zoning. These are the consequences when development triggers numerous development incentives and waivers, from the City's list of incentives and state mandated bonuses.
  - Very simply stated, while we can talk about the OA district going from 30 feet height currently to "only" another 10 feet, to 40 feet total height, reality is far different. Every developer will take advantage of the additional 11-foot height increase available to them so projects will be more like 50' tall. And while setback to existing single family residential lot is proposed to be 25 feet, a developer can and will ask for a reduction in that setback, claiming they cannot build the project otherwise.
  - A further way to mitigate impact on adjacent neighborhoods is to prohibit roof-top amenities that have otherwise been allowed on El Camino and First Street so as to preclude further height and privacy issues for adjoining single-family homes.
  - We have prepared a chart which is our best assessment at what the proposed zoning changes really mean to the OA district. In some cases, a developer will get only some of the bonuses and incentives shown on the table. But it does serve to illustrate how the nominal zoning does not reflect what will actually be approved and built. As time permits, we expect to generate those for the other areas of town as well. The chart can be viewed on our website [https://url.avanan.click/v2/\\_\\_\\_www.friendsoflosaltos.org\\_\\_\\_4YXz0mxcv2Fsd08zY2E6YTpvOjExOWU3MjlnYmVhZG50ZjJmNmODI4MTY0MjZmZy3OjY6NjBjNjOTQ2MzA3OWFINDU3MzJmMmT5NnY0MDY3NnMjY0ZGU5ODk3ZmE2MDVjOWU5ZSZEwY2NjZTASy2MwODY0ZmY2Onc0EVA](https://url.avanan.click/v2/___www.friendsoflosaltos.org___4YXz0mxcv2Fsd08zY2E6YTpvOjExOWU3MjlnYmVhZG50ZjJmNmODI4MTY0MjZmZy3OjY6NjBjNjOTQ2MzA3OWFINDU3MzJmMmT5NnY0MDY3NnMjY0ZGU5ODk3ZmE2MDVjOWU5ZSZEwY2NjZTASy2MwODY0ZmY2Onc0EVA)

#### 4. Be honest about the impacts to date and the lack of affordable housing that has resulted from the changes to date in our zoning rules

- Our final point is that the City and community need to take a critical look at what the policies and rezoning to date have yielded. While we have had some new development, particularly along First street and El Camino, the truth is that there has been very little affordable housing built. In fact, most of the housing has been relatively high- priced condos. Even some of the ADU changes have yielded lackluster results; most of those units serve as guest houses for the residents or worse yet are just bonus space that a developer can add to the square footage of a house by using the junior ADU provision. (That provision in the State law allows adding space to a primary residence with the only requirement being the bedroom must have a separate entrance and bathroom. There is no need for separate cooking facilities.) We have seen multiple examples of developers using this loophole and the resulting houses are selling in the \$5-6M range. The result is an ESCALATION in housing prices without any additional housing, giving lie to the State's supposed intention. That loophole needs to be closed.
- The City staff and City Council need to do a better job of factoring in the impact of zoning changes on the residents. At the meeting to discuss zoning changes at Rancho (the CN zone), Council member Pete Dailey expressed his enthusiasm for bigger, more dense buildings, which would have even a greater impact on the immediately adjacent neighbors. While we appreciate the enthusiasm for additional housing, we wish he would factor in the negative impact of a taller building on the adjacent residents and find ways to keep projects modest in size for each developed site.

We do understand the urgency to meet the State-mandated deadline for zoning changes and we do support additional housing and more importantly affordable housing. But putting in flawed zoning rules with insufficient input from the public because they haven't been adequately informed borders on irresponsible. We hope the City Council agrees and makes good changes for the benefit of the overall community, not just those who directly benefit from the rezoning effort.

**What can you do?** Write the city council and let them know how you feel about these zoning changes (email [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov)) Attend the council meeting on November 14th which starts at 7 pm. And forward this article to your neighbors.

And that's the way we see it.

Friends of Los Altos Board of Directors

Jonathan Baer  
Lou Becker  
Ron Packard  
David Casas  
Kenneth Lorell

[Email us at Los Altos](#)

Friends of Los Altos  
Los Altos, CA 94022 & 94024

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**From:** [Terry Rettig](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** City council  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:24:22 PM

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As a public servant, you are there to serve the will of the people of LOS ALTOS. That is the reason all public servants are elected/appointed and you have obviously forgotten you are a public servant. You are not supposed to implement your "personal" viewpoint on **ANY** matter.

Your track record on housing /zoning shows you do what you want and not what your constituents want. You have displayed weakness when we need strength and are destroying our town, its beauty, and its history where I have lived for 48 years. You lack pride about this town, what made it so special, and any sense of decency.

A concerned resident of Los Altos  
Terry Rettig

**From:** [Ozlem Ozturk](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Zoning changes  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 11:37:51 AM

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

From: **Ozlem Ozturk** <[ozlem.ozturk@alumni.stanford.edu](mailto:ozlem.ozturk@alumni.stanford.edu)>  
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 10:17 PM  
Subject: Re: Zoning changes  
To: Jonathan Weinberg <[jweinberg@losaltosca.gov](mailto:jweinberg@losaltosca.gov)>

Thank you very much for your detailed response Jonathan. As I mentioned during the pandemic including last year, I am sure we are not alone, our families and health took most of our time. We missed those community outreach sessions.

I don't see the same level of development in woodside or portola valley as in the Los Altos even though they have more open lands available. Why is there such a discrepancy? I was also wondering why we didn't consider only Elcamino area of Los Altos instead of pushing this type of commercial development across the town, everywhere rancho, Loyola etc. it seems that it is too late to have any say in any of these while we are going to live with the negative consequences.

When I look at the mushrooming commercial development in our town vs towns such as woodside or portola (maybe others too), I still feel that Los Altos council seems to be too willing to comply with state requirements and develop new condos and commercial buildings. I still believe our town is taken over by commercial interest and too much representation by real estate agents and family members.

Thank you,

Ozlem Ozturk

On Nov 8, 2023, at 17:17, Jonathan Weinberg <[jweinberg@losaltosca.gov](mailto:jweinberg@losaltosca.gov)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Ozturk:

Thank you for your email and for sharing your concerns about rezoning Los Altos to allow the development of housing. I appreciate your taking the time to organize your thoughts and to present a very clear and cogent outline of your (and the community's) concerns.

The rezoning is required by the housing element of our city's general plan. The housing element was adopted by the Council in January after a

very long process. As I'm sure you are aware, California is in the midst of a housing crisis. State law requires cities and counties to rezone parts of their communities to allow for more and denser housing.

Because of the tension between state mandates and our community's desire to maintain the quiet and serene character of our City, the housing element update was a difficult process. In the end, the community valued maintaining the single-family residence zoning of our neighborhoods above all else. That meant, in order to comply with state law, the City had to allow for the development of housing in all of our commercial zones, including Rancho.

After an arduous process, the State just recently approved our housing element update. That approval is important as it allows the City to maintain control over the development process. However, it also means that our housing element update ("HEU") is essentially a contract by and between the City and the State. Since the rezoning is a part of that contract, the City is obligated to move forward that process. Moreover, all the rezoning called for in the HEU needs to be completed by the end of 2023. That is why it feels like this rezoning is moving so quick.

In 2022, the City actively solicited input from residents. The development of the HEU had one of the most robust public outreach processes in the history of Los Altos. Public meetings (pop-up events) happened over a four month period:

- Tree Lighting/First Friday in Downtown Los Altos: December 3, 2021
- Grant Park Community Center: December 8, 2021
- Los Altos Library: December 10, 2021
- Mini Holiday Market at State Street Market: December 20, 2021
- Woodland Library: January 5, 2022
- Draegers: February 25, 2022
- Los Altos Library: March 10, 2022
- Grant Park Community Center: March 23, 2022

Community workshops were held on January 13 and March 1, 2022. The City Council met jointly with the Planning Commission on December 14, 2021 and April 26, 2022.

Draft versions of the housing element were considered by the Planning Commission on July 7, 2022 and the City Council on July 12, 2022. The City Council held a study session on November 29, 2022. All of these meetings were open to the public and publicized with signs around town, advertisements in the newspaper, and through social media.

In November and December of 2022 City staff met with smaller, private groups seven times.

The City had (and still has) a website dedicated to the HEU process to let residents know what was being considered and how the approval process is progressing. (<https://www.LosAltosHousing.org>)

The State of California requires Los Altos to adjust its zoning and related rules to allow for the creation of 1,958 new units. A “unit” can be a single family home, an apartment, a townhome, etc. The 1,958 units is broken down into income classes:

<image.png>

Since our residents did not want to allow higher density housing inside of neighborhoods zoned for single family residences, to accommodate all the new housing for which the City needs to plan, all of our commercial zones must be rezoned to accommodate higher density housing. This is true downtown, along the El Camino corridor, Woodland, San Antonio Road, Altos Oaks, Village Court, etc.

The developments downtown complied with state requirements. As such, the City Council approved them because there was no legal basis to deny them. No new developments have been submitted (let alone approved) for Rancho or Loyola Corners. However, that will probably change in future. If a developer proposes a project that complies with our objective standards and state law, then the Council would have no legal basis to deny the projects.

Thank you again for writing to express your concerns. If you would like to discuss this further, please let me know.

Sincerely:

- Jonathan

**Jonathan D. Weinberg** | Vice Mayor, Los Altos City Council

Los Altos City Hall

1 North San Antonio Road | Los Altos, CA 94022

Main: (650) 947-2790 | [jweinberg@losaltosca.gov](mailto:jweinberg@losaltosca.gov)

<Outlook-t0wb1bwc.png>

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**From:** Ozlem Ozturk <[ozlem.ozturk@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:ozlem.ozturk@stanfordalumni.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:15 PM

**To:** Public Comment <[publiccomment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:publiccomment@losaltosca.gov)>

**Subject:** Zoning changes

Hi,

I have lived in Los Altos since 1998, first as a renter on gabilan and then at our

current home at 1020 alegre avenue. When my husband and I looked to purchase our house, we explored other similar towns such as Saratoga, Menlo Park, Portola Valley but always came back to Los Altos because it offered the best lifestyle.

Pandemic took our focus away from other things as we worried about our families and health. It feels that we all woke up one day and faced a town that puts commercial interests over all else. It feels that our town is run by commercial real estate agents and their family members.

It is nice to see many great restaurants in downtown Los Altos, once a sleepy place with few restaurant options that stayed open after 9pm. But beyond this (which probably is not due to our town counsel), as a resident, I feel Los Altos is losing its character due to all the cheap condo constructions mushrooming everywhere. Now, I hear the Rancho center is going to turn into a santana row like place. When we took large mortgages and spent our youth paying them, we didn't sign up to live in Sunnyvale or Santa clara, or mountain view. We already suffer greatly because Mountain View is a very commercially oriented town and unfortunately they impact traffic in our streets. We chose Los Altos because of the rustic, quiet, safe neighborhood lifestyle it offered.

I object to all of these new zoning. I do not want Loyola Corners and the Rancho center to turn into the same cheap condo/commercial development we now have in our downtown. Who approved those developments? Why do we need them? I feel as a resident we have no voice!

Instead of protecting our town's lifestyle (for example, I prefer our town counsel to work with St Francis School and curtail some of their expansions), our town counsel is destroying it. How can we stop this much commercial interest making decisions on behalf of us?

Thanks,  
Ozlem Ozturk

**From:** [Agarwal, Naveen](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Housing Element Update - Letter to Mayor to visit our family and see the impact  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:56:39 PM

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This is reference to the Housing Element Update changing zoning of various districts within the City .

We will like to propose for the Mayor to come to our property and see what the proposed changes would do to it. It could be a 5 minute visit. We are not far from City hall and we will love to host Mayor and his family to our backyard and enjoy a glass of wine and discuss possibilities and impact. We want to extend the same offer to other council members too. Engaging with local community to understand and really see what we are discussing is critical to a broader perspective. We say this with deep respect to public service. Views that incorporate real feedback lead to better community. It's part of our civic duty, and part of community outreach. We will love to host you.

Why do we write this letter? We are a young and busy family and we love our home and our city. We moved here in 2002. Our place is close to downtown, and but we have the narrowest backyard facing San Antonio (we are a flag lot) and a 30 feet building will turn our small sunny backyard into darkness. Our entire home except of living room will face concrete. We are a flag lot and consequences are deeply troubling. A visit may help see this and bring appreciation on how we can work together and solve. We believe in community and our request is to be part of this community. Please visit us.

The history here is above politics and start prior to current mayor term etc. We are very concerned about the haphazard manner in which the decisions were/are made. It's very clear that city was under pressure and as a result made hasty decisions with regard to a problem that we all want solved. We are for more housing and more affordable housing. The city seemed to be sluggish at start and then with deadlines approaching hired a firm to build a proposal. The firm admitted that they did not have time (I was in a meeting that went up to 2 AM at night with the past mayor when consultant presented) and said that they did the best they could in the short time made available to them. Decisions were clearly made with focus on expediency.

Why are we concerned when we support the macro objectives? Issues are always more pertinent when they are in your backyard e.g. we were building a shed which is less than 11 feet tall and we were ordered to move it so that the light pane of our neighbors was not impacted. While it costed us more, we moved the shed to be in compliance. Contrast this with...if we are going to build a 30 feet property (let's hope not taller) with 20 feet setback from our property, we have a very thin back yard, our place will be in complete dark. The same rules that applied to the shed applies to houses around our property. The shed is very small. You will see it when you visit us! If the property is 40+ feet I don't even know what to say. Our bedroom, kitchen and entire house will be in permanent shade and darkness. If someone walked into our backyard, they can easily say that would turn from a small sunny yard space that we use every day to a dead/dark stare at concrete space. We have the narrowest side/back yard since ours is a flag lot. Good purpose, bad execution is not how our city should be defined.

We are not sure how best to appeal since there is literally no posters or signs that ask for appeal. Our neighbors alerted us to this. When there is minor variances we get postcards. This

is a major proposal and the city is not really interested in communicating. Yes, I am sure all this is available on City's website and we can find it. There is no proactive communication, period. Esp to homes that will be impacted. Also some assurance that city is not just jamming a "viewpoint" and will take reasonable considerations on setbacks and heights when there are situations that demand so.

We look forward to hosting the mayor, council members and their families at our home.  
Thank you.

Jessica & Naveen Agarwal

50 Marvin Ave

Los Altos CA

#### 1. Minimize impact of new housing on adjacent single-family residences

##### 1. If the City Council is serious about putting housing in along San Antonio Road, then

change the zoning to residential only (i.e., no commercial or mixed-use buildings) and make existing commercial use non-conforming. This would accelerate the development of residential housing and eliminate the possibility of mixed-use buildings, which staff and planning commission have recommended with a height limit greater than "residential only" development. Better for residential neighbors, more housing, a win- win.

