

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Jim Wing <jameswing@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2025 3:38 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** [External Sender]Council 01/28/2025 Meeting Agenda Item 04 420 S. San Antonio

Los Altos Mayor Dailey and Distinguished Council Members,

Council 1/28/2025 Meeting Agenda Item 04 Residential Development 420 S. San Antonio

**I recommend you amend your approval motion to request staff to install “one-way” signage in alley from Lyell to San Antonio to make it safe for cars and delivery trucks. This alley already has a congestion problem with daily car and truck volume for Los Altos Hardware. Addition of cars from 420 S. San Antonio residential [20 units] parking to alley will make congestion unsafe. Drivers exiting resident parking need guidance on which way to turn into alley, San Antonio or Lyell. The current natural one-way traffic flow is entering from Lyell and exit San Antonio.**

California Vehicle Code defines alley, Lyell to San Antonio as “one-way”. Definition of “two- way” alley is both travel lanes each 10 feet wide with no vertical obstructions in “3 feet zone” on outer edge of each travel lane. Lyell to San Antonio alley has obstructions in “3 feet zones”. Both travel lanes “3 feet zones” have 4 feet tall, 5 inches diameter steel poles that protect fire emergency large diameter water line for Los Altos Hardware side and gas meter for old bank building side. Old bank building travel lane “3 feet zone” also has a “end of line PG&E power pole” that developer will not be removing. PG&E, AT&T, and Comcast have their lines underground across Lyell to “end of line power pole”. Alley has 17 feet wide travel lane as it makes 65 degrees left turn to San Antonio. A wall and fence are both in “3 feet zones” and they restrict drivers’ visibility of oncoming cars. **One-way Signage for Lyell to San Antonio alley is best way make it safe.** All of Los Altos Downtown high-volume alleys are one-way.

Los Altos Hardware is an established retail business that uses alley that we residents want you to keep! Customers [20 to 30 cars per day, stopping for 5 /10 minutes] use alley for heavy item pick-up. Small package delivery trucks also use alley for package drop-off. Two early morning [7:00 AM] days a week, Semi-trailer truck “backs into ally” for 30 to 60 minutes for major delivery. Any change to this will impact their business.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jim Wing Milverton Road, Los Altos

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2025 3:47 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #7 JANUARY 28, 2024

Council Members,

The staff report on the PARC commission is pretty damning. Will the current commissioners have a chance to respond when this item is discussed? I think it would be only fair to hear from them.

Prior to the commissions being merged, I regularly attended Arts Commission meetings. I thought they were doing good work. I did note one problem for them (and perhaps for any commission) is that commissioners themselves can't implement some of the things they want to do.

For example, I pressed for years to have the Walter Singer bust come out of storage and be put on display again.

The History Museum claimed not to have a place for it. It was apparently rejected as art for the new community center. Finally, in the summer of 2019, the commission got the OK to put it near the Chamber of Commerce in Lincoln Park. However, the pedestal and descriptive plaque were lost and needed to be replaced.

Two years later, per my emails with staff, no order had yet been placed for a new pedestal.

It wasn't until June 2023 that the bust was finally installed.

I mention this because it was a project I followed closely and it indicates the limitations of commissions and the need for staff support to complete some projects. This can be a major hurdle if staff has other priorities.

By comparison, Arts Los Altos, as an independent organization, can do pretty much whatever it wants whenever and wherever it wants as long as it has the approval of the business/property owner.

I would also like to comment on one specific item in the staff report:

"In February the PARC Commission was presented with a request to partner with the Muslims Around Los Altos (MALA) group in their Iftar event. Funding was also requested. The Commission voted to deny the request for partnership and funding 4-1."

I followed that closely and have the meeting transcript. The commission correctly determined it would be inappropriate -- per city rules -- to support a religious event. Although the city decided to waive the room fee for the Iftar dinner as long as there was no prayer at the dinner, there was a call to prayer (which is itself a prayer) and the Imam asked young people in the room if they could name the five principles of Islam.

I think the commissioners made the right decision. I would also have agreed had they declined to support an Easter brunch or a Passover Seder or any other religious event.

I urge you to give the current commissioners an opportunity to comment on the issues raised in the staff report before making any decisions.

Thank you,  
Pat Marriott

**Melissa Thurman**

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**From:** Brian Jones <brian.b.jones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2025 10:42 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City Council  
**Subject:** Item 7 of the January 28, 2025 City Council Meeting  
**Attachments:** ALPR Assessment for City Council.pdf

Esteemed Council,

Please find attached the position of Los Altos for Racial Equity on Item 7 of the January 28, 2025 Council Meeting Agenda: Update on Automated License Plate Reader Pilot Program.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!

-Brian Jones, for Los Altos for Racial Equity

Esteemed City Council,

Item 7 of the January 28, 2025 City Council Meeting addresses the report of the Los Altos Police Department (LAPD) on the performance of the one-year study period for Automated License Plate Readers used in the City.

As a result of that report, the LAPD recommends continuing the program, with three changes: a change in audit frequency, a change in case documentation, and a relaxation of the data-sharing rules with other agencies.