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4. While we continue to support additional housing and more importantly affordable housing in the City, there needs to be a balance to ensure undue impact on surrounding neighbors. At that very same meeting in September that Council took up the rezoning of the CN and other districts, a resident was appealing a Planning Commission ruling on a



new deck on their house that would have had little to no effect on the neighbor's privacy. The appeal was denied as 3 of the council members (all of whom have coincidentally been the most vocal advocates of adding housing with little regard to the impact on surrounding residents) voted against it, justifying their position that a variance for the deck setback would have undue impact on the neighbor and the neighborhood. We wish that same sensitivity permeated the discussions around where and how housing was added to areas that abut existing single family residential neighborhoods. It is puzzling that Council is seemingly willing to "protect" one neighbor

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## 2. Recognize and mitigate parking impacts

### a. Do a better job of planning for where the cars associated with the new housing will park.

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and built. As time permits, we expect to generate those for the other areas of town as well.

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1. Our final point is that the City and community need to take a critical look at what the policies and rezoning to date have yielded. While we have had some new development, particularly along First street and El Camino, the truth is that there has been very little affordable housing built. In fact, most of the housing has been relatively high-priced condos. Even some of the ADU changes have yielded lackluster results; most of those units serve as guest houses for the residents or worse yet are just bonus space that a developer can add to the square footage of a house by using the junior ADU provision. (That provision in the State law allows adding space to a primary residence with the only requirement being the bedroom must have a separate entrance and bathroom. There is no need for separate cooking facilities.) We have seen multiple examples of developers using this loophole and the resulting houses are selling in the \$5-6M range. The result is an ESCALATION in housing prices without any additional housing, giving lie to the State's supposed intention. That loophole needs to be closed.
2. The City staff and City Council need to do a better job of factoring in the impact of zoning changes on the residents. At the meeting to discuss zoning changes at Rancho (the CN zone), Council member Pete Dailey expressed his enthusiasm for bigger, more dense buildings, which would have even a greater impact on the immediately adjacent neighbors. While we appreciate the enthusiasm for additional housing, we wish he would factor in the negative impact of a taller building on the adjacent residents and find ways to keep projects modest in size for each developed site.

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And that's the way we see it.

**From:** [Drew Watson](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Housing mandates  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:02:53 PM

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Hello,

My husband and I have lived in Los Altos since graduating grad school in 1990. I attended the housing meeting last night and felt frustration with the absurdity of our current situation. The gentleman leading the meeting was extremely motivated to push this agenda, with little regard for us, and seemed impatient with our questions. The woman from United Methodist Church literally asked why three churches on Magdalena had been targeted as sites, asking 'do you hate churches?' To that the leader should overwhelmingly reassured her that this was not the case. I understand that the housing plan is to help poor families have housing. Poor people that can't afford these housing situations will end up renting and I'm not sure how it is better off than any other place. Their rent will go into the coffers of the owners of the building, and make them wealthy, our government (us) will be poorer for subsidizing the builders, and the poor people will continue to be poor. As Warren Buffett's response to poor living in a mobile homes, where the value of the land continues to go up, but the tenants don't participate in the wealth growth, and continue to stay poor. We all want people who are financially striving to do well. But it's not organic to plopp them into a wealthy area, where they can't afford the cost of goods, don't have a car to maneuver to the least expensive places to shop and the public transportation is an adequate for those who can't afford a car. For these reasons the locations on or near El Camino make more sense, but still have so many concerns. Furthermore, unless things change, we will be mandated to do this yet again in eight or so years? The hubris of this is amazingly irresponsible, with serious consequences. I love my community and feel we have a lot to loose if this doesn't work. Trying something on a smaller scale before committing to such changes that affect so many would be more prudent. Usually I feel like the city of Los Altos, and our city Council has our best interest at heart, but I did not feel that way after this meeting. I felt like we were getting something crammed down our throat that we didn't want. I felt sorry for the woman who spoke last night who owned a townhouse near the El Camino shopping center across from Chef Chus, that was a site for development of a four or five story building. I felt like her concerns were not listen to and alternatives were not given to her. A gentleman resident suggested using the poles to allow people to acclimate to the new 4 story heights, but the speaker said that this was not possible, not sure why. No one suggested her comments were important, and that she should direct them to anyone specific. Can you please let us know if there is a better process to voice our concerns and hopefully work together to improve our current situation?

Very sincerely,  
Dr. Martha Watson

Sent from my iPhone



November 13, 2023

Dear Mayor Meadows and Councilmembers,

LAAHA supports the zoning changes proposed by Staff in accordance with the Housing Element Update for Programs 1.A, 1.B, 1.C, 1.E, 1.F, 1.G, 3.I, and 3.J.

More specifically –

The CT district has capacity for higher density housing and is the logical place to add housing due to access to transit and amenities. We approve of changing our code to allow 5 stories before a density bonus in the CT zone.

Housing should be allowed in the OA district, and we support increasing the maximum densities there to 30 du/acre.

The Loyola Corners Plan should be rescinded as it has stifled meaningful development and upgrades. We appreciate elimination of the 20 unit density cap, the dwelling size requirement, and the height limitation. In all, creating a Loyola Corners that is consistent with all other CN districts makes sense.

Village Court should be consistent with other CT zones, and we support the rezoning at this major intersection.

We support these actions so that our Element remains in compliance with State laws. We also see that these zoning changes on the whole create greater consistency within our city's specified zones, eliminate ambiguity, and increase density in areas of our city that can accommodate more density. These are strategic changes that we hope will lead to more units of housing.

Respectfully,  
LAAHA Steering Committee

**Los Altos Affordable Housing Alliance**

*Committed to educating and inspiring the Los Altos community to build housing that is affordable for those who live and work in Los Altos*

<https://losaltosaffordablehousing.org/>

**From:** [Jp McNulty](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Large buildings adjacent to residential homes  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:07:13 PM

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Hello,

In considering how you will create additional housing in Los Altos, please be sensitive to the negative impact that taller buildings will have on adjacent residents and find ways to keep projects modest in size for each site where existing homes will be affected.

Sincerely,  
Joan McNulty.

**From:** [carol little](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Loyola Corners Specific Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:24:44 AM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing as a resident, not as a PARC commissioner.

I have a request. Please direct staff, with input from residents and business owners, to create objective standards for not only Loyola Corners, but also for other distinctly Los Altos areas such as Village Court and Woodland Acres. None of these areas actually "fit" the one size fits all approach of the CT and CN objective standards as they are now.

Specific to Loyola Corners, the LCSP plan can be of great help. It was created with much resident and business owner input and was updated/amended similarly, with much input. Additionally, within the LCSP, a very thorough job was done with regard to understanding how Loyola Corners functions and is laid out.

As a result of the LCSP, there are positive relationships between the businesses and neighbors. Residents of Loyola Corners are extremely loyal to the businesses and the businesses are great supporters of the residents. Loyola Corners has a sense of community unique to the area.

It would be a tragedy to lose that simply because the state has mandated changes to housing in California.

No where do the state mandated changes say that all cities must become carbon copies of each other. We can, and must, maintain our sense of place, and we can, and must preserve our small businesses. We can do this by including residents and business owners in the planning.

There is no one on staff who has experienced the history of the Loyola Corners area. Nor is there anyone on staff who has the knowledge or understanding of the way the businesses and Loyola Corners community support each other. This is evident by the way staff talks about not only the Loyola Corners area, but also Village Court, Woodland Acres and other parts of our lovely city. There is a lack of understanding as to why previous buildings were opposed. It was not the housing that was opposed. In one case, it was the impact on the creek as well as the neighbors directly across from the proposed building. In other situations it was the noise that would bounce into the neighborhoods due to the echo effect. There was also opposition to some very poorly designed buildings that would create large traffic issues. Our community know our area. The LCSP was developed with this knowledge. The lack of history and knowledge is understandable as most of our staff are new hires.

There is no reason to rescind all of the plan. However, if you do rescind the entire plan, please take the next important step of creating a fabulous Loyola Corners, within the new housing law limitations. You can do this by directing staff to work with residents to tease out the aspects of the plan that can be used for objective standards that fit Loyola Corners and that help retain a specific to Loyola Corners sense of place. The residents and business owners can help identify the sense of place details, while the staff can ensure to use only the parts of the plan that will not create an issue with regard to the state housing laws. Using the LCSP to create neighborhood specific objective standards provides a short cut that will reduce staff time and cost.

Furthermore, by directing staff to work with residents and business owners, you will be creating an opportunity for our city staff to get to know the community they work for. This will be a huge win for everyone!

A few examples of what is still relevant within the plan include the noise mitigation, covered arcades for continuity, types of, and location of businesses. Screened equipment (on roofs and elsewhere), types of materials, protecting residential areas from noise that travels due to the echo effects (this is not spelled out within the plan in these exact words, but the concept, based on the thoroughness of the LCSP plan understood this issue.

I'd also like to ask that City Council discuss how we can incentivize developers to work with the flow and style of the neighborhoods. Not only in Loyola Corners, but also in other areas of our city. I have limited knowledge regarding how to incentivize townhouses (a positive way to create more homeownership, not simply rentals) in neighborhoods. It would be wonderful to find a way to pepper our city with more housing that reflects what residents want as opposed to what developers want. I have daily that that with resident input, staff effort and a willingness from City Council, we can create housing that meets our RHNA numbers while not losing our sense of place.

Let's all roll our sleeves up and get busy creating housing that meets our RHNA numbers while keeping what works within the Loyola Corners Specific Plan and keeping what makes the Loyola Corners area special.

Respectfully yours,

Teresa Morris

P.S. As a side note, in addition to creating objective standards specific to Loyola Corners, we need to look at how to mitigate traffic issues in Loyola Corners.

**From:** [Deb Skelton](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Sally Meadows](#); [Jonathan Weinberg](#); [Pete Dailey](#); [Neysa Fligor](#); [Lynette Lee Eng](#)  
**Cc:** [Gabriel Engeland](#); [Administration](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Loyola Corners Specific Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 1:09:27 PM

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Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

I am writing today to discuss the Loyola Corners Specific Plan (LCSP).

The purpose of the LCSP is to create attractive and functional shopping and commercial use facilities in order to increase use and provide for long term viability, and sense of community.

It has become clear that changes to the LCSP need occur to be in compliance with the State housing plan. However, there are unique elements of the LCSP that would not be in conflict with the housing mandate. In an effort to maintain the uniqueness of the Loyola Corners District, I am requesting that the LCSP be revised (as has been done in the past) to reflect current needs, as well as maintain certain important elements. I am hopeful that City representatives can work with residents and business owners to revise the plan; there is precedence, as this has occurred several times. While not an inclusive list, the following provides some elements of the LCSP that should be considered in addition to the CN objective standards to help maintain a unique and viable business district that incorporates more housing, and fits well into the community.

- Establish a circulation system to provide for convenient and safe travel ways for motorized and non-motorized travel. Provide for and encourage pedestrian and bicycle safety and usage. Widen A Street to include bike lanes.
- Repurpose B street for parking, farmers market and potentially other neighborhood activities. Use Carob Street as a more formal entrance to Loyola Corners. City to provide appropriate signage.
- Retain and provide covered arcade element along Fremont Avenue. Use this as a principle, unifying architectural design element.
- Retail and personal services only are permitted at the ground level fronting on Fremont Avenue from Miramonte Avenue to Dolores Avenue. Encourage a mix of appropriate commercial uses which provide a range of desirable neighborhood commercial uses.
- Encourage the use of historical elements. Incorporate the Streetscape elements including pavers, planting and benches, leaving the more unifying elements to the City to implement.
- Trash receptacles, mechanical equipment and utilities should be screened, and placed away from R1 lots. Locate utilities underground whenever possible.

While this may not be a complete list, it does demonstrate that there are elements of the LCSP that will work with CN objective standards and meet the requirements of the housing mandate. I am asking that you take this into consideration as we move forward.

Thank you,  
Debbie Skelton





November 12, 2023

Re: November 14, 2023, Meeting, Agenda Item # 3 (Zone Text Amendments)

Dear Mayor Meadows and Members of the City Council:

The League of Women Voters (LWV) supports policies that encourage the development of housing, particularly affordable housing, and government transparency.

The LWV supports recommendations that the staff is submitting to the City Council. The Planning Commission has endorsed these recommendations. These proposed amendments to the Zoning Code should encourage housing development that will allow Los Altos to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) goals. Additional height limits in the Commercial Thoroughfare zone, allowing residential uses in the Office Administration zone (OA), changing the zoning for Village Court, and repealing the Loyola Corners Specific Plan were all included in the Housing Element Update (HEU) approved by the State of California. It is critical that Los Altos pass ordinances implementing the commitments it made in its HEU. We anticipate that these changes will provide greater incentives to build housing.

Given the extensive proposed changes, we are pleased that staff held public informational meetings to supplement the Planning Commission's public hearing and the City Council is also holding a public hearing. These meetings provided an opportunity for residents to become better informed about the proposed zoning changes and to receive answers to their questions.

Please send any questions about this email to Sue Russell, Co-Chair of the Housing Committee, at [housing@lwvlamv.org](mailto:housing@lwvlamv.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Zoglin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Katie Zoglin, President  
Los Altos-Mountain View Area LWV

C: Gabe Engeland, City Manager  
Melissa Thurman, City Clerk  
Nick Zornes, Development Services Director  
[PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov)

**From:** [Tom Ferry](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Sally Meadows](#); [Jonathan Weinberg](#); [Pete Dailey](#); [Neysa Fligor](#); [Lynette Lee Eng](#)  
**Cc:** [Gabriel Engeland](#); [Administration](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Need for specific zoning regulations for Loyola Corners beyond typical CN regulations  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 6:52:51 PM

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To: Los Altos City Council  
Cc: Los Altos City Manager  
From: Thomas Ferry, Los Altos resident  
Subject: Need for specific zoning regulations for Loyola Corners beyond typical CN regulations  
Date: November 13, 2023

Loyola Corners is a unique area that would greatly benefit from specific rules, different than standard CN regulations, that can be crafted to retain and enhance benefits for residents while still providing the housing required by the state.

I am asking City Council to instruct City Staff to work with residents and business owners to create an addendum to the CN zoning regulations with specific rules for Loyola Corners.

Carefully considering how to modify a few zoning regulations for this area will require work by staff, the Planning Commission, City Council, business owners, and residents, but the outcome will affect our residents for many generations to come. So, I and many residents believe it's worth a little extra effort.

In the face of the difficulties of the housing crisis and strict state laws, I hope the Council and Staff employ a 'Yes, if...' approach rather than defaulting to 'No, because...'. The result will be much better for such impactful decisions; decisions that will affect our community for decades.

What are the unique elements of Loyola Corners compared to other CN zones like Downtown, Lucky's, Homestead, Rancho?

1. Most/all buildings face streets/public on all sides. This feature affects how service area screening, sidewalks, crosswalks, vehicle flow, etc. should be regulated.
2. Loyola Corners is small and lots are more densely packed on all sides compared to other CN's so more setbacks, tighter articulation rules, etc. are needed to avoid claustrophobic effect.
3. Loyola Corners is in a complicated, heavily trafficked location in which many routes come together in a non-Manhattan layout. This makes providing optimal, safe egress for automobiles, pedestrians, and bicycles difficult.
4. Access to useful public transit is almost nonexistent, so parking and traffic flow must be carefully considered.
5. The retail businesses provide an essential service for residents of South Los Altos and it is imperative to ensure a business owner and customer-friendly design.