Los Altos for Racial Equity, in agreement with civil rights groups across the country, continues to have serious concerns about the ALPR program. As we will discuss below, we do not believe that the benefits outweigh the costs, both monetary and in civil rights. However, in particular, we would like to comment on the three change requests made by the LAPD:

1. "Allow the Police Department to change its policy from annual external audits to quarterly internal audits, as prescribed in the policy."

We SUPPORT this change, with some modifications. LAPD points out that certain laws constrain the external auditors from auditing the things that matter most: that is, whether ALPR data has been used in unlawful or inappropriate ways.

To the extent that it is truly impossible to allow any external auditor to evaluate the use of ALPR data, we agree that an annual external audit is not serving any purpose. However, there are media reports of police audits all the time<sup>1</sup>, Palo Alto has been running third-party audits since 2006<sup>2</sup>, and the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance offers guidance on how local police departments can conduct audits<sup>3</sup>. We are not expert in the rules around how meaningful audits can be done, so we do not offer specific suggestions. Given the degree of support apparently available, it seems surprising that a meaningful audit is lawfully precluded. If that is the case—that state law somehow prevents transparency into police activities—that is especially concerning in this day and age.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.phila.gov/2024-07-17-building-trust-through-transparency-cpocs-first-audit-of-philadelphia-police-misconduct-complaints/>, <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/vancouver-reaffirms-its-commitment-to-tracking-procedures-along-with-the-release-of-state-audit/>, for example

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Police/Accountability/Independent-Police-Auditor>

<sup>3</sup>[https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/pcrcl\\_audit\\_guidance\\_for\\_the\\_sl\\_t\\_intelligence\\_component.pdf](https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/pcrcl_audit_guidance_for_the_sl_t_intelligence_component.pdf)

2. "Allow the Police Department to change the policy with regards to the search parameters from "case/incident number and reason" to "case/incident or reason."

We CONDITIONALLY SUPPORT this change, with a clarifying question: would this allow a search to be done without any connection to an open case? If only a reason is supplied, what are the guidelines around what constitutes a sufficient reason? We would prefer this clause were modified to "case/incident number, with an optional reason" to ensure that the data is being used only for official cases.

3. "Remove the data-sharing agreement for California Law Enforcement agencies and only apply to agencies outside California."

We OPPOSE this change, in both clauses. Removing the data-sharing agreement for California Law Enforcement agencies means that those agencies would not need to agree to abide by our data-handling policies. This produces the absurd situation where another police department could request our data, then hold it for longer than our own department is allowed, by policy, to keep it. Without a data-sharing agreement, we have no control over how other departments use the data collected on our residents.

In addition, we OPPOSE the sharing of data with any agency outside of California, state or federal. While case law is still in flux, the settlement of *Lagleva v. Doyle*<sup>4</sup> shows there are compelling legal arguments that SB34 prohibits all sharing of ALPR data outside the state. This kind of sharing is unlikely to provide any benefits to the citizens of Los Altos; any assumed benefits accrue to law enforcement agencies in other states. Without a compelling benefit, and considering the legal questions around the practice, we feel it is unwise to share ALPR data outside the state of California.

## ALPR Efficacy

Beyond these specific recommendations, we question the conclusion of efficacy that LAPD makes regarding ALPRs. The Council initiated this one-year pilot program to evaluate a simple question: Do ALPRs provide sufficient improvement to crime prevention, successful closure, and property recovery to be worth the cost in money and loss of privacy? Looking at the same results that LAPD looks at, we come to a different conclusion.

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<sup>4</sup>[https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21166335-lagleva\\_v\\_doyle\\_20211014\\_verified\\_petition\\_and\\_complaint/](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21166335-lagleva_v_doyle_20211014_verified_petition_and_complaint/)

The costs of the ALPR program are not insubstantial. Budgets are not limitless; money spent on ALPRs is money that cannot be spent on other police initiatives, or on other community goods, or even returned to the people.

Including the installation and operation costs, the Flock system cost approximately \$60,000 this year, with ongoing costs of at least \$45,000. Flock has already raised its prices since we initially began the process; as a profit-based company, it is reasonable to expect additional increases in the future. Apparently LAPD has spent a reasonably large number of hours using the system; there is no estimate made of the amount of time spent.

Of course, if time spent with ALPR data saves time elsewhere, that can be a net win. In that case, we expect to see either increased performance of the department, or reduced staffing needs with similar performance.

Also relevant to the cost side of the equation is the impact on civil liberties. LAPD claims that 13 million license plates were scanned. If even half of those represent Los Altos residents, that means each of us was scanned around 200 times this year, going about our business in Los Altos. If that information were to get into the hands of a person or agency without regard for rule of law, it could be very dangerous.

In fact, there is evidence that Flock's business plan depends on this centralized, integrated surveillance database.<sup>5</sup> All of our data is stored in Flock's servers, meaning that there is only a thin policy document protecting our civil right to privacy from heavy-handed government interference at the state or federal level.

Against these costs, what benefits are reported? We first note that LAPD data shows burglaries increasing, not decreasing. There is thus no evidence for a deterrent effect on property crime. It has also been posited that "arresting the crooks" would lead to lower burglary rates. While many of the ALPRs were not installed until September, the system began operating in March. One would think we would have started to see a decrease in burglaries, however modest.

The report states that 5 vehicles were recovered, with a value of \$78,000. There is no report of how long those vehicles had been stolen. In most cases, insurance pays out for a stolen vehicle in a timely fashion. How many of those 5 vehicles were returned to insurance companies? In those cases, the victim gets no satisfaction. The harm is done, they have been paid out their money, and they've already had to move on with their lives. In those

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<sup>5</sup> ["Fast-Growing Company Flock is Building a New AI-Driven Mass-Surveillance System,"](#) Jay Stanley, 2022.

cases, we are essentially subsidizing insurance companies. In any case, the monetary return is likely roughly equal to the cost of the Flock system plus the officer time spent operating it.

The increase in arrests from 4 to 7 is not statistically significant. With these small sample sizes, a change of 3 arrests is well within natural fluctuation. No conclusions can be scientifically drawn without more data.

LAPD also offers anecdotal evidence about how much ALPRs make their job easier. We have no doubt that that is true. But the guardrails we put on the government to protect our civil rights and our privacy are not designed to make officers' jobs easier. They are designed to protect civil rights. There are plenty of authoritarian measures that would make LAPD's job significantly easier, and we rightly reject those as a condition of our free democracy.

In conclusion, the costs of the ALPR pilot program are high, in both dollars and privacy incursion. The benefits are difficult to identify, but clearly not dramatic, and it's not clear that they really benefit the residents of Los Altos. We recommend termination of the program.

Respectfully,

Brian Jones, for Los Altos for Racial Equity



## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2025 8:51 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM 8 JANUARY 28, 2025 COMMENT 1

Council Members,

As you plan your 2025 retreat, I would like to offer some observations based on watching the video of the 2024 retreat.

### GOALS ≠ PRIORITIES

At that January 9 meeting, this was one of the slides presented:



Then-Mayor Weinberg said, "Section 8.8 of our norms and procedures provides that the council will have an annual retreat to set its priorities for the coming year, so I look to my colleagues and say welcome to the retreat. There's three things that that I hope we'll be able to accomplish tonight. First and foremost, we need to review and if necessary revise our priorities for the year..."

He was accurately stating the purpose of the retreat: to determine the most important issues on which you and Staff will focus.

However, throughout that meeting, the terms "priorities" and "goals" were used interchangeably. That probably reflects changes in recent years where "priorities" became "objectives," "goals," "goal areas" and are now shown on the city website as "City Council Strategic Goals."

Those terms are not synonymous.

#### **Priority:**

- *A thing that is regarded as more important than another.*
- *Something given or meriting attention before competing alternatives*

#### **Goal:**

- *The object of a person's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result*
- *The end toward which effort is directed*

While each priority should have associated goals, a goal – strategic or otherwise – does not indicate order of importance.

Then-Vice Mayor Dailey reflected similar concerns: *"I think we have a conundrum here that I've encountered in the corporate world when I've gone in to consult with boards and ... management teams and we do this corporate sensing and we come up with a new mission, vision, values, goals, objectives ..."*

Like Mayor Dailey, I've been involved in corporate exercises setting mission statements (based on vision and values), priorities, goals and objectives

Priorities determine where you put city resources (budget dollars, Council time/policies, staff time). Under each priority, specific goals and objectives indicate how you will achieve success, e.g.,

Priority: Public Safety

- Goal: Improve safe routes to school.
  - Objective: Take responsibility for crossing guards by (date).
- Goal: Improve traffic circulation throughout the city.
  - Objective: At Location X, install new signage by (date).
- Goal: Ensure neighborhood safety.
  - Objective: Hire more police officers to patrol neighborhoods to thwart home burglaries by (date).

## **TRACKING PROGRESS**

The goals and objectives relating to each priority should be scheduled and tracked. A management principle I first heard from Tom Peters is "What gets measured gets done."

Then-Mayor Prochnow, at the 2017 retreat, said the community center project (a priority since 2015) should be discussed at every council meeting to track it. That never happened. At the same meeting Councilwoman Satterlee said, "Can we please just trim the tree and not get all the little dead wood pet projects? ... We have a lot of gunk in the system. Look in the mirror. Why did we fail?"

There's still "a lot of gunk in the system." Still a lot of "little dead wood pet projects" that take away from the priorities. How many years did it take to open the first dog park? How long until the second one opens? How many years have the Grant Park seniors been waiting for A/C and hot water? When will the Loyola Corners police facility open? When will you have a workable plan for a new public safety building?

Every retreat should start with a post-mortem, which is not a blame game. It's a learning opportunity: Where did we succeed? Why? Where did we fail? Why? Were the goals too optimistic? Are we understaffed? How can we do better this year?