Here are a few suggestions for CN regulations that should be considered for modification due to the unique characteristics of Loyola Corners. This list is simply an example of areas to be considered. If these suggestions don't work, what can we do to meet not only state laws, but the residents' desires?

1. Upper story setbacks  
5 feet on all sides for stories 2 and above since Loyola Corners buildings face streets/public on all sides, rather than on stories 3 and above in the CN regulations. I anticipate the answer will be "No, we can't do that because...", but if that is the case, what can we do to be compliant AND create a more aesthetically pleasing design that avoids creating a 'canyon

effect'?

2. Vertical articulation

Façade bays with 3 foot recesses whenever façade exceeds 50 feet in length, instead of the 75 feet stated in the CN regulations.

3. Landscaping/Sidewalks

Landscaping and sidewalk rules that ensure practical needs of pedestrians, i.e., two adults can comfortably pass each other going in opposite directions without having to step off sidewalk into the street or brush against landscaping branches. ADA requires 36 inch-wide sidewalks, but maybe wider sidewalks would improve safety and walkability of the area.

4. Automobile/bicycle/pedestrian traffic flow/safety

Automobile work/school commuter traffic through Loyola Corners from Highway 85, Interstate 280 via Foothill Expressway and Fremont Ave is heavy and will likely continue to increase.

The current layout of streets, sidewalks, and traffic signals is difficult to navigate and, at peak times, dangerous for pedestrian and bicycle traffic and is not optimal for current peak automobile traffic loads.

Street layout, traffic signals, sidewalks, crosswalks and building design should include rules/guidelines to handle current and expected traffic loads in a manner that provides safe, efficient egress to and through Loyola Corners.

For example, wider than minimum sidewalks to avoid pedestrians using the street, adequate bicycle lanes, avoid blind spots at street corners caused by building structures, etc.

5. Service area screening

Because most lots in Loyola Corners face streets and the public on all sides, special consideration for locating service areas is needed.

Thank you for your consideration of my input.

Regards,

Thomas Ferry

**From:** [Roberta Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Nov 14 ,2023 Council MeetingItem#3 Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, November 11, 2023 11:34:52 AM  
**Attachments:** [Public Comment Item # 3 Nov 14 Council Meeting.docx](#)

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Dear Council and Staff

Please add my comment attached to the Public Comments for th City Council Meeting on  
Nov.14 2023

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips

650-941-6940

**From:** [baeric@earthlink.net](mailto:baeric@earthlink.net)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** november 14th council meeting comments re zoning changes to oa and ct zones, agenda item #??  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:31:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## **An open letter to the Los Altos City Council**

### **As regard zoning changes that will affect every Los Altos resident**

*This is a letter to our City Council on the subject of making critical and impactful changes to our zoning laws which will have considerable permanent, long-term effects on Los Altos. It's written as an Open Letter because of the importance to every resident in our community and to how much we should all be aware of what these changes will mean for our town.*

Work in haste, repent at leisure. Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. There are these and many other expressions that urge caution when making change. Contrary to what some may proffer, these witticisms aren't meant to stop change, but to ensure that responsible change occurs.

Council began updating the Housing Element Update by making changes to the zoning of various districts within the City. The effort began in late September and will continue with the upcoming Council meeting in November (and subsequent meetings up through January 31, 2024). The January date is a State-imposed, non-negotiable deadline to make changes that were part of the approved/adopted Housing Element.

No one likes that deadline, but it should not be used as an excuse for making changes to our zoning that are not well thought out and will haunt all of us for decades to come. Silicon Valley has finally learned that the mantra should be *move fast but DON'T break things*. We need to heed that wisdom.

Zoning changes have already been made to the downtown (often abbreviated in "planning speak" as CD, CRS and CD-R3), commercial districts like Rancho and Homestead (CN zone) and the multifamily areas such as along Gabilan, Lassen, Tyndall, etc. (R3). Up next at the November 14<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting are the OA zone, which is primarily located along San Antonio Road and Altos Oaks Drive (and includes smaller areas on Distel Circle and in Loyola Corners), and the commercial thoroughfare zone (CT zone) which runs along El Camino Real.

While we will address here the changes that should be made to the OA district, many of these comments apply to the other zones as well. Furthermore, residents who do not live adjacent to commercial districts in town need to be keenly aware of the proposed zoning changes. Why? Because Los Altos, like essentially every city in the state, is unlikely to meet its 4-year housing target at the midpoint of the 8-year Housing element timeframe. The State law mandates that missing the target unleashes further draconian steps in the State legislation which will allow almost anything to be built anywhere in the City. And even if we do, by some miracle, meet the 8-year housing target, the next cycle will necessitate allowing large, multifamily construction in every neighborhood, perhaps next door to you or across the street from your house.

We want to specifically address the changes that should be made to the OA district (quick reminder--the OA district is along San Antonio and Altos Oaks), although there are many similar changes that should be applied to the CT zone as well.

1. Minimize impact of new housing on adjacent single-family residences

- a. If the City Council is serious about putting housing in along San Antonio Road, then change the zoning to residential only (i.e., no commercial or mixed-use buildings) and make existing commercial use non-conforming. This would accelerate the development of residential housing and eliminate the possibility of mixed-use buildings, which staff and planning commission have recommended with a height limit greater than “residential only” development. Better for residential neighbors, more housing, a win-win.
- b. Do not allow balconies that face adjoining single family residential lots – they will have a direct negative impact on the privacy of surrounding single-family residences as all the properties directly abut residents side or backyards. This limitation was actually applied at 5150 El Camino, for example. So, codifying it for all projects in the OA district makes sense.
- c. Incentivize lower impact, townhouse-type units. At the January 10, 2023, meeting members of Council agreed that any development along San Antonio should be “consistent with and compatible with the surrounding single family residential neighborhoods”. There was talk about townhouse units that could provide needed housing while being of a height and scale compatible with the neighborhood. Unfortunately, at present, there is nothing in the zoning which encourages townhouses and disincentivizes overly tall, bulky, and out-of-scale buildings that are not compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and which are better suited for sites in the downtown.
- d. While we continue to support additional housing and more importantly affordable housing in the City, there needs to be a balance to ensure undue impact on surrounding neighbors. At that very same meeting in September that Council took up the rezoning of the CN and other districts, a resident was appealing a Planning Commission ruling on a new deck on their house that would have had little to no effect on the neighbor’s privacy. The appeal was denied as 3 of the council members (all of whom have coincidentally been the most vocal advocates of adding housing with little regard to the impact on surrounding residents) voted against it, justifying their position that a variance for the deck setback would have undue impact on the neighbor and the neighborhood. We wish that same sensitivity permeated the discussions around where and how housing was added to areas that abut existing single family residential neighborhoods. It is puzzling that Council is seemingly willing to “protect” one neighbor deemed impacted from development but ignore larger scale development that impacts far more residents.

## 2. Recognize and mitigate parking impacts

- a. Do a better job of planning for where the cars associated with the new housing will park. Our prior experience indicates that projects, that intentionally do not meet parking demand generated on site, will be under-parked by 20% or more. This translates into a need to park 25-30 cars at unknown, offsite locations if the City meets its target of 30 units per acre minimum at the 10 identified sites, encompassing 3.82 acres, are developed along San Antonio Road. The existing side streets along San Antonio are narrow and serve as the primary pathways for residents to get to the downtown; they cannot easily accommodate extra vehicles without creating a safety hazard for pedestrians, bicyclists and emergency vehicles.

## 3. Be honest with the neighborhoods and overall community about heights, parking impacts and other impacts of state mandate which allow developers to exceed our zoning limitations

We remain disappointed that residents have not been given a detailed understanding of the changes that are being made to the zoning. Existing as well as proposed height limits and setbacks and the heights that will likely result from “benefits” under state law need to be clearly stated.

- a. Residents deserve to know that in almost every new development that is proposed, those projects will need to meet the 20% inclusionary affordable housing requirement and required densities – which in turn allows greater height, reduced setbacks, and less

parking than specified in the nominal zoning. These are the consequences when development triggers numerous development incentives and waivers, from the City's list of incentives and state mandated bonuses.

- b. Very simply stated, while we can talk about the OA district going from 30 feet height currently to "only" another 10 feet, to 40 feet total height, reality is far different. Every developer will take advantage of the additional 11-foot height increase available to them so projects will be more like 50' tall. And while setback to existing single family residential lot is proposed to be 25 feet, a developer can and will ask for a reduction in that setback, claiming they cannot build the project otherwise.
  - c. A further way to mitigate impact on adjacent neighborhoods is to prohibit roof-top amenities that have otherwise been allowed on El Camino and First Street so as to preclude further height and privacy issues for adjoining single-family homes.
  - d. **At the end of this document is our best assessment at what the proposed zoning changes really mean to the OA district.** In some cases, a developer will get only some of the bonuses and incentives shown on the table. But it does serve to illustrate how the nominal zoning does not reflect what will actually be approved and built. As time permits, we expect to generate those for the other areas of town as well.
4. Be honest about the impacts to date and the lack of affordable housing that has resulted from the changes to date in our zoning rules
- a. Our final point is that the City and community need to take a critical look at what the policies and rezoning to date have yielded. While we have had some new development, particularly along First street and El Camino, the truth is that there has been very little affordable housing built. In fact, most of the housing has been relatively high-priced condos. Even some of the ADU changes have yielded lackluster results; most of those units serve as guest houses for the residents or worse yet are just bonus space that a developer can add to the square footage of a house by using the junior ADU provision. (That provision in the State law allows adding space to a primary residence with the only requirement being the bedroom must have a separate entrance and bathroom. There is no need for separate cooking facilities.) We have seen multiple examples of developers using this loophole and the resulting houses are selling in the \$5-6M range. The result is an ESCALATION in housing prices without any additional housing, giving lie to the State's supposed intention. That loophole needs to be closed.
  - b. The City staff and City Council need to do a better job of factoring in the impact of zoning changes on the residents. At the meeting to discuss zoning changes at Rancho (the CN zone), Council member Pete Dailey expressed his enthusiasm for bigger, more dense buildings, which would have even a greater impact on the immediately adjacent neighbors. While we appreciate the enthusiasm for additional housing, we wish he would factor in the negative impact of a taller building on the adjacent residents and find ways to keep projects modest in size for each developed site.

We do understand the urgency to meet the State-mandated deadline for zoning changes and we do support additional housing and more importantly affordable housing. But putting in flawed zoning rules with insufficient input from the public because they haven't been adequately informed borders on irresponsible. We hope the City Council agrees and makes good changes for the benefit of the overall community, not just those who directly benefit from the rezoning effort.

What can you do? Write the city council and let them know how you feel about these zoning changes (email [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov)) Attend the council meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> which starts at 7 pm. And forward this article to your neighbors.

And that's the way we see it.

Friends of Los Altos Board of Directors  
Jonathan Baer  
Lou Becker

Ron Packard  
 David Casas  
 Kenneth Lorell

OA District	Current zoning	Proposed zoning	Zoning if Project meets mandatory inclusionary requirements	Maximum Allowed with state and local bonuses
<b>Maximum Height</b>				
Commercial	30'	30'	30'	30'
Mixed use		45'	56'	Developer driven
Residential		40'	51'	Developer driven
<b>Front setback</b>	18'	5'	5'	Likely 5'
<b>Side setback</b>	10'	5'	5'	Likely 5'
<b>Rear setback (abut residential/commercial)</b>				
Commercial 1 <sup>st</sup> floor	25'/10'	30'/15'	30'/15'	30'/15'
Commercial 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	25'/10'	30'/15'	30'/15'	Developer driven
Residential/mixed use 1 <sup>st</sup> floor	-	30'/15'	10'	10'
Residential 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	-	30'/15'	Negotiable- may be 10'/5'	Developer driven
Residential 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	-	35'/20'	Negotiable- may be 15'/10'	Developer driven
Residential 4 <sup>th</sup> floor	-	35'/20'	Negotiable- may be 15'/10'	Developer driven



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**From:** [K Z](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#); [Gabriel Engeland](#); [Melissa Thurman](#); [Nick Zornes](#); [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [housing@lwvlamv.org](mailto:housing@lwvlamv.org)  
**Subject:** Nvoember 14, 2023 Meeting, Agenda Item #3  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 3:33:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [LWV Letter to LACC Nov 14, 2023 Meeting.pdf](#)

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Attached is a letter to the Mayor and members of the City Council regarding Item number 3 on the agenda for the November 14, 2023, meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Katie Zoglin

President, Los Altos-Mountain view Area

League of Women Voters

**From:** [K Z](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#); [Gabriel Engeland](#); [Melissa Thurman](#); [Nick Zornes](#); [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [housing@lwvlamv.org](mailto:housing@lwvlamv.org)  
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**Attachments:** [LWV Letter to LACC Nov 14, 2023 Meeting.pdf](#)

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Attached is a letter to the Mayor and members of the City Council regarding Item number 3 on the agenda for the November 14, 2023, meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Katie Zoglin

President, Los Altos-Mountain view Area

League of Women Voters

**From:** [Los Altos Affordable Housing Alliance](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Nick Zornes](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item #3 - Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 10:31:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [LAAHA Letter to CC 11.14.23.pdf](#)

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Hello City Councilmembers,

Please find attached a letter supporting the zoning text amendments on the agenda this week.

Thank you,  
LAAHA Steering Committee

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**Los Altos Affordable Housing Alliance**

*To educate and inspire the Los Altos community to build housing that is affordable for our workforce.*

Nov 14,2023 Council Meeting Public Comment Item# 3

I am writing to Council to respectfully request that in the OA district under 14.34.040" Permitted Uses", that you remove item C. This is "mixed use", as a permitted use. I spoke to Gabe Engeland and Nick Zornes and HCD does not require mixed use in this district. It was added in by Nick, but does not need to be there and he told me it could be removed. We obviously want to add residential and keep office administrative. Allowing mixed use will add height to permitted buildings by an additional five feet on top of the additional 10 feet proposed.. We do not need to add commercial uses. The OA district is near downtown where we already have retail businesses. We don't want to end up with vacant first floor space that would be better used for housing. We already have a lot of vacant sites downtown.

We are already increasing the lot coverage from 50% to 75% and increasing the building heights from 2 stories (30 feet) to 4 stories (40 feet) this is before the California Density Bonus law kicks in. So, we are already increasing density and height and the developer has an opportunity to add more height and request additional waivers and incentives.

When I spoke to Nick and Gabe, they told me that in the OA district we could have low impact buildings (perhaps townhome) and still meet our commitment of 20 units per acer. There would be No Net Loss.

I believe we can incentivize the developers to build low impact living units. Townhomes for example, would solve problems of parking, as they usually have a garage and driveway, where residents can park. It would also mitigate privacy concerns. As you know, OA along South San Antonio Rd abut Single family homes. We already have the tools to incentivize developers such as the "OFF Menu and ON Menu" options in the California Density Ordinance for Los Altos. We already have design review guide lines and objective standards that can be reviewed to successfully integrate new housing with existing housing.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips

650-941-6940

**From:** [Bill Hough](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item# 3 on Nov 14,2023 Council Meeting agenda  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 9:31:52 AM

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Why is Item C - "mixed use", as a permitted use - in the OA district under 14.34.040" Permitted Uses?" HCD does not require mixed use in this district, so you can remove it.