At the Palo Alto annual retreat, Council reviewed data from the past year: "Overall, the city completed 72% of its 78 objectives from last year and is on track to complete another 6%. It has fallen behind schedule on 21%, according to a recently released update from City Manager Ed Shikada." <https://www.paloaltoonline.com/city-government/2025/01/23/housing-retail-loom-large-as-palo-alto-prepares-to-pick-priorities/>

Seems like a good way to start a meeting.

Thanks for listening.

Respectfully,

Pat Marriott

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 10:46 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM 8 JANUARY 28, 2025 COMMENT 2

Council Members,

Regarding the Strategic Goals on the city website:

<https://www.losaltosca.gov/citycouncil/page/city-council-strategic-goals>

### City Council Strategic Goals

*The City Council Strategic Goals highlight those areas identified by the Council for emphasis and focus. The City Council will accomplish these goals by engaging the community and making decisions which are equitable, sustainable and fiscally prudent. The City Council will ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to maintain Los Altos as a great place to live and work, including providing a work culture and environment that supports recruitment and retention of exceptional employees to provide City services and maintenance and improvement of the City's assets.*

This umbrella paragraph is overly wordy, repetitive and inconsistent with your mission statement, which says: *The City's mission is to be a sustainable, vibrant, and inclusive community in which to live, work, visit, and play.*

The paragraph only mentions "live and work," with details (goals/objectives) about work that don't belong in it.

It's also an example of overpromise/underdeliver. I don't think the city does enough to engage "the community" (have you surveyed us about priorities?), nor are all decisions fiscally prudent, nor are the city's assets well-maintained.

You've committed to several important priorities in that paragraph without specifically calling them out, e.g.,

- Fiscal Responsibility (which is required by law to be one of your priorities)
- Community engagement
- Positive working environment
- Maintaining and improving city assets

Unlike the named priorities below, you've provided no goals nor given any indication of how you'll accomplish them.

Suggestion for the umbrella paragraph: *Council priorities identify areas where city resources (finances, Council time/policies, staff time) will be focused. Council will endeavor to set equitable, sustainable and fiscally prudent policies guided by stakeholder engagement.*

The five **priorities** named below are:

- Business Communities
- Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure
- Environmental Sustainability

- Housing

Paragraphs following each priority appear to be the **goals**. Some are not entirely clear, e.g., the term “community” is used inconsistently throughout.

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### ***Business Communities***

*The city of Los Altos will support the different business communities, including implementing specific projects and/or elements of the Housing Element and Downtown Vision Plan, and launching initiatives to bolster the business communities.*

“The different” business communities? Should either be “the business community” or “all the city’s business districts.”

Suggestion: *The city of Los Altos will support the business community by implementing relevant components of the Housing Element and Downtown Vision Plan and other business-focused initiatives.*

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### ***Circulation Safety and Efficiency***

*The city of Los Altos will continue implementing the City’s policies as expressed in the Complete Streets Master Plan and other plans which support improving circulation safety and efficiencies, with an emphasis on improving Safe Routes to Schools.*

What does “circulation safety” mean? I think of traffic circulation, but not pedestrian circulation. What does “efficiency” mean? That I can reach my destination in a reasonable time?

Isn’t this all part of “Public Safety”?

Suggestion: *The city of Los Altos will continue implementing the Complete Streets Master Plan and other projects that support safe streets and operational efficiency for pedestrians and all modes of transportation, with an emphasis on Safe Routes to Schools.*

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### ***Environmental Sustainability***

*The city of Los Altos will be a leader in environmental sustainability through education, incentives and adaptation initiatives, and practices identified in the City’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.*

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### ***Housing***

*The city of Los Altos will implement the Housing Element, programs, and policies to facilitate, incentivize and administer the availability of housing that is safe, diverse and affordable for all income levels to meet the needs of the Community and seek to increase and protect its green space.*

Are those “programs and policies” part of the Housing Element or in addition to it? (The comma after “Element” makes a big difference.) Does “community” refer to the entire city in this context? Either way, it doesn’t seem necessary.

Suggestion: *The city of Los Altos will implement the Housing Element and other programs to facilitate, incentivize and administer the availability of housing that is safe, diverse and affordable for all income levels, while seeking to increase and protect green space.*

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### **Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure**

*The city of Los Altos will conduct a public safety facilities condition assessment on the condition of the police station and the two firehouses and based on the public safety needs of the community develop a plan to replace, repair and/or rehabilitate the City's public safety infrastructure.*

Priority should be titled "Public Safety Infrastructure."

"Neighborhood safety" is narrow. I associate that with protecting my home from burglaries.

The priority specifies "neighborhood," but goal says "community."

A condition assessment is an objective (and I think that's been done).

Repair, replacement or rebuild of each facility should be individual objectives.

Suggestion: *The city of Los Altos will ensure that public safety facilities and services are sufficient to protect the entire city.*

Thanks for listening

Respectfully,

Pat Marriott



Jan 28, 2025

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

**Re: Proposed Housing Development Project at 420 S San Antonio Road**

**By email:** [council@losaltosca.gov](mailto:council@losaltosca.gov); [pdailey@losaltosca.gov](mailto:pdailey@losaltosca.gov); [nfligor@losaltosca.gov](mailto:nfligor@losaltosca.gov);  
[llang@losaltosca.gov](mailto:llang@losaltosca.gov); [smeadows@losaltosca.gov](mailto:smeadows@losaltosca.gov); [jweinberg@losaltosca.gov](mailto:jweinberg@losaltosca.gov)

**Cc:** [administration@losaltosca.gov](mailto:administration@losaltosca.gov); [planning@losaltosca.gov](mailto:planning@losaltosca.gov);  
[jolie.houston@berliner.com](mailto:jolie.houston@berliner.com)

Dear Los Altos City Council,

The California Housing Defense Fund (“CalHDF”) submits this letter to remind the Council of its obligation to abide by all relevant state laws when evaluating the proposed 20-unit housing development project at 420 S San Antonio Road, which includes three affordable units. These laws include the Housing Accountability Act (“HAA”), the Density Bonus Law (“DBL”), and California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guidelines.

The HAA provides the project legal protections. It requires approval of zoning and general plan compliant housing development projects unless findings can be made regarding specific, objective, written health and safety hazards. (Gov. Code, § 65589.5, subd. (j).) The HAA also bars cities from imposing conditions on the approval of such projects that would render the project infeasible unless, again, such written findings are made. (*Ibid.*) As a development with at least two-thirds of its area devoted to residential uses, the project falls within the HAA’s ambit, and it complies with local zoning code and the City’s general plan. Increased density, concessions, and waivers that a project is entitled to under the DBL (Gov. Code, § 65915) do not render the project noncompliant with the zoning code or general plan, for purposes of the HAA. (Gov. Code, § 65589.5, subd. (j)(3).) The City must therefore approve the project unless it makes written findings regarding health and safety as mentioned above – which it cannot do since the preponderance of the evidence in the record does not support such findings. (*Id.* at subd. (j).)

The DBL offers the proposed development certain protections. (See Gov. Code, § 65915.) The City must respect these protections. In addition to granting the increase in residential units

**2221 Broadway, PH1, Oakland, CA 94612**  
**[www.calhdf.org](http://www.calhdf.org)**

allowed by the DBL, the City must not deny the project the proposed waivers and concessions with respect to rear setback, building height, parking space width, mechanical system clearance height, upper story setbacks, roof design, privacy/line of sight, and cornice projections, unless it makes written findings as required by Government Code section 65915, subdivision (e)(1) that the waivers would have a specific, adverse impact upon health or safety, and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact. Of note, the DBL specifically allows for a reduction in required accessory parking in addition to the allowable waivers and concessions. (*Id.* at subd. (p).) Furthermore, the California Court of Appeal has ruled that when an applicant has requested one or more waivers and/or concessions pursuant to the DBL, the City “may not apply any development standard that would physically preclude construction of that project as designed, even if the building includes ‘amenities’ beyond the bare minimum of building components.” (*Bankers Hill 150 v. City of San Diego* (2022) 74 Cal.App.5th 755, 775.)

Additionally, the project is exempt from state environmental review under the Class 32 CEQA categorical exemption (In-Fill Development Projects) pursuant to § 15332 of the CEQA Guidelines, as the project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as the applicable zoning designation and regulations; the proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses; the project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species; approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality; and the site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services. And recent caselaw from the California Court of Appeal affirms that local governments err, and may be sued, when they improperly refuse to grant a project a CEQA exemption or streamlined CEQA review to which it is entitled. (*Hilltop Group, Inc. v. County of San Diego* (2024) 99 Cal.App.5th 890, 911.)

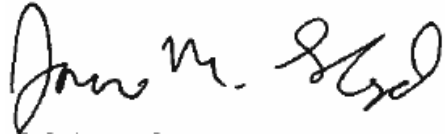
As you are well aware, California remains in the throes of a statewide crisis-level housing shortage. New housing such as this is a public benefit: by providing affordable housing, it will mitigate the state’s homelessness crisis; it will bring new customers to local businesses; it will grow the City’s tax base; and it will reduce displacement of existing residents by reducing competition for existing housing. It will also help cut down on transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by providing housing in denser, more urban areas, as opposed to farther-flung regions in the state (and out of state). While no one project will solve the statewide housing crisis, the proposed development is a step in the right direction. CalHDF urges the Council to approve it, consistent with its obligations under state law.

CalHDF is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation whose mission includes advocating for increased access to housing for Californians at all income levels, including low-income households. You may learn more about CalHDF at [www.calhdf.org](http://www.calhdf.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dylan Casey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dylan Casey  
CalHDF Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James M. Lloyd', with a stylized, cursive script.

James M. Lloyd  
CalHDF Director of Planning and Investigations



## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Eric Muller <eric.muller@efele.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:05 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment - 01/28/2025 City Council Meeting - agenda item 7

Dear Council Members,

This comment is on agenda item #7 of the January 28, 2025, City Council Meeting, "Update on Automated License Plate Reader Pilot Program".