If the goal is to increase the supply of homes, you should be encouraging telecommuting, so we can build housing where offices exist today. COVID was awful but it taught that lots of former office work can be performed remotely.

**From:** [Helen Armer](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Rezoning of neighborhoods in Los Altos  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 11:07:47 AM

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To Members of the Los Altos City Council and the Mayor:

I live in Los Altos near Loyola Corners. I am writing to express my concern over the rapid and hastily legislated changes that are being made to zoning laws in Los Altos, the result of which will be high density housing in our neighborhood.

I am disappointed that residents have not been given a detailed understanding of the changes that are being made to the zoning.

The first point relates to height limits. Existing and proposed height limits and the heights that will likely result from “benefits” under state law need to be clearly stated and communicated to residents. Residents deserve to know that in almost every new development that is proposed, those projects will need to meet the 20% inclusionary affordable housing requirement and required densities – which in turn allows greater height, reduced setbacks, and less parking than specified in the nominal zoning. These are the consequences when development triggers numerous development incentives and waivers, from the City’s list of incentives and state mandated bonuses. In particular as pertains to the OA district, every developer will take advantage of the additional 11-foot height increase available to them for affordable housing, so projects are likely to reach 50’ height. Adding to this are roof-top amenities that add additional height and create privacy issues for neighbors.

The second point pertains to setbacks. While setback to existing single family residential lots is 25 feet, a developer can and will ask for a reduction in that setback, claiming they cannot build the project otherwise.

Third, many of the recently built projects do not include sufficient parking, which results in cars being parked on neighboring streets and creating

parking issues for residents of those streets. Something needs to be done to require adequate on-site parking at new developments.

Fourth are environmental concerns. Much is being learned about the impacts of over-development on flooding. When too much land surface area is paved over or covered with impermeable landscaping (such as "astro turf lawns"), the land doesn't drain properly, water pools, and flooding results. This happened in Cupertino last winter during the heavy rainstorms. Many houses in Los Altos are built on slabs, and these homes will become susceptible to flooding as more and more of the city is overdeveloped.

Please don't cater to the interests of the developers who only need to make a profit from their project. Poor decisions will enrich them and leave the rest of us holding the bag.

Sincerely,

Helen Armer

Estate Drive, Los Altos



**From:** [Jonas Bordo](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Los Altos Town Crier](#)  
**Subject:** Support for new zoning changes  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:00:39 AM

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Los Altos City Council -

I am a Los Altos resident writing in support of the recent zoning changes made to allow our city to meet its commitments to house Californians.

Our state and city are desperately short of housing - we have approximately [3.5M fewer homes than we need](#) across the state for our current population and of course, the Bay Area needs a significant share of those homes.

Assuming we must and we will find a way to build those homes, we have two choices for building. We can build new homes on new land, consuming existing farmland and open space, or we can increase density.

I am for increasing density and protecting our precious open spaces.

Greater density brings a host of benefits, including:

- More business for our retailers (particularly important in Los Altos, where we lack sufficient office space to support our retail footprint);
- Fewer car trips from reduced commutes (bringing both parking and environmental benefits); and,
- Property value increases (as we do more with less land).

Of course, many (myself included) enjoy the benefits of our community as it is, but a slight reduction in the number of single-family homes on large lots and welcoming a few multifamily communities is a small price to pay for the benefits above.

In addition to those benefits, as a parent of three, I'm worried that our children will have no choice but to move far away if more housing is not made available. The [median home price in Los Altos last month was over \\$4M](#), requiring annual income in excess of \$800,000 in order to afford a home in our town. I'm sure it goes without saying that few have income in that lofty territory.

As we move towards implementing our housing element, it is critical that we move as quickly as possible towards approving new housing and erect as few barriers to it as possible. Development of new homes takes long enough without the hurdles that virtually every community in California has erected. We must streamline approval processes and move towards implementation of the housing element with the utmost speed.

We have had decades for debate and discussion. We are past a crisis point, we have a hard-won plan in hand and it is time to implement that plan.

Please accept my support and appreciation for your good work in encouraging additional

housing in our town. I was proud that Los Altos progressed effectively towards an approved housing element and I look forward to supporting new developments and meeting new neighbors in the years to come.

Respectfully,

Jonas Bordo  
216 Garland Way

Jonas Bordo  
415.517.6874  
[jbordo@gmail.com](mailto:jbordo@gmail.com)

**From:** [Ozlem Ozturk](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Zoning changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:16:55 PM

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Hi,

I have lived in Los Altos since 1998, first as a renter on gabilan and then at our current home at 1020 alegre avenue. When my husband and I looked to purchase our house, we explored other similar towns such as Saratoga, Menlo Park, Portola Valley but always came back to Los Altos because it offered the best lifestyle.

Pandemic took our focus away from other things as we worried about our families and health. It feels that we all woke up one day and faced a town that puts commercial interests over all else. It feels that our town is run by commercial real estate agents and their family members.

It is nice to see many great restaurants in downtown Los Altos, once a sleepy place with few restaurant options that stayed open after 9pm. But beyond this (which probably is not due to our town counsel), as a resident, I feel Los Altos is losing its character due to all the cheap condo constructions mushrooming everywhere. Now, I hear the Rancho center is going to turn into a santana row like place. When we took large mortgages and spent our youth paying them, we didn't sign up to live in Sunnyvale or Santa clara, or mountain view. We already suffer greatly because Mountain View is a very commercially oriented town and unfortunately they impact traffic in our streets. We chose Los Altos because of the rustic, quiet, safe neighborhood lifestyle it offered.

I object to all of these new zoning. I do not want Loyola Corners and the Rancho center to turn into the same cheap condo/commercial development we now have in our downtown. Who approved those developments? Why do we need them? I feel as a resident we have no voice!

Instead of protecting our town's lifestyle (for example, I prefer our town counsel to work with St Francis School and curtail some of their expansions), our town counsel is destroying it. How can we stop this much commercial interest making decisions on behalf of us?

Thanks,  
Ozlem Ozturk

**From:** [nancerz@aol.com](mailto:nancerz@aol.com)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Zoom meeting public comment  
**Date:** Saturday, November 11, 2023 12:17:03 PM

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Hello City Council members

I am writing to encourage you to reopen the option for public comments on the part of the community members who chose to participate on Zoom. It seems that perhaps due to fear of zoom bombing that the council felt the need to shut down all public comments from those participating on zoom. This seems very drastic to me and in not in keeping with the idea of democracy and free speech. There are people that for reasons of disability (can't drive at night, or are less mobile) or have child care responsibilities cannot attend in person. The on line option to join City Council meetings actually opens up the dialog to more members of the community which is the point of having public access.

If you want to address zoom bombing, there are better ways to handle this problem (if it exists) such as removing the offending participant through the security settings if and when this situation arises. It seems like those managing the zoom meeting can come up with better ways to address concerns of disruption that to eliminate the conversation. and dialog entirely.

Please reopen the discussion feature on zoom and be more accessible to the public at large.

Nancy Phillips  
Los Altos resident

**From:** [Amer Diwan](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender]Concern about resolution being discussed on November 14th  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 8:36:12 PM

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As a 7 year resident of Los Altos, I'd like to express dissatisfaction with Agenda #5 in the meeting on 14th November:

"Discuss the Council issuing a potential resolution, or any possible action, denouncing the Hamas attacks against Israel"

This agenda makes no mention of the Palestinians that have been killed since October 7th. Since October 7th Israeli forces have [killed](#) nearly 10 Palestinians for every Israeli killed on October 7th. This includes children and women. Israel has [used phosphorus](#) against Palestinians since October 7th; this is a violation of international humanitarian law. Amnesty International calls out Israel's [war crimes](#) Since October 7th. Why isn't the Los Altos City Council condemning this violence and is only concerned with the deaths on the Israeli side?

The agenda makes no mention of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza since 1967. Palestinians are denied basic human rights and Israel continues to push them out of their homes and kill them as it sees fit. The United Nations Security Council has repeatedly [stated](#) that Israel expanding settlements in that territory are a "flagrant violation of international law". According to [Amnesty International's secretary general](#), "For 16 years, Israel's illegal blockade has made Gaza the world's biggest open-air prison – the international community must act now to prevent it becoming a giant graveyard.". Has the Los Altos City Council considered speaking out against this apartheid?

The agenda makes no mention of Israel using phosphorus long before October 7th, 2023 and makes no mention of the 18,600 Palestinians [killed](#) by Israel while Palestinians have killed 1500. Did the Los Altos City Council discuss condemning Israel at those previous incidents?

If the Los Altos City Council wants to pass a resolution on this topic, it needs to reflect history and reality (which is readily reported in the news). Otherwise any resolution on this topic is offensive, ignorant, and one-sided.

Amer

**From:** [Jeanine Valadez](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender]Public Comment Item 5 2023\_11\_14  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 2:51:37 PM

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Mayor Meadows, Vice-Mayor Weinberg, and Councilmembers Lee Eng, Fligor, and Dailey,

As you discuss Nov 14's Item 5 on the Agenda, I ask you to strongly consider choosing to focus ONLY on your determination to demand that our community not devolve into dialogue or actions founded in superiority, discrimination, bigotry, or hate. Tribal responses, especially in writing, are not helpful at this time. Even if you are comprehensive in listing all "sides" to this situation, the order in which you list them can itself lead to misunderstanding and triggering!

Instead, speak in the spirit of ubiquity, inclusiveness, and unity:

Denounce the killing of civilians, terrorism, occupation, collective punishment, violence, and war, including their enabling financial machinations.

Uplift and demand the necessity for humanitarian action and aid, negotiation, diplomacy, empathy, and peace.

Denounce the bundling of all Palestinians into the policies of Hamas and other similar non-state organizations, or assume they agree with the worst methods of resistance; i.e., terrorism.

Denounce the bundling of all Jewish people into the war-and-obliteration focussed policies of their leader or in the worst of state-building; i.e., ethnic cleansing.

Uplift the principles of those of us who speak for peace, ceasefire, diplomacy, and co-existence; who realize that good and bad actions by those involved are inevitable and human; that people can change their mind if they are empathetic, that absolutism helps no one.

Uplift every people's right to self-determination. Uplift every parent's right to make a safe home for their children, to have a means of providing for their family, and to have a voice in their community.

Uplift a philosophy founded in humanitarian universalism instead of one founded in division and segregation.

And, if you need a quick solution to this challenge you face, just reflect on the words of President Barack Obama shown below, as he does all of the above.

Thank you,

Jeanine Valadez

Disclosure: I am a PARC commissioner but am writing as a member of the public.

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Statement by President Barack Obama on Isreal and Gaza, October 23, 2023.

It's been 17 days since Hamas launched its horrific attack against Israel, killing over 1,400 Israeli citizens, including defenseless women, children and the elderly. In the aftermath of such unspeakable brutality, the U.S. government and the American people have shared in the grief of families, prayed for the return of loved ones, and rightly declared solidarity with the Israeli people.

As I stated in an earlier post, Israel has a right to defend its citizens against such wanton violence, and I fully support President Biden's call for the United States to support our long-time ally in going after Hamas, dismantling its military capabilities, and facilitating the safe return of hundreds of hostages to their families.

But even as we support Israel, we should also be clear that how Israel prosecutes this fight against Hamas matters. In particular, it matters — as President Biden has repeatedly emphasized — that Israel's military strategy abides by international law, including those laws that seek to avoid, to every extent possible, the death or suffering of civilian populations. Upholding these values is important for its own sake — because it is morally just and reflects our belief in the inherent value of every human life. Upholding these values is also vital for building alliances and shaping international

opinion — all of which are critical for Israel's long-term security.

This is an enormously difficult task. War is always tragic, and even the most carefully planned military operations often put civilians at risk. As President Biden noted during his recent visit to Israel, America itself has at times fallen short of our higher values when engaged in war, and in the aftermath of 9/11, the U.S. government wasn't interested in heeding the advice of even our allies when it came to the steps we took to protect ourselves against Al Qaeda. Now, after the systematic massacre of Israeli citizens, a massacre that evokes some of the darkest memories of persecution against the Jewish people, it's understandable that many Israelis have demanded that their government do whatever it takes to root out Hamas and make sure such attacks never happen again. Moreover, Hamas' military operations are deeply embedded within Gaza — and its leadership seems to intentionally hide among civilians, thereby endangering the very people they claim to represent.

Still, the world is watching closely as events in the region unfold, and any Israeli military strategy that ignores the human costs could ultimately backfire. Already, thousands of Palestinians have been killed in the bombing of Gaza, many of them children. Hundreds of thousands have been forced from their homes. The Israeli government's decision to cut off food, water and electricity to a captive civilian population threatens not only to worsen a growing humanitarian crisis; it could further harden Palestinian attitudes for generations, erode global support for Israel, play into the hands of Israel's enemies, and undermine long term efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

It's therefore important that those of us supporting Israel in its time of need encourage a strategy that can incapacitate Hamas while minimizing further civilian casualties. Israel's recent shift to allow relief trucks into Gaza, prompted in part by the Biden administration's behind-the-scenes diplomacy, is an encouraging step, but we need to continue to lead the international community in accelerating critical aid and supplies to an increasingly desperate Gaza population. And while the prospects of future peace may seem more distant than ever, we should call on all of the key actors in the region to engage with those Palestinian leaders and organizations that recognize Israel's right to exist to begin articulating a viable pathway for Palestinians to achieve their legitimate aspirations for self-determination — because that is the best and perhaps only way to achieve the lasting peace and security most Israeli and Palestinian families yearn for.



Finally, in dealing with what is an extraordinarily complex situation where so many people are in pain and passions are understandably running high, all of us need to do our best to put our best values, rather than our worst fears, on display.

That means actively opposing anti-semitism in all its forms, everywhere. It means rejecting efforts to minimize the terrible tragedy that the Israeli people have just endured, as well as the morally-bankrupt suggestion that any cause can somehow justify the deliberate slaughter of innocent people.

It means rejecting anti-Muslim, anti-Arab or anti-Palestinian sentiment. It means refusing to lump all Palestinians with Hamas or other terrorist groups. It means guarding against dehumanizing language towards the people of Gaza, or downplaying Palestinian suffering — whether in Gaza or the West Bank — as irrelevant or illegitimate.

It means recognizing that Israel has every right to exist; that the Jewish people have claim to a secure homeland where they have ancient historical roots; and that there have been instances in which previous Israeli governments made meaningful efforts to resolve the dispute and provide a path for a two-state solution — efforts that were ultimately rebuffed by the other side.

It means acknowledging that Palestinians have also lived in disputed territories for generations; that many of them were not only displaced when Israel was formed but continue to be forcibly displaced by a settler movement that too often has received tacit or explicit support from the Israeli government; that Palestinian leaders who've been willing to make concessions for a two-state solution have too often had little to show for their efforts; and that it is possible for people of good will to champion Palestinian rights and oppose certain Israeli government policies in the West Bank and Gaza without being anti-semitic.