1. There is very scant data about the benefits of the ALPR system. The only tangible data I can see is "LAPD recovered 20 stolen vehicles, with five recoveries due to Flock". There is no indication of how many of the 7 arrests are due to (or with significant contribution from) the ALPR system. There is no indication of how many of the 163 burglaries have been resolved due to (or with significant contribution from) the ALPR system. There is no explanation of how  $20+7+163 = 190$  cases for the whole of 2024 resulted in 1,029 searches in November-December.

In my opinion, the report fails to inform adequately the City Council and the community of the actual benefits of the ALPR system.

2. Re: annual external audits. I presume that nothing prevents the Police Department from performing internal audits beyond those mandated by the policies. So the only problem is "it was difficult to find an agency to complete the external audit", but such an agency has now been identified, and there is no indication that this was a one time favor.

In my opinion, there is no reason to remove the requirement for an annual external audit.

3. Re: case/incident number and reason. From the attachments, it seems that there was no difficulty following the policy, once it was clarified to the users.

In my opinion, there is no reason to modify the policy. (If anything, the more effective solution is to modify the search system to require both items before providing results.)

4. Re: data sharing agreement. The report does not describe any burden that has been caused by the current policy. The report would also be more informative if it included a few more details, such as: are the data sharing agreements established once per request, or once per agency, or once per agency and per year? how many data requests were made? which agencies made requests, or at least how many agencies made requests?

In my opinion, there is no demonstrated reason to weaken the current protections against undesirable uses of the ALPR system. I also hope that the policy is written in such a way that, as much as possible, it continues to be effective even if the California Values Act is somehow weakened or invalidated.

Sincerely,  
Eric Muller  
Los Altos resident,

eric.muller@efele.net

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Monica Waldman <contact.mlw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:10 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item 6 - Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture Commission Fidelity to Work Plan

Los Altos Mayor Dailey and Distinguished Council Members,

I am a former member of the (now defunct) Public Arts Commission and, briefly, the PARC Commission. As a non-Commission serving member of the Los Altos Community, I am concerned to see the PARC Commission's work plan being scrutinized by Council. Council decided to combine two Commissions into one, and I wonder how much mentoring by City Staff and Council liaison(s) has occurred since the combination of Commissions.

The Public Arts Commission received excellent real time advice each meeting from our Staff Liaison Jon Maginot. For a period of several months the Commission was moved under Parks and Recreation. We had a revolving door of Staff liaisons, little or bad advice from them, and roadblocks to getting anything done were thrown at us. Thankfully we were moved back out from under Parks and Recreation, and we were able to make headway at accomplishing items on our work plan.

The Public Arts Commission received invaluable, in real time advice, from several of our Council liaisons who were able to attend our meetings.

If the current PARC Commission has been unable to make headway in their work plan goals, it is a failure on Council and City Staff's part. I recommend assigning a new Council liaison who can spend time with the new Commission Chair to try and turn things around. I also recommend a Staff liaison outside the Park and Recreation department.

Hopefully this agenda item is not Council's way of disbanding this Commission entirely to use Park in-Lieu and Public Art fees for some members of Council Theater pet project.

Monica Waldman  
Los Altos resident



January 27, 2025

Dear Mayor Dailey and Councilmembers,

We are not surprised to learn that the owner of the property at 962 Acacia has had trouble renting their retail space. It is a very small space in a centrally located, but nonetheless hidden area. LAAHA supports the owner's request to allow housing on the first floor of this property.

The requirement that the first floor of properties in the CN district be strictly for uses as stated in the code will be a challenge for smaller properties moving forward. Projects using the state density bonus can waive this requirement, but potential smaller projects which cannot support retail, like the 962 Acacia project, will be deterred by the infeasibility of retail and the need to pursue a lengthy procedure to obtain an exemption. We encourage the council to look closely at the ordinance and decide whether there might be wider opportunities to waive this requirement.

Respectfully,  
Los Altos Affordable Housing Alliance

**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/>

**Melissa Thurman**

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**From:** Jeanine Valadez <j9valadez@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:03 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public COmment Item 7 City Council PARC Fidelity to Work Plan  
**Attachments:** 2024\_02\_13 Joint City Council PARC Work Plan 2023-2024 J9 edits 2025\_01\_28 landsc w  
pg rdctd.pdf

Mayor Dailey and members of the Los Alto City Council.

Please see attached modified PARC Work Plan that represents my public comment to offer a detailed view of my assessment of the PARC's 2024 work as compared to the version included in the meting packet.