Perhaps most of all, it means we should choose not to always assume the worst in those with whom we disagree. In an age of constant rancor, trolling and misinformation on social media, at a time when so many politicians and attention seekers see an advantage in shedding heat rather than light, it may be unrealistic to expect respectful dialogue on any issue — much less on an issue with such high stakes and after so much blood has been spilled. But if we care

about keeping open the possibility of peace, security and dignity for future generations of Israeli and Palestinian children — as well as for our own children — then it falls upon all of us to at least make the effort to model, in our own words and actions, the kind of world we want them to inherit.

Here are links to some useful perspectives and background on the conflict:

- [\*Israel Is About to Make a Terrible Mistake\*](#) by Thomas L. Friedman
- [\*'I Love You. I Am Sorry': One Jew, One Muslim and a Friendship Tested by War\*](#) by Kurt Streeter
- [\*A Timeline of Israel and Palestine's Complicated History\*](#) by Nicole Narea
- [\*Gaza: The Cost of Escalation\*](#) by Ben Rhodes

**From:** [Cindy Sidaris](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#); [Cindy Sidaris](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender]Thoughts on a possible City Council Resolution on the war in Gaza  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 1:45:19 PM

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Mayor Meadows,  
Vice Mayor Weinberg,  
Council Members Fligor, Lee Eng, and Dailey,

I understand you may be considering a Resolution to condemn the war in Gaza. I urge you to make a resolution that recognizes all of the complexities of the situation - Hamas's attack on Israel citizens **AND** the ensuing Israeli attacks on Hamas and Gaza that are resulting in so many civilian casualties. The statement needs to acknowledge the threats, pain, and losses of both Jewish and Palestinian people.

President Barak Obama issued an eloquent and thorough statement about the tragic situation on Medium::

<https://barackobama.medium.com/my-statement-on-israel-and-gaza-a6c397f09a30#:~:text=But%20if%20we%20care%20about,we%20want%20them%20to%20inherit.>

He emphasizes support for Israel's right to defend their citizens. But that Israel must abide by international law, including minimizing the suffering and slaughter of innocent Palestinian civilians.

I'll include portions of his statement:

*"...we should call on all of the key actors in the region to engage with those Palestinian leaders and organizations that recognize Israel's right to exist to begin articulating a viable pathway for Palestinians to achieve their legitimate aspirations for self-determination — because that is the best and perhaps only way to achieve the lasting peace and security most Israeli and Palestinian families yearn for."*

*"Finally, in dealing with what is an extraordinarily complex situation where so many people are in pain and passions are understandably running high, all of us need to do our best to put our best values, rather than our worst fears, on display.*

*"That means actively opposing antisemitism in all its forms, everywhere. It means rejecting efforts to minimize the terrible tragedy that the Israeli people have just endured, as well as the morally-bankrupt suggestion that any cause can somehow justify the deliberate slaughter of innocent people.*

*"It means rejecting anti-Muslim, anti-Arab or anti-Palestinian sentiment. It means refusing to lump all Palestinians with Hamas or other terrorist groups. It means guarding against dehumanizing language towards the people of Gaza, or downplaying Palestinian suffering — whether in Gaza or the West Bank — as irrelevant or illegitimate.*

*"It means recognizing that Israel has every right to exist; that the Jewish people have claim to a secure homeland where they have ancient historical roots; and that there have been instances in which previous Israeli governments made meaningful efforts to resolve the dispute and provide a path for a two-state solution — efforts that were ultimately*

*rebuffed by the other side.*

*"It means acknowledging that Palestinians have also lived in disputed territories for generations; that many of them were not only displaced when Israel was formed but continue to be forcibly displaced by a settler movement that too often has received tacit or explicit support from the Israeli government; that Palestinian leaders who've been willing to make concessions for a two-state solution have too often had little to show for their efforts; and that it is possible for people of good will to champion Palestinian rights and oppose certain Israeli government policies in the West Bank and Gaza without being anti-semitic.*

*"Perhaps most of all, it means we should choose not to always assume the worst in those with whom we disagree. In an age of constant rancor, trolling and misinformation on social media, at a time when so many politicians and attention seekers see an advantage in shedding heat rather than light, it may be unrealistic to expect respectful dialogue on any issue — much less on an issue with such high stakes and after so much blood has been spilled. But if we care about keeping open the possibility of peace, security and dignity for future generations of Israeli and Palestinian children — as well as for our own children — then it falls upon all of us to at least make the effort to model, in our own words and actions, the kind of world we want them to inherit.*

Respectfully,  
Cindy Sidaris  
Los Altos Resident

**From:** [Anam Soomro](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** 11/14 - Council Meeting Discussion Item 6  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:03:53 PM

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Dear council member,

I urge the council to maintain a sustainable perspective when making a statement regarding what is happening in the Middle East right now. Your words hold power, there your constituents across many religions and ethnicities are feeling divided and pitted against each other. It does not have to be this way.

Justice has no exceptions. While there is no excuse for innocent life lost at the hands of a terrorist organization, there most certainly is no excuse for innocent life lost at the hands of one of the top sophisticated militaries in the world funded and defended by America. Condemning Hamas without condemning Netanyahu's regime would be slanted, unjust, and further perpetuating divides in our community.

What Mayor Klein, Vice Mayor Din, and Councilmembers Mehlinger and Ciscneros have done empathizing with all children lost in conflict but recognizing the ongoing terror on Palestinian children was an honorable decision. They expect to be divided, but I am hopeful that your leadership has the integrity to separate the perpetrators from the victims and stand on the side of humanity.

Sincerely,  
Anam Soomro

**From:** [Ola Albaroudi](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** 11/14/23 Agenda Item Number 5  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 4:47:03 PM

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Hi,

I am following up on item #5 in the Agenda for the City Council meeting on Nov 14.

5. Discuss the Council issuing a potential resolution, or any possible action, denouncing the Hamas attacks against Israel

While I understand that this issue is close to many people's hearts, I would like to point out that by making an assertion on what is a very contentious issue the council will then have to subsequently in good faith commit to what the UN has asserted and now increasingly the US government has pointing out as well is that there should be a ceasefire of hostilities and a commitment to protect civilian lives.

The Council should hence either have a more nuanced resolution which covers the entire issue as laid out by the UN or simply just abstain and focus on city affairs. Venturing into this will additionally set a precedent where most international issues will technically be eligible. I can then imagine this council debating what resolution to pass and with what language every month.

Best regards,

Ola Albaroudi

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Andeleeb Khan](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** 11/14/23 Meeting Agenda Item #5  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 4:06:42 PM

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Dear Mayor Meadows, Vice-Mayor Weinberg, Councilmember Lee Eng, Councilmember Fligor, and Councilmember Dailey,

Good afternoon. I have been a Los Altos resident for the past 8 years. During these current times I know that there are many members of our community that are extremely affected by the ongoing war in Gaza and also facing bias and fear right here due to a rise in anti-semitism and Islamophobia.

If you are considering passing a resolution in Los Altos, I would support a resolution that condemns Hamas, condemns the collective punishment inflicted upon the 2.2 million people of Gaza by the Israeli government, and stands with the families of the hostages and the people of Palestine in calling for a return of hostages and an immediate ceasefire. Here is the resolution that was adopted by the city of Richmond that stands with the Palestinian people of Gaza: <https://contracostaherald.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/118-23-Adopted-Resolution-Affirming-Richmonds-Support-for-Gaza-10-24-2023.pdf>. And this is a similar resolution that the city of Cudahy, CA passed (see page 41 onwards): [https://www.cityofcudahy.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/\\_11072023-391](https://www.cityofcudahy.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_11072023-391)

But I would also support a Unity resolution that focuses and supports those who are hurting here in Los Altos and to make sure that hate does not permeate our town. For that reason, a fellow Los Altos resident has drafted a sample Unity Resolution that calls for supporting all members of our community that are impacted. Please let me know if you would be

interested in discussing this further.

Sincerely,

Andeleeb



**From:** [Emad Ahmed](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** A Request  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 1:54:50 PM

---

Dear council members and whom it may concern,

I strongly suggest the council to maintain a fair perspective when making a statement regarding what is happening in the Middle East right now. Your words hold power, your constituents across many religions and ethnicities are feeling divided and pitted against each other. It does not have to be this way.

Justice has no exceptions. While there is no excuse for innocent life lost at the hands of a terrorist organization, there most certainly is no excuse for innocent life lost at the hands of one of the top sophisticated militaries in the world funded and defended by America. Condemning Hamas without condemning Netanyahu's regime would be slanted, unjust, and further perpetuating divides in our community.

Just to give you an idea over 11000 Palestinians have been killed, at least 4000 of which are children. This is way beyond self defense for any reasonable person and targeting civilians is violation of international law <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/GAZA-JABALIA/byprrdygjpe/>

What Mayor Klein, Vice Mayor Din, and Councilmembers Mehlinger and Ciscneros have done in empathizing with all children lost in conflict but recognizing the ongoing terror on Palestinian children was an honorable decision. They expect us to be divided, but I am hopeful that your leadership has the integrity to separate the perpetrators from the victims and stand on the side of humanity.

Please understand that loss of life and oppression goes beyond politics and this is about human rights, not defending one country or another.

Regards,  
Emad

**From:** [Asim Memon](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda for 11/14  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 7:53:53 PM

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Hello,

I am following up on item #5 in the Agenda for the City Council meeting on Nov 14.

*5. Discuss the Council issuing a potential resolution, or any possible action, denouncing the Hamas attacks against Israel*

While I understand that this issue is close to many people's hearts, I would like to point out that by making an assertion on what is a very contentious issue, the council will then have to subsequently in good faith commit to what the UN has voiced and now increasingly the US government pointing out as well is that there should be a humanitarian ceasefire of hostilities and a commitment to protect civilian lives.

The Council should then either have a more nuanced resolution which covers the entire issue as laid out by the UN or simply just abstain and focus on city affairs. Venturing into this will additionally set a precedent where most international issues will technically be eligible. I can then imagine this council debating what resolution to pass and with what language every month.

Thank you

**From:** [Zia Syed](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** agenda item #5 concerns for Nov 14th meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 9:01:43 PM

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Hello Everyone, I hope you are all doing well. I have been a resident of Los Altos for the last 6 years and just learned about agenda item #5 for tomorrow's meeting.

Hamas attacks were horrible and should be condemned in the strongest possible way. What surprises me is to see such an item on a local city's agenda. Are you going to pass resolutions to support the UN's support for a ceasefire too? Did the council pass a resolution condemning September 11 attacks? Or the Russian invasion of Ukraine?

In addition, how many cities and towns will pass such resolutions and who are we trying to appease? Isn't the US government level statement against these attacks enough? Or are we worried that there is open support for Hamas and we have to take such a position?

I'll appreciate it if the council can fight the pressure to take on such agenda items in future and focus city's resources on the mandate given to the council.

Thanks,  
Zia Syed  
1540 Kensington Cir  
Los Altos, CA 94024

**From:** [Renee Rashid](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** CC Meeting 11/14/23 Item #5  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 2:25:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [Sample LA Resolution.pdf](#)

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As a long time Los Altos resident, I know that there are many members of our community that are extremely affected by the ongoing war in Gaza and also facing bias and fear right here due to a rise in anti-semitism and Islamophobia.

If you are considering passing a resolution in Los Altos, I would support a resolution that condemns Hamas, condemns the collective punishment inflicted upon the 2.2 million people of Gaza by the Israeli government, and stands with the families of the hostages and the people of Palestine in calling for a return of hostages and immediate ceasefire. Here is the resolution that was adopted by the city of Richmond that stands with the Palestinian people of Gaza: <https://contracostaherald.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/118-23-Adopted-Resolution-Affirming-Richmonds-Support-for-Gaza-10-24-2023.pdf>. And this is a similar resolution that the city of Cudahy, CA passed (see page 41 onwards): [https://www.cityofcudahy.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/\\_11072023-391](https://www.cityofcudahy.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_11072023-391)

But I would also support a Unity resolution that focuses and supports those who are hurting here in Los Altos and to make sure that hate does not permeate our town. For that reason, I have drafted a sample Unity Resolution that calls for supporting all members of our community that are impacted. Please let me know if you would be interested in discussing this further.

Sincerely,

Renee Rashid

**From:** [Hira Khanzada](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Israel Palestine Issue  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 1:42:34 PM

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Dear council members,

My email is with regards to the council's recent statements on the Israel Hamas conflict. I urge you to take a more balanced approach- your comments are one-sided and isolating an entire segment of your constituency.

Justice has no exceptions. While there is no excuse for innocent life lost at the hands of a terrorist organization, there most certainly is no excuse for innocent life lost at the hands of Israel and the USA, two developed and very safe countries.

What Mayor Klein, Vice Mayor Din, and Councilmembers Mehlinger and Ciscneros have done was exemplary in taking a stand to voice for a ceasefire. Please follow suit or at least provide recognition that a ceasefire will allow more targeted efforts at finding Hamas to occur.

Sincerely,

Hira Khanzada  
Family Psychotherapist and Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Silicon Valley Resident and Serving Silicon Valley Families

**From:** [Aifra Ahmed](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns about agenda Item #5 on Nov 14 City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 10:12:26 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to express my concerns about agenda item #5 to be discussed at tomorrow's city council meeting, specifically addressing the Hamas attacks against Israel.

As a long time resident of the city of Los Altos, a local physician and a public school parent volunteer, I pride myself on raising my family in a town that upholds the values of inclusion and diversity. I am deeply concerned that the city council's decision to discuss this polarizing topic will not do anything to unite the residents at this challenging time, rather it will further divide them.

I would like to understand how a resolution that focuses on an international conflict has become the responsibility of the City Council to comment on and how does this matter align with the City Council's charter.

I strongly recommend the City Council to not take a side on this international conflict. And if you must, then a "unity" resolution should be considered that acknowledges the suffering of all parties involved, and in alignment with the UN's stance, calls out the atrocities including war crimes that have been and continue to be committed on both sides of this conflict and the ongoing human rights violations against children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aifra Ahmed

**From:** [Malika Junaid](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Agenda Item #5 on Nov 14 City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:45:55 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my reservations about Agenda Item #5 scheduled for discussion during the upcoming City Council meeting on November 14, specifically addressing the Council's potential resolution or action denouncing the Hamas attacks against Israel.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize my longstanding commitment to the City of Los Altos and my deep involvement spanning over two decades. Throughout this time, I have proudly supported and advocated for City of Los Altos inclusive and diverse atmosphere. It is with this commitment in mind that I raise concerns about taking a stance on an international affair, such as the conflict between Hamas and Israel.

I would like to draw your attention to the City Council's charter, which outlines the responsibility of determining **city policies and service standards**. As articulated in the charter, the Council's primary focus is on **issues directly impacting the City of Los Altos**. Engaging in matters of international conflict sets a precedent that may lead to unintended consequences, potentially conflicting with the Council's core mission.

I have two key points for consideration that I would like to elaborate on:

**1. Why take a stance on an international affair?**

- a. The Council's charter underscores its role in shaping local policies and service standards.
- b. Venturing into international conflicts may risk misalignment with established global perspectives, such as those presented by the United Nations.
- c. The Council should either adopt a comprehensive resolution covering the entire issue in line with UN perspectives or abstain from taking a stance on international matters to maintain neutrality.

**2. Addressing the Impact on Youth:**

- a. If the Council adopts a resolution on this international matter, it raises the challenge of explaining the selection of one event over others to our youth.
- b. We must consider how to justify this decision to our younger generation in the context of potential misalignment with the UN's stance on the conflict. Is UN not an important body?
- c. Adopting a resolution on international conflicts could set a precedent for future decisions, and we need to thoughtfully address how this aligns with our values as a community and thus effect the future leaders, our Youth.

In conclusion, I strongly recommend that the Council abstain from taking a position on this matter. Instead, let us encourage unity and collaboration within our community during these challenging times. Focusing on our local charter and responsibilities will help maintain the inclusive and harmonious atmosphere that makes the City of Los Altos truly exceptional.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I remain hopeful for a thoughtful, inclusive, and considerate discussion during tomorrow's City Council meeting.

Thank you,  
Malika Junaid



**Malika Junaid** Principal Architect

M. Designs Architects

Website: [mdesignsarchitects.com](http://mdesignsarchitects.com)

Email: [malikajunaid@mdesignsarchitects.com](mailto:malikajunaid@mdesignsarchitects.com)

Phone: 650.565.9036

Cell: 408.431.9289

Office: 4131 W El Camino Real, Suite 200

Palo Alto, CA 94306





**From:** [Einav Garten](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Condemning Hamas and Supporting Israel  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:56:00 PM

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Hello. My name is Einav Garten, I am a 14 year old American-Israeli jew living in Los Altos. My entire life, I have always felt that Israel is my home, and visiting my grandparents and relatives every year connected me to my Israeli culture and roots furthermore.

On October 7th, my home was changed forever. For the past month, I see news and videos online and fear for my family's faces among the victims. I am a freshman at Los Altos High school, and recently there was a pro-Palestine march, kids watching American news channels and pretending they are educated. I wonder, what are they supporting? From the river to the sea, palestine will be free? The extermination of jews in all of Israel? The murder, torture, rape and kidnapping of men, women, elderly, children, and babies?

I cannot fathom what kind of "freedom fighters" use their own people as human shields, use children's hospitals as their base of operations, and post videos of their horrendous actions, taking pride in what they have done. They have ruined my home, millions of people's home, and the idea that jews will ever be treated equally with other people.

I have never imagined feeling unsafe wearing a shirt with hebrew writing, fearing that someone who supports terrorism against civilians might hurt me. How am I the one who is afraid? The one who has already lost family members to Hamas. How is it a debate when a country defends itself from horrific terrorism? How is this two sided? How is the world not unified against them? How?

**From:** [Debra strichartz](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Discusiion of Staement from City Council regarding Israeld and Gaza  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 1:59:18 PM

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As a long time member of the Los Altos community and a Jewish adult I hope that a measured unity statement can be determined by the Los Altos City Council.

In the midst of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza, the people on all sides need to stand together in recognition of the immense suffering and loss experienced. I condemn the violence and loss of life and call for an immediate ceasefire. It is only through dialogue, mutual understanding and a commitment to coexistence that a lasting resolution can be achieved. My thoughts are with all of those impacted and urge all parties to work towards a sustainable peace that respects the dignity and rights of all individuals in the region.

Debra Strichartz  
100 Sioux Lane  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
650-224-9490

**From:** [Chen Attar](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** For the city council meeting Nov.14 - Urgent Concern - Rising Anti-Israel Anti-Semitism and Anti-US acts of hate  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 2:42:42 PM

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Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Esteemed City Council Members,

I write to you today with grave concern regarding the alarming surge in anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, and anti-American acts that have unfolded this past week.

1. In LA a Jewish man was killed by pro-palestinian man, who happens to be a computer science professor, during a rally: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/man-dies-hitting-head-israel-palestinian-rallies-california-officials-rcna123942>

2. In NY city , on Veteran's day, US and UN flags were thrown and were replaced with Palestinian flags :  
<https://www.newsweek.com/videos-show-ny-chaos-anti-israel-protestor-tears-down-us-flags-1842847>. ( if you scroll - you'll see the movie)

3.Prominent universities such as Stanford, Harvard, Columbia, and most recently, MIT, have experienced disturbing displays of hatred, as exemplified by this recent incident at MIT last week:  
<https://nypost.com/2023/11/10/news/jewish-students-at-mit-blocked-from-attending-classes-by-hostile-anti-israel-protesters/>

4.In Israel, IDF forces in the Northern of Gaza find a copy of Adolf Hitler "Mein Kampf " in Hamas base , which is the Nazi's manifesto , translated to Arabic, replete with notes and marked sections:  
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/herzog-arabic-copy-of-mein-kampf-found-on-hamas-terrorist-shows-what-war-is-about/>

These incidents, which have occurred within the past week alone, underscore a distressing ideological conflict, with Hamas driven by a destructive anti-Semitic agenda that seeks to replicate the horrors of history. Chants such as "From the river to the Sea, Palestine will be free" effectively advocate for the eradication of the Jewish people.

We cannot stand idly by while history threatens to repeat itself, and we are profoundly alarmed and afraid by the current state of affairs. As our trusted community leaders, we implore you to take decisive action against these acts of hatred and the inflammatory rhetoric accompanying them. We kindly request that you initiate a clear resolution condemning recent terrorist acts, sending a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We look to you for leadership in these troubling times.

Chen



**From:** [Ravid Haselkorn-Galatin](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Riding Antisemitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:49:00 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Ravid Galatin  
Resident

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Vadim Katz](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 7:58:29 PM

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Dear Mayor Meadows and Esteemed Council Members,

Please read this message entirely. It is important and thank you.

We want to express our appreciation for the mayor's recent statement published in the local newspaper. This statement deeply resonated with our family as well as with all Jewish and Israeli residents of our community, serving as a source of support and leadership during these trying times.

We want to share our concerns about the challenges our community currently faces. Our social media feeds and news are full of images of pro-Palestinian demonstrations. There are graphic images of human suffering and structural destruction that very effectively appeal to any normal human being to express support for the immediate end of the conflict and as a mean to achieving it find who is empowered to make it possible. This mostly has led to calls against Israel's actions or US support since a few days after October 7th. So, why are most of such expressions anti-Semitic and why do we call upon you to issue an official proclamation condemning the terrorist attack by Hamas and emphasize the importance of recognizing bias against Israel and the Jewish People?

We had only two people among friends and co-workers reach out to check on us by Monday, October 9th. This is after two days of processing the information including our posts on LinkedIn that the terrorist attack on October 7th was Israel's and Jewish 9/11 times 10! This is not ok. Not only we are not ok because of the actual event, we are not ok knowing that so many close friends and work partners failed to recognize our need for their support. Why did so many good people who have supported each other through Covid fail us this time? We think the answer is being numb due to the history of conflict and suffering in the Middle East. Our friends, colleagues, and community members unconsciously protected themselves from yet another bad news. This is why we respectfully suggest you continue to act. John C. Maxwell, an American author and Christian leader once said: "Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It's about one life influencing another." Your influence as the leaders of Los Altos is essential to help good people recognize that silence is not an option if we want to maintain an inclusive community. We need your help to spread the message that a month after the terrorist attack, 240 people of various nationalities including Americans are still held hostage and the families of 1500 will forever miss their loved ones. This should not be hard if the moral stance is your only guiding principle.

Israel has the right to defend itself and its citizens. So, why so many people are so loudly

and often violently condemning Israel for its actions after it was attacked on October 7th? They include students in Los Altos High and the most prestigious universities like Stanford just a few miles away, academics as well as political and business leaders. Thomas Friedman of the New York Times got it right when he said, "Criticizing Israel is not anti-Semitic, and saying so is vile. But singling out Israel for the opprobrium and international sanction - out of all proposition to any other party in the Middle East - is anti-Semitic, and not saying so is dishonest". None of these people expressed any concerns when Saudi Arabia killed 15,000 civilians during its bombing campaign in Yemen. They have not called for Hamas to release hostages or considered that Hamas is perhaps the one who has occupied Palestinian people by using them as human shields building missile factories under and inside schools, mosques, and hospitals. They did not march on Veterans Square here in Los Altos condemning Turkey for killing Kurds or ISIS for raping Yazidi women. They don't do that because they are all biased against the Jews. Their behavior is anti-semitic. Your voice is essential in exposing this for what it is. The Jewish community needs your support. You have an unfortunate opportunity to define your legacy as Los Altos city leaders by proactively condemning anti-semitism and facing those who may challenge you. We, the Jews, do it all the time and this time we need your allyship.

Thank you for your time and attention. We remain hopeful for a positive response to this request and eagerly look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to make Los Altos a place of inclusivity and mutual respect for all.

Sincerely,  
Vadim Katz and Tania Bekerman

**From:** [Sameena Usman](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Hamas resolution  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 11:09:14 AM

---

Dear Los Altos councilmembers,

I believe in the sanctity of life, especially for those who are children and noncombatants. I also believe in the universal right to freedom, which has been stripped away from the people of Gaza, who have been living in an open air prison/concentration camp for the past 15 years without the ability of freedom of movement and access to humanitarian needs. In the past month, 11,000+ people have been murdered at the hands of the Israeli government, half of those who are children.

Hospitals and places of worship have been bombed, and those who are not under the rubble has been picked off by Israeli snipers. So, to introduce a resolution that is calling out Hamas, without recognizing the conditions that have led to the creation and the actions of Hamas is unjust and one-sided.

I pray for the safe return of the 230 people who have been held hostage by Hamas, as well as the 10,000+ Palestinians (including thousands of women/children) held in Israeli military detention camps. Please do not support this one-sided resolution and instead speak for truth and justice for all  
Sameena



**From:** [Roberta Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Item #5 Council Meeting Nov 14, 2023  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 10:39:11 AM

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Dear Council Members

I support a resolution by the City Council to support Israel's right to defend themselves against terrorist attacks.

Roberta Phillips  
650-941-6940.

**From:** [Jill Levitt](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Los Altos Against Terror  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:48:26 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Warmly, Jill Levitt

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Jill Levitt, Ph.D. PSY 21706  
Adjunct Clinical Faculty, Stanford University Department of Psychiatry  
Director of Training, Feeling Good Institute



650.468.6646  
2660 Solace Place, Suite D2, Mountain View, CA 94040  
[jilllevitt@feelinggoodinstitute.com](mailto:jilllevitt@feelinggoodinstitute.com)  
[FeelingGoodInstitute.com](http://FeelingGoodInstitute.com)  
[sfbayareatherapy.com](http://sfbayareatherapy.com)



LuxSci: Secure communications

**From:** [Dana Nachman](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Los Altos should condemn terror  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:22:12 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Dana Nachman

**From:** [Siema Zia](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting agenda #5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 11:14:43 AM

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Dear Council ,  
I am writing regarding your item #5 listed below on your agenda :

Discuss the Council issuing a potential resolution, or any possible action, denouncing the Hamas attacks against Israel .

As a local Los Altos resident for over 15 years , I am extremely concerned that you have this on your agenda for tonight's meeting as an international issue and an obvious stance on a one sided narrative that fails to recognize the 11000+ Palestinian lives lost including over 5000 children .

We need to draw more on unity , inclusivity, peace , collaborations, mourning and honoring together all the lives that have been lost in this conflict as EVERY human life matters .

Thank you.  
Siema

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [egcom](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** November 14th meeting - Support condemnation of Hamas and hate crimes  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 10:12:21 PM

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Dear Leaders,

I am a resident of Los Altos with three kids in Los Altos schools. I love the city and it's diverse community and quality of life it offers.

The acts of Pure Evil by the terrorist group of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad that occurred within the legal territory of Israel are unimaginable and are equivalent to Isis behavior on steroids.

As a community of people that promote living in peace and understanding of all faiths and nationalities I hereby request you to publicly separate yourself from Pure Evil like Hamas by condemning them publicly in the strongest and most visible way. It is not about the israeli-palestinian conflict, it's about humanity vs. evil.

If we don't stand United as the good side against evil and instead stay silent we signal to our own community and to the terrorists that we don't care and that repeating such Acts maybe accepted by the world community. I also think that the city should publicly state that he has zero tolerance to any hate crimes including anti-Semitic and islamophobic behavior. We should educate our community that such Acts will not be tolerated in our peaceful City.

Eli G.  
North Los Altos resident.

**From:** [Shirit Rosenberg](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM 05 - 11/14/2023 Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 5:19:09 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official resolution condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This resolution would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Shirit Kamil-Rosenberg, EdD, ACSM CEP

**From:** [Karen Dayan](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM 05 - 11/14/2023 Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 12:16:25 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

My family and I, residents of Los Altos for several years, appreciate the mayor's recent statement against hatred and violence.

We continue to be worried about rising anti-Semitism in the area and feel worried about the safety of ourselves and our children. We ask you to make a resolution condemning terrorism and anti-Semitism, to show unity against hate.

Your support can make a big difference in our community. Please consider this request.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Karen Dayan  
2120 Stonehaven Dr. Los Altos



**From:** [Nellie Brook](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM 05 - 11/14/2023 Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 10:55:11 PM

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Dear Mayor and Esteemed Council Members,

First and foremost, we wish to convey our profound gratitude for the heartfelt statement made by the mayor, as it was published in the local newspaper. This statement touched the hearts of Jewish and Israeli residents in our community. It served as a beacon of hope and solidarity, reminding us of the importance of local leadership in promoting understanding and harmony.

We also wish to candidly share our concerns regarding the precarious state of our community. The Jewish and Israeli population in Los Altos currently experiences a sense of isolation and vulnerability. We watch with increasing anxiety as anti-Semitism rises across the United States, causing distress and fear within our community. It is at times like these that we turn to our community leaders, such as yourselves, as the moral compass to guide our community through these tumultuous times.

Your collective voice holds tremendous power. A clear and unequivocal statement from our city's leadership, condemning acts of terrorism and, importantly, expressing a resolute stance against anti-Semitism and hatred, can have a profound impact. It would not only bolster the sense of belonging of the Jewish and Israeli community in Los Altos but also help in stemming the tide of anti-Semitic incidents that have become all too common.

We humbly request that the City of Los Altos consider issuing a proclamation condemning the recent terrorist acts of Hamas and emphasizing the importance of eradicating anti-Semitism and promoting inclusivity in our community. Such a statement would send a powerful message of unity, demonstrating that our city stands firmly against hate, intolerance, and violence.

In closing, we earnestly hope that you, our esteemed Mayor and City Council, will consider our request and take action to issue an official statement. Your support in this matter would not only provide solace to our community but also contribute to a stronger, more harmonious Los Altos.

Thank you for your time and attention. We remain hopeful for a positive response to our request and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in making Los Altos a place of inclusivity and mutual respect for all.

Sincerely,  
Nellie Brook



**From:** [Einat Meisel](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM 05 - 11/14/2023 Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 6:33:26 PM

---

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official resolution condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This resolution would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

EINAT MEISEL

Partner | Fenwick & West LLP | Direct +1 650-335-7818<tel:+1%20650-335-7818> | Cell +1 650-646-1463<tel:+1%20650-646-1463> | [emeisel@fenwick.com](mailto:emeisel@fenwick.com)<<mailto:emeisel@fenwick.com>>

Admitted to practice in Israel and California

**From:** [Aviad Pinkovezky](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM 05 - 11/14/2023 Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 11:05:49 AM

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Dear Mayor and Esteemed Council Members,

We want to express our appreciation for the mayor's recent statement, which was published in the local newspaper. This statement deeply resonated with the Jewish and Israeli residents of our community, serving as a source of hope and unity during these trying times.