Thank You,

JeanineValadez

Chair PARC, 2024

**Parks Arts Recreation & Culture Commission 2024 Work Plan as of 2025\_01\_28** Chair's edits to rightmost 3 columns reflects her input and limited commissioner input (Corrigan, Morris, and one ex- Commissioner, Moore) as of 2024\_01\_27. Green cells = positive achievement/completion, pink cells = not completed, white boxes = either deprioritized/dropped. Green text = partial accomplishment of an objective, even if in a pink cell. Purple text = Chair's clarifying notes, not formally part of Work Plan. Pagination is per Impact Area. "Unforecasted" Deliverables are work activity that was not part of the originally committed work plan. PARC chartered at 7, currently at 6. **Please note detailed Work Plan timeline and person names listed below Work Plan.**

Impact	Objective	Deliverables	Leadership	Status
Community Outreach	Continue increasing community involvement in activity and the arts through programs and events	Continue search for opportunities for community involvement programs. <input type="checkbox"/> Everyone is an artist [the idea here was to to an event where we invited residence to sign up to do an art activity, akin to Morris's/Chair's sleeve painting pop-ups in 2023, or the arts paint-in-the-orchard event in 2022]	None	no action, deprioritized due to lack of headcount
		Partnership Grant Program – Call for Art • Develop process/program	Art Team	Complete
		PR Outreach: Work with City PR support for communications outreach and Commission charter • Brochure [brand new] • Commission program signage [revise obsolete banner]	Moore - Brochure (transferred to Corrigan/Couture upon Moore's resignation) Corrigan - sign (vertical banner)	Brochure dsn complete w/all installed art. Neither brochure nor banner were published, as we waited for staff to install the final 5 pieces of approved art and get updates on sculpture loan expirations -- neither happened in 2024; digital files are with graphic artist vendor; pdf and file archive xfrd to Corrigan
		PARC representation at City and community special events • Farmers Market • Concerts • Family Fun Days	Various commissioners, but Morris did the most work here. Chair next with Farmer's Markest and a Family Fun Day	Done. Individual commissioners volunteered, supporting staff, engaging with public, displaying badges to answer questions. [We never committed to do "tabling." We supported staff tabling, station assignments, activities and milled with the crowds.]

Expand existing public arts "footprint"	Establish Los Altos as a "Destination" for experiencing public art	Walking and bike tour of business district sculptures: Planned tours, flyer, promotion • Create/update sculpture walking tour map and brochure	Moore	Map created for brochure 2023-2024, we waited for staff to install the final 5 pieces of approved art and get updates on sculpture loan expirations -- neither happened in 2024
		Call for public art ( <b>Art Without Walls</b> ) loan and purchase program	Art Team	Submitted Open Heart sculpture - part of a orig project titled "The Confederate Retirement Program;" - CC declined to approve; deprioritized any further calls as we awaited four new installations by staf
		Placing art within a reasonable distance to the public. ( <del>Art Near Me</del> )	N/A	Moot, this is the policy not a deliverable per se for PARC
		<b>Unforecasted:</b> Vortex installation on 3rd	Art Team	In response to an Arts Los Altos endeavor to develop Downtown 3rd street as an art-dense locale ("Art on 3rd"), PARC endorsed the installation of the sculpture Vortex on public property on 3rd street. This action landed in the transition from 2023 to 2024. This sculpture sold in 2024 to a private collector!
		<b>Unforecasted:</b> Arts Los Altos Collaboration in 3 modules	ALL PARC	Arts Los Altos (ALA) got onto the PARC agenda as a late add and sought feedback from PARC to ALA's proposal of a 3-component collaboration with PARC (I can prep a separate report for more detail on the course of this discussion). PARC DECLINED support on 2 of 3 proposals, namely, (a) to create a Joint Brochure displaying LA city seal, PARC logo, ALA branding, and all public art whether on public or private property, BUT only if located in DT LA - PARC wanted all of LA public art to be included in brochure (b) to establish a subcontracting arrangement wherein ALA would conduct the front end of calls for art for public art on PUBLIC property, returning a vetted list of candidates for PARC to review and approve and select winner(s) - PARC was not assured that ALA would follow the Los Altos Public Arts Guidelines and other objections. Chair's support of these failed to convince. PARC returned SUPPORTIVE COMMENT on 1 of 3 proposals, namely to collaborate on the "Art on 3rd" concept, including expanding scope to include LAVA. [Please note: ALA's "Art on 3rd" has evolved in scope to join the LAVA coalition to brand DT LA as an arts destination called "ArtBeat Los Altos" @artbeatlosaltos. Chair joined the LAVA-managed Coalition in April 2024 as a member of the public (helped derived the brand). Chair has recently suggested to new Chair Corrigan that 2025 may hold more opportunity for collaboration by PARC in this endeavor.]

<b>Art Conservation and Stewardship</b>	Ensure a positive end-to-end experience with our city's art installations including interaction with artists, staff and community	Work with staff to enter website updated with new sculpture information.	Art Team	Ready to provide artifacts to staff to upload 6 installed pieces and 4 new installations to web site once staff has installed new. For other current installations successfully uploaded to city website, Click on Public Art at: <a href="https://www.losaltosca.gov/community/page/things-do-losaltos">https://www.losaltosca.gov/community/page/things-do-losaltos</a>
		Work with staff to manage and monitor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Current values of city-owned sculptures</li> <li>◆ Placement of sculptures</li> <li>◆ Loan sculptures insurance and extensions</li> <li>◆ Best practices of other cities regarding loan program</li> <li>◆ Proof of insurance through the life of the art loan (check with staff on this)</li> </ul>	Corrigan	1) deprioritized 2) complete 3) updated, 4) no work in 2024; benchmark from 2021 exists with Corrigan, 5) deprioritized (action by staff)
		Explore restoration possibilities for various City-owned artworks	Art Team	Complete: 2 large sculptures were restored
		Catalog all art in public spaces (City and private)	Corrigan	Public Art on Public Property only. 40+ commissioner hrs to complete, huge multi-sheet workbook sent to staff on 1/13/2025, ready for presentation at 1st 2025 PARC mtg for final review; preview of this data base at this share drive (not for public viewing yet): [LINK REDACTED for Public Comment]