We also wish to share our concerns about the challenges our community currently faces. The Jewish and Israeli population in Los Altos is feeling isolated and vulnerable as anti-Semitism continues to rise across the United States, causing distress and fear. During such times, we look to our community leaders, like yourselves, to provide guidance and leadership.

Your collective voice holds significant influence. A clear and unwavering statement from our city's leadership, condemning acts of terrorism, and firmly denouncing anti-Semitism and hatred, can have a profound impact. Such a statement would not only strengthen the sense of belonging within the Jewish and Israeli community in Los Altos but also play a crucial role in combating the surge of anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request that the City of Los Altos consider issuing an official resolution condemning the recent terrorist acts of Hamas and emphasizing the importance of eradicating anti-Semitism while promoting inclusivity in our community. This resolution would send a powerful message of unity, affirming that our city stands united against hate, intolerance, and violence.

We sincerely hope that you, our esteemed Mayor and City Council, will give thoughtful consideration to our request and take action to issue this official statement. Your support in this matter would provide comfort to our community and contribute to a stronger, more harmonious Los Altos.

Thank you for your time and attention. We remain hopeful for a positive response to our request and eagerly look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to make Los Altos a place of inclusivity and mutual respect for all.

Sincerely,

Aviad Pinkovezky

**From:** [Yana M.](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM 05 - 11/14/2023 Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 10:05:00 AM

---

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official resolution condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This resolution would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Yana Mlynash

**From:** [Tanya Maluf](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Item #5,11/14/23  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 9:10:36 PM

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Dear Mayor Meadows, Vice-Mayor Weinberg, and Councilmembers Lee Eng, Fligor, and Dailey,

I am unclear why now, 38 days later, a decision is being made about denouncing the Hamas attack. It was a heinous act and should be denounced and now any resolution or action must also address a release of the hostages and the disproportionate response by the Israeli government that continues to this day. On October 27th Israel launched a ground invasion into Gaza. The bombings have been relentless. Family lines have ended for about 40 Palestinian families. The oldest Christian community in the world lives in Gaza. They now fear extinction. Drinkable water is unavailable. The already spotty provision of electricity has devolved into none leaving patients in hospitals relying on machines for survival, to die. The value of a Hamas militant's life is proving to be more valuable than that of innocent civilians, some thinking they would be safe taking refuge in schools and hospitals. More than 11,000 Gazans have been killed since the ground invasion began. 4,609 were children.

I beg you to reflect the value of a Palestinian's life as equal to that of an Israeli's life in whatever you decide to do as a Council. Please do not continue the historic pattern of Palestinian erasure. You have constituents from both sides of this war who are suffering.

You have the ability to make a difference.

Respectfully yours,

Tanya Maluf

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." - from Maya Angelou's poem, *On the Pulse of Morning*.

**From:** [Bill Hough](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** public comment regarding item #5 on 11/14/2023 agenda  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 6:51:23 PM

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The Hamas attacks against Israel were an atrocity. It is difficult for me to discuss terrorism without using inappropriate language. I was in New York on 9/11, so I have first-hand knowledge regarding how awful the indiscriminate killing of innocent non-combatants can be. I was close enough to the World Trade Center site to smell the unpleasant odor of burnt flesh that was present after the atrocity.

That said, there is no reason beyond stupid virtue signaling for the Los Altos City Council to waste time and effort to state the obvious. It is not Council's place to opine on foreign events. regardless of how awful these events might be. There are enough issues in governing this town without wasting time on inappropriate virtue signaling.

Council needs to stay in its lane and deal with City issues.

**From:** [aaiza khalid](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Re Condemning Hamas without condemning Israel  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 1:24:49 PM

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Dear council members,

I urge the council to maintain a sustainable perspective when making a statement regarding what is happening in the Middle East right now. Your words hold power, your constituents across many religions and ethnicities are feeling divided and pitted against each other. It does not have to be this way.

Justice has no exceptions. While there is no excuse for innocent life lost at the hands of a terrorist organization, there most certainly is no excuse for innocent life lost at the hands of one of the top sophisticated militaries in the world funded and defended by America. Condemning Hamas without condemning Netanyahu's regime would be slanted, unjust, and further perpetuating divides in our community.

What Mayor Klein, Vice Mayor Din, and Councilmembers Mehlinger and Ciscneros have done empathizing with all children lost in conflict but recognizing the ongoing terror on Palestinian children was an honorable decision. They expect us to be divided, but I am hopeful that your leadership has the integrity to separate the perpetrators from the victims and stand on the side of humanity.

Sincerely,  
Aaiza Khalid



**From:** [Luba Palant](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Official Proclamation Against Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:18:31 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We appreciate your recent statement in the local newspaper, providing hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community. We are also concerned about the escalating anti-Semitism causing fear and isolation. As community leaders, your strong stance against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly enhance our sense of belonging and help counteract such incidents. We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate. Thank you for your attention, and we anticipate your positive response in fostering mutual respect and inclusivity in Los Altos.

Sincerely,

Luba and Igor Palant

**From:** [laura.myszne@gmail.com](mailto:laura.myszne@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Raising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:38:35 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, this causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would set the tone and greatly influence our sense of safety, belonging, and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully would like to request an official proclamation condemning the recent terrorist acts, promoting therefore a sense of safety, belonging and inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful, clear message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention.

We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a safe and inclusive place.

Sincerely,  
Laura and Jorge Myszne

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Zachi Rosenberg](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#); [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Request To Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti- Semitism  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 8:55:06 AM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Zachi Rosenberg, I have been a resident of Los Altos for eight years now, and have three daughters that are attending schools here.

I deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

I also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

I respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Zachi Rosenberg  
Los Altos, CA

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Zachi Rosenberg

**From:** [Tal Shalon](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:24:41 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Tal Shalon

**From:** [Monique Edmondson](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:49:38 AM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Monique LeFors

**From:** [Ilai Tamari](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 7:24:06 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely, Ilai Tamari

**From:** [etamari100](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 7:29:42 PM

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Dear Los Altos Mayor Sally Meadows, Vice Mayor Jonathan Weinberg, and Council Members,

My family and I, along with many of the Israeli and Jewish members of this community, are going through one of the most difficult times in our lives. Most of us have hardly slept since the horrific, barbaric events of October 7, when more than 1,000 Israeli civilians were slaughtered – not just killed, slaughtered – in Israel. It feels as if we are perpetually falling inside an abysmal pit, living through a never-ending nightmare.

Israel is a very small country. Having spent most of my childhood in Israel, one is bound to be related in one way or another to victims of these atrocities. What has been unleashed against Israeli citizens was pure evil. The number of parents who buried their own children is beyond imagination. It is heart-shattering. These terrorists murdered and tortured civilians deliberately in the worst possible ways, no different than ISIS.

I deeply appreciate the recent statement from Mayor Meadows that was published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

Dear council members: I ask that you all stand with your fellow community members in their time of need. I ask that you stand with us and denounce the barbaric acts of Hamas, and that you help us raise the light of hope. We are all observing a rising surge of anti-Semitism sentiment, and groups of people taking advantage of this situation to unleash hatred throughout the country.

To quote the words of President Biden from a few weeks ago:

“There is no place for hate in America – not against Jews, not against Muslims, not against anybody. We reject – we reject – what we reject is terrorism. We condemn the indiscriminate evil, just as we’ve always done. That’s what America stands for.”

Dear council members: these words need to resonate in each and every house throughout the community. They need to be spoken loud and clear, so that we can all stand together and spread light where there is darkness. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hate of any kind would greatly influence our sense of belonging in our community. An official proclamation from the city council condemning the recent terrorist attacks and promoting inclusivity would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Sincerely,  
Eran Tamari  
Los Altos Resident

**From:** [Elinor Tamari](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 7:43:28 PM

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Dear Mayor and Esteemed Council Members,

We want to express our appreciation for the mayor's recent statement, which was published in the local newspaper. This statement deeply resonated with the Jewish and Israeli residents of our community, serving as a source of hope and unity during these trying times.

We also wish to share our concerns about the challenges our community currently faces. The Jewish and Israeli population in Los Altos is feeling isolated and vulnerable as anti-Semitism continues to rise across the United States, causing distress and fear. During such times, we look to our community leaders, like yourselves, to provide guidance and leadership.

Your collective voice holds significant influence. A clear and unwavering statement from our city's leadership, condemning acts of terrorism, and firmly denouncing anti-Semitism and hatred, can have a profound impact. Such a statement would not only strengthen the sense of belonging within the Jewish and Israeli community in Los Altos but also play a crucial role in combating the surge of anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request that the City of Los Altos consider issuing an official proclamation condemning the recent terrorist acts of Hamas and emphasizing the importance of eradicating anti-Semitism while promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity, affirming that our city stands united against hate, intolerance, and violence.

We sincerely hope that you, our esteemed Mayor and City Council, will give thoughtful consideration to our request and take action to issue this official statement. Your support in this matter would provide comfort to our community and contribute to a stronger, more harmonious Los Altos.

Thank you for your time and attention. We remain hopeful for a positive response to our request and eagerly look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to make Los Altos a place of inclusivity and mutual respect for all.

Sincerely,  
Elinor Tamari

Sent from Gmail Mobile



**From:** [Carla Bahri](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:15:21 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Carla Bahri

*Jellop has been named Kickstarter's Digital Advertising Partner! Learn more [here](#).*

Carla Bahri, PhD  
Co-founder, Jellop  
[www.jellop.com](http://www.jellop.com)  
Los Altos, CA  
609-751-7593

**From:** [gilad arwatz](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:15:42 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Gilad Arwatz

**From:** [Sagit Manor](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:17:59 PM

---

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Sagit Manor

**From:** [Smadar Agmon](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to condemn Hamas terrorism and fight rising anti-semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:33:18 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Smadar Agmon

**From:** [Ziv Attar](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 8:47:00 PM

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Dear Mayor and Esteemed Council Members,

We want to express our appreciation for the mayor's recent statement, which was published in the local newspaper. This statement deeply resonated with the Jewish and Israeli residents of our community, serving as a source of hope and unity during these trying times.

We also wish to share our concerns about the challenges our community currently faces. The Jewish and Israeli population in Los Altos is feeling isolated and vulnerable as anti-Semitism continues to rise across the United States, causing distress and fear. During such times, we look to our community leaders, like yourselves, to provide guidance and leadership.

Your collective voice holds significant influence. A clear and unwavering statement from our city's leadership, condemning acts of terrorism, and firmly denouncing anti-Semitism and hatred, can have a profound impact. Such a statement would not only strengthen the sense of belonging within the Jewish and Israeli community in Los Altos but also play a crucial role in combating the surge of anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request that the City of Los Altos consider issuing an official proclamation condemning the recent terrorist acts of Hamas and emphasizing the importance of eradicating anti-Semitism while promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity, affirming that our city stands united against hate, intolerance, and violence.

We sincerely hope that you, our esteemed Mayor and City Council, will give thoughtful consideration to our request and take action to issue this official statement. Your support in this matter would provide comfort to our community and contribute to a stronger, more harmonious Los Altos.

Thank you for your time and attention. We remain hopeful for a positive response to our request and eagerly look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to make Los Altos a place of inclusivity and mutual respect for all.

Sincerely,  
Ziv Attar  
Los Altos resident and Los Altos business owner

**From:** [Matty Robbins](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 9:17:22 PM

---

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Matty Robbins

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Tamar](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 9:18:36 PM

---

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Tamar Robbins

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Janel Moses](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:14:07 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Janel Moses



**From:** [Tamar Bar](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Tamar Bar](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 1:46:55 AM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Tamar Bar 6509193991

**From:** [Keith Feingold](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 7:42:12 AM

---

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

***Keith***

Keith Feingold

(408) 656-6388

[khfeingold@gmail.com](mailto:khfeingold@gmail.com)

**From:** [Keith Feingold](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 7:44:00 AM

---

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

***Caryn***

Caryn Feingold

**From:** [Noa Grant](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#); [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Guy Gecht](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 11:35:47 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

As a long time resident of the city of Los Altos, we truly and deeply appreciate the recent statement by mayor Sally Meadow offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these sad and challenging times.

We are witnessing an unparalleled rise in antisemitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As our elected leaders, your clear and firm statement against hatred, and in particular against terrorism and antisemitism, would greatly influence our sense of belonging to our precious community and help combat unwelcome incidents.

We respectfully request that the city council issue an official proclamation condemning the recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. Such proclamation would send a powerful message of unity.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Noa Grant

**From:** [Bob Petersen](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Condemn Hamas Terrorism and Fight Rising Anti-Semitism  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 12:08:08 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We deeply appreciate the recent statement from the mayor published in the local newspaper, offering hope and unity to our Jewish and Israeli community during these challenging times.

We also want to share our concerns about rising anti-Semitism, causing fear and isolation in our community. As community leaders, your clear and firm statement against terrorism, anti-Semitism, and hatred would greatly influence our sense of belonging and help combat anti-Semitic incidents.

We respectfully request an official proclamation condemning recent terrorist acts and promoting inclusivity in our community. This proclamation would send a powerful message of unity against hate.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your positive response in making Los Altos a place of mutual respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,  
Robert Petersen  
Los Altos

## UNITY RESOLUTION

### **Resolution Strongly Denouncing Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Middle Eastern North African (MENA) Hate**

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council is resolute in its dedication to fostering a safe and supportive city where our community members stand up for each other, promote unity, and speak out against antisemitism, Islamophobia, bigotry, hatred, and intolerance; and

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council condemns all forms of hate, discrimination, and violence, and stands firmly against any actions that promote hatred and violence,

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council condemns the horrific terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7, 2023 that resulted in 1200 civilians dead; and

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council condemns the taking of 240 civilian hostages by Hamas

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council condemns collective punishment of the Palestinian people including shutting off all access to electricity, fuel, drinking water, food, and humanitarian aid to 2.2 million people; and

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council condemns the mass atrocities being committed in Gaza and the West Bank, including large-scale, systematic violence against civilian populations that have resulted in over 10,000 civilian killed, and

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council condemns the grave human rights violations against children, as identified by the UN, including

- The killing of over 5000 Palestinian children by the Israeli military,
- The killing of 30 Israeli children by Hamas
- The abduction of children by Hamas
- The maiming of children by the Israeli military
- Attacks against schools, hospitals, refugee camps, mosques and churches by the Israeli military
- Denial of humanitarian access by the Israeli military

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council is committed to upholding the human dignity and human rights of all people; and

WHEREAS, the Los Altos City Council is committed to upholding the physical and emotional safety and security of our community and protecting them from antisemitism, Islamophobia,

hate, violence and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, there has been a steep increase in antisemitic, Islamophobia, anti-MENA attacks and threats locally and regionally, highlighting the urgency of addressing and condemning this hate; and

WHEREAS, Muslim and MENA, and especially our Palestinian families, whose cultural self-expression and very identity are routinely conflated with terrorism, are feeling targeted, and report experiencing hatred, silencing, intimidation and exclusionary behaviors; and

WHEREAS, there has been hatred against Jewish people, who are also feeling targeted and experiencing hatred and intimidation

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Altos City Council: Strongly condemns all terrorist attacks, recognizing the immense harm and suffering they have caused and the suffering that continues

Calls elected leaders to support the return of hostages and declaration of a ceasefire to minimize further loss of innocent life

Expresses its unwavering denunciation of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-MENA hate in all their forms and commits to creating a physically and emotionally safe and inclusive environment for community members

Encourages all members of the Los Altos community to embrace compassion and unity, and steadfastly oppose injustice and hatred in all its manifestations

Continues its efforts to provide a safe and welcoming city for all, working with local partners

**From:** [Freddie ParkWheeler](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gabriel Engeland](#)  
**Subject:** Correction- Retraction  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 1:05:58 PM

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Dear Mayor Meadows, Vice Mayor Weinberg, Council Members Lee Eng, Fligor, and Dailey and City Manager Engeland,

I am writing to correct a mistaken, incorrect statement I made in the Public Comment I submitted earlier this morning. I have since learned that the type of Zoom bombing that I encountered as a Library Commissioner several months ago is different than what is happening today. The measures to avoid the older types of Zoom bombing that Mr. Engeland referred to previously do not work to prevent the newer types of attacks.

City Manager Engeland advises that over the past several months since our conversation, technology has evolved to allow people and bots to penetrate most security measures and that the protection he described in the past is no longer effective.

Accordingly, I retract my statements referencing Mr. Engeland's past comments about Zoom bombing and my use of them to question the technological need of discontinuing remote public comments.

I sincerely apologize to Mr. Engeland for misusing his past statements. I was completely unaware that this information was no longer accurate when I wrote to Council this morning.

I do believe there is a legitimate question regarding whether the "cost" of disallowing the public to comment remotely is worth the "benefit" of not being subjected to indignities very infrequently.

My sincere apologies,  
Freddie Wheeler

Freddie Park Wheeler  
Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Roberta Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#); [City Council](#); [Gabriel Engeland](#)  
**Subject:** Nov 14 Council Meeting Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 12:50:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [Public Comments via Zoom.docx](#)

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Dear Council Members

Please see the attached letter for Items not on the agenda for the nov.24. 2023 Council meeting

Dear Council Members and City Manager

I read the agenda and it states "On October 24, 2023, the City Council held a Closed Session special meeting pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Threat to Public Services or Facilities. Although not required to report out on this matter, the City Council provided staff with direction to suspend all Zoom and/or remote participation at City Council and Commission public meetings."

I am writing to strongly protest this action. As a caretaker to my handicapped husband, I am writing to represent all the caretakers who find it almost impossible to attend meetings in person in order to participate verbally. I am writing to represent all the Seniors who no longer can drive at night. I am writing to represent all the parents of young children who want to participate and make verbal comments, but can't because they need to care for their children.

I have attended every City Council meeting over the past 8 years and have had the privilege of being allowed to ask questions and comment via Zoom since Covid began. You are now taking this privilege away from me All the people who wish to participate in our democracy. You are limiting participation rather than encouraging it.

This decision was made in Closed Session and the public did not understand that the topic was to eliminate public comments via Zoom. It was described as " Threat to Public Service or Facilities pursuant to Government Code 54957" No one could possibly interpret this as the topic to be discussed. Additionally Public Comments on the Closed session was denied if the participant was not in the audience. This was announced prior to the Closed Session Meeting, before any discussion or direction was given to staff. The mayor had announced that participants via zoom could comment and then 10 minutes later (after the break) the City Manager retracted the mayor's statement and I was not allowed to make a public comment.

I ask that you have a public meeting where residents can give their opinion on the topic. Covid is still with us. It has not ended. I have to wear a mask when I go to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

The foundation of our Democracy is based on Freedom of Speech

This includes use of certain offensive words and phrases to convey political messages.

*Cohen v. California*, 403 U.S. 15 (1971).

I have heard the excuse that ZOOM bombing is a reason to deny our verbal participation via Zoom. Zoom-bombing still happens but security experts say it is far less prevalent than it was in 2020. Zoom helped tame Zoom-bombing partly by making its product more difficult for you (and for online harassers) to use. Jan. 24, 2023

I implore you to reconsider the action you took at the Closed Session and restore our right to speak remotely. City Council members may participate remotely as Jonathan Weinberg did recently from Los Vegas. There has to be a better solution. Have you considered exceptions ?

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips

650-941-6940

I

**From:** [Laura Foster](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** November is National Homeless Youth and Runaway Prevention Month  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:06:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Laura Foster and I'm a Division Director with Bill Wilson Center – a local nonprofit here in Santa Clara County that is working to end youth and family homelessness. I am writing to let everyone know that November is Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Month. This is a nationwide campaign occurring each November to increase awareness about homelessness among youth and young adults in our community and the resources available. This is especially critical since Santa Clara County has the ***third*** highest population of unhoused individuals in the entire nation, 12% of who are under 24 years of age.

Bill Wilson Center has been serving youth, young adults and families experiencing homelessness for 50 years. Our goal is to provide an integrated system of care that will help our unhoused participants attain stable housing; either through family reunification or economic self-sufficiency. We not only offer immediate shelter, but other supportive services, such as -- mental health counseling, job assistance, substance abuse treatment, and much more.

If you would like to know more about our agency, and the work we do in the community please visit our website at [www.billwilsoncenter.org](http://www.billwilsoncenter.org). If you know a young person who is experiencing homelessness, please refer them to us. They can contact our Here4You Call Center at 408-385-2400.

Thank you,

Laura Foster, LCSW  
Division Director of Research, Analysis and Impact

Pronouns: She, her

Bill Wilson Center  
3490 The Alameda  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
**Phone & Fax 408-289-5834**  
[www.billwilsoncenter.org](http://www.billwilsoncenter.org)  
Building Connections!



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**From:** [Jeanine Valadez](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Not On the Agenda 11/14/2023  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 3:10:24 PM

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Mayor Meadows, Vice-Mayor Weinberg, and Councilmembers,

I disagree with Council's policy decision to altogether prohibit remote public comment from Council and Commission meetings. Community participation will drop.

I could be convinced to agree with turning off remote comments for items NOT on the agenda, but there exist protections for agendized items which enable the city clerk to disconnect any commentary that strays from the strict scope of the agendized item.

Eliminating remote public comment for agendized items is exclusionary because it limits public engagement and squashes the diversity of ideas. Moreover, I'd rather have a hateful person speak up on zoom and get shut down, than have that person show up in the chambers and require greater police presence to remove them from the premises. The resulting increased likelihood of in-chambers stress and violence will actually end up creating MORE fear amongst in-person attendees and further erode engagement.

I urge the Council to reconsider their position and amend the public comment criteria when they reassess their current policy stance early next year.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jeanine Valadez

Disclosure: I am a PARC Commissioner but am commenting as a member of the public.

**From:** [Pat Marriot](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION: ZOOM BOMBING NOV 14, 2023  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 4:10:22 PM

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Council Members,

I understand the fear of “Zoom bombing.” However, by cutting off remote public comment at a city meeting, you are cutting off residents’ opportunities to participate in the democratic process.

I urge you to consider this option, which other cities have adopted: Let residents send a 3-minute statement prior to the meeting and let the city clerk read these statements at the appropriate point in the agenda.

This is not the same as writing to [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov). Those comments are part of the public record and we hope they are read by all council members and relevant staff prior to the meeting. But they are not part of the live discussion and are not heard by other participants.

We’re all aware that free speech is being abused, but denying a voice to citizens who cannot attend live meetings is a draconian “solution.” Limiting participation – silencing the voice of the people -- plays into the hands of those who are using every means possible to destroy our democracy.

Please consider my suggestion now. Do not wait until May. Do not shut out those who have a right to be heard.

Thank you,

Pat Marriott

**From:** [Jeanine Valadez](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment NOT on the Agenda 2023\_11\_14  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 3:24:17 PM

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Mayor Meadows, Vice-Mayor Weinberg, and Councilmembers Lee Eng, Fligor, and Dailey:

The most recent City Manager update, dated Nov. 11, 2023, included the following passage:

"Those attending Council or Commission meetings through Zoom can continue to comment via email during sessions."

If one reads the public comments deadline table at <https://www.losaltosca.gov/cityclerk/page/public-comments>, the emailed comments to which the City Manager's update refers above are NOT reflected in that table. Per that table, inclusion in the recorded packet for a given meeting includes emails submitted up to the start of the meeting - those emails will become part of Supplemental Packet #3, two days after the meeting . The table is moot on what happens to Public Comment emails submitted for the given meeting AFTER the start of that meeting, and certainly for public comment emails submitted after the meeting is adjourned or continued.

As a matter of policy and clarity, I ask Council to direct staff to make this needed edit to the public resource at the above link.

Thank you,

Jeanine Valadez

Disclosure: I am a PARC commissioner, but am submitting this comment as a member of the public.



**From:** [Bill Hough](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** public comment on item not on the November 14 agenda  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 9:13:48 AM

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In the "Report on Closed Session," it states "On October 24, 2023, the City Council held a Closed Session special meeting pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Threat to Public Services or Facilities. Although not required to report out on this matter, the City Council provided staff with direction to suspend all Zoom and/or remote participation at City Council and Commission public meetings."

Although this paragraph contains a vague reference to Government Code Section 54957, this sentence is unclear to non-lawyers. Although your City Attorney will argue that you are following the letter of the law, it is obvious that you are violating the spirit of the law, which is to encourage public participation in the meeting process.

You need to improve online security, instead of letting the bad guys win while the good guys suffer.

There are many reasons that law-abiding citizens are unable to participate in Council meetings online. Restricting online participation is an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violation. The ADA protects people with disabilities from discrimination. Disability rights are civil rights. From voting to parking, the ADA is a law that protects people with disabilities in many areas of public life. This includes public meetings.

Additionally, making this decision in secret and behind closed doors sends the wrong message. Zoom policy should be a regular agenda item so that residents can offer testimony on this matter.

**From:** [Monica Waldman](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Suspending all Zoom and/or remote participation at City Council and Commission public meetings  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 12:22:33 PM

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Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

As a former Los Altos Commissioner and commenter on City Council agenda items, I am shocked and saddened by your closed session decision to suspend all Zoom and/or remote participation at City Council and Commission public meetings,

Our City meetings have yet to be Zoom bombed, yet this "rule" has been enacted behind closed doors. Our City Council meetings continue to run into the evening, causing anyone who wants to speak on a topic to attend into the wee hours of the morning, making it difficult to attend in person. The new policy is disenfranchising to members of the Los Altos community and shows prejudice to those who cannot attend due to having young children and/or elderly or sick family members to take care of. It also encourages those who are sick and want their voices heard to attend.

This new policy gives the appearance that Council does not want to hear from members of the community. This is a sad day for our City.

Monica

**From:** [Freddie ParkWheeler](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment via Zoom Remotely  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 11:51:09 AM

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Dear Mayor Meadows, Vice Mayor Weinberg, and Council Members Lee Eng, Fligor, and Dailey,

I am writing to ask you to withdraw your decision disallowing members of the public to make public comments remotely via Zoom at Council and Commission meetings. I understand that the reason given for no longer allowing remote public comments is concern about "Zoom bombing." To my knowledge, which was recently confirmed by City Manager Engeland, there has only been one Zoom bombing incident in Los Altos since remote commenting has been allowed. This happened at a Zoom Library Commission meeting that I attended as a Library Commissioner. We all simply left the meeting and then rejoined with no further problem.

Mr. Engeland assured me that the likelihood of being Zoom bombed again was, excuse the pun, very remote. He explained that the City no longer uses the "regular" Zoom meeting option. Instead, the City uses a much more secure Zoom meeting option and that the meetings are secure. In the case of the Library Commission meeting that was Zoom bombed, he explained that there had been some sort of problem with the original posting of that meeting. Mr. Engeland explained that when staff rescheduled the meeting they inadvertently chose the "regular" meeting option rather than the more secure option and that was the reason we were Zoom bombed.

The other issue with disallowing remote public comments is that people have become accustomed to participating remotely in Council and Commission meetings and it's never a good idea to take away "rights" once people have become accustomed to them. But in fact, remote participation is the only possible way for most people with children at home, those who are disabled or ill, people who are caregivers of spouses or adult disabled children, and those recovering from surgery or illness to participate in their local governmental meetings. Why chose to deny these people the ability to be active participants in their local government? What is driving this decision?

Most everything in life comes with an associated risk and we, as adults, can opt to accept the risk or not. Why not leave it to each of your constituents to choose to attend and participate remotely and risk the momentary indignity of being Zoom bombed? I was Zoom bombed at the Library Commission and yes, it was disgusting but there was no threat involved and we went on about our business. We wouldn't think of abandoning all the technology that makes our ability to communicate easier just because it can be hacked. The slight risk of being subjected to Zoom bombing doesn't seem to merit denying the residents of Los Altos the opportunity to publicly comment remotely on the business of our city at Council and Commission meetings.

I see you plan to reconsider this decision next May. Thank you for recognizing that this decision should be reconsidered.

Thank you for all your work as Council Members.

Sincerely,

Freddie Wheeler

**From:** [carol little](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Report on closed session: Zoom cancellation  
**Date:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 10:46:49 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing this email as a resident of Los Altos, not as a PARC commissioner.

I'd like to register my concern about the elimination of the option of using Zoom as way of speaking during City Council meetings.

I am aware of the Zoom bombing of meetings. I am certain they are concerning and extremely disturbing for those experiencing the actions of those doing the Zoom bombings.

I'd like to request that you reconsider your decision, at least until if and when there is an actual attack on our City meetings. Why react to something that has not happened during our meetings. By making such a change, you will be rewarding those trying reduce public input. In other words, they win and we lose.

By canceling Zoom speaking access to meetings, a barrier has been reintroduced residents. Zoom has been a silver lining during Covid times, and has remained a benefit as we passed through the worst of Covid.

This change creates a huge barrier for folks with disabilities, those sick with Covid (it is still here!) or other contagious illnesses, those with compromised immune systems, those with children at home with no one else to watch them, those caring for family members (or others) in their homes, those out of town, in addition to many others.

In this day and age, it seems crucial to allow as many avenues as possible to remain open to participation in political dialogue.

Again, I respectfully request you reconsider allowing Zoom speaking participation in meetings.

Respectfully yours,  
Teresa Morris

**From:** [Pat Marriot](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION: ZOOM BOMBING NOV 14, 2023  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:50:36 AM

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Council Members:

In my prior public comment, I urged you to let residents send a 3-minute statement prior to the meeting and let the city clerk read these statements at the appropriate point in the agenda.

I found an article that says Redwood City is taking that approach: “Redwood City ... will take comments in person during meetings or by email. ... If the email comment is sent by 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting, pertains to an agenda item or is a general remark on matters under the city's jurisdiction, it will be read out loud.

<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/print/story/2023/10/06/zoom-bombing-trolls-attack-city-meetings>

I hope you will consider doing the same.

Thanks,

Pat Marriott