<p><b>Mange [sic] Los Altos Community Center and other public facility art programs</b></p>	<p>Implement ongoing visual art exhibits that enhance community spaces</p>	<p>Community Center art gallery: Complete two calls for art each year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Call for Art</li> <li>• Fall Call for Art</li> </ul>	<p>All PARC, with Couture leading installation of chosen art</p>	<p>Themes derived, art selected, and both installations complete and quite awesome. Plentiful submissions from both profession and amateur resident artists reflect tremendous community response and participation.</p>
		<p>Art for the Council Chamber entry steps: Scope project and seek community input</p>	<p>ALL PARC</p>	<p>Decided to make this an all-PARC exercise and not set an adhoc committee in order to provide education to commissioners from Parks side on a large-scale public call for art process. Artist chosen amongst many applicants, several scoping meetings with artist, Chair created digital motif vision board to direct artist away from his hyper-colorful, whimsical motifs to organic, muted, native flora (thus no apricots) and fauna manifested in Japonesque and Craftsman motifs for the building's steps and board-and-batten architecture integrated within the local ecosystem. Asked artist to break up renderings several into segments so we could prioritize which elements of the chambers frontage and hardscape could be decorated and compare options to cost. Art media would be cor ten (weatherproof rusted metal with some cutouts) and low-relief ceramic tile/mosaic (high-fire weatherproof). Amongst all options considered, PARC prioritized a small subset of those options and at November was ready to prepare presentation to send to Council for consideration and direction. Presentation planned to be complete by first meeting of 2025. Vision Board previewable at <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/IHKdAVK-1JNQooD_T4amkeXiszJkgDIIW?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/IHKdAVK-1JNQooD_T4amkeXiszJkgDIIW?usp=sharing</a> [Ed. note: there was an unfortunate article in the LATC at end of 2024 that overstated and misstated the extent of and style of decoration the PARC had preferred. Director was quoted in that article, no input sought from PARC.]</p>

Increase park and facility use.	Engagement events	Work with staff on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art related event(s)</li> <li>• Recreation related event(s)</li> <li>• Gather feedback on events</li> </ul>	Various commissioners, but Morris did the most work here.	See Community Outreach above for participation. Feedback attained by commissioners was experiential, not statistical (no quantitative surveys) through the volunteering, later brought back to PARC as informational commentary.
	Assess use of current dog parks	Compile report with observations that were done by commissioners [clarification: the dog parks to be assessed were the two fenced-in pilot parks, one at the east end of the Hillview soccer field and the other at MacKenzie Park adjacent to tennis courts]	Morris (Mostly MacKenzie) and Chair (Mostly Hillview)	In partnership with Director, created observation inventory form to be used in a random sampled manner throughout the year, spanning the four seasons of 2024. Substantial data collected by commissioners, report to be ready in early 2025.
	DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion)	Apply DEI principles to everything we do		This is the policy

Increase participation in recreation programs	Multi-cultural	<p>Work with staff and partners to plan new cultural events</p> <p>[**Example of a systemic sticking point for any cultural events that included art: we were hindered by the Public Arts Commission's Los Altos Public Arts Guidelines limiting collabs to only once per 36 months. We asked Director to go to council to get guidance as to whether or not policies that were pre-existing in each individual commission should be assumed to be grandfathered into the newly conjoined commission. Commissioners were split on the interpretation of the Guidelines. We never got that Council direction back to us, so this remains an open issue for 2025.]</p>		<p>This was a new charter for us. Atop the challenges of combining commissions and the imbalance in the foci of experience in the conjoined heacount, plus unfilled positions limiting our available bandwidth, it was unreasonable of us to have considered taking on this new charter so literally in 2024. Instead, we should have spent 2024 deriving the policy and process by which the PARC would ideate, seek, and entertain petitions for public multicultural events. We then should have rolled those drafts up to Council to confirm if our tenets were in the direction of their vision. After that task was complete, we would take Action to approve the guidelines, publish to the community, and only after that, should we have started to entertain significant collaborations in the Cultural charter. With more time, Chair can generate a report that summarizes the discussion and outcomes of the 2 PETITIONS WE RECEIVED AND DECLINED THIS YEAR, namely, (1) Ramadan Iftar with MALA - declined because MALA insisted on strongly religious components to the event; we did encourage MALA to hold the Iftar and related activities as a private community event and to come back in the future to work with PARC with more leadtime on secularization and other aspects, and (2) LAHM Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgment, Art, and New Landscape Installation in pocket openspace on Museum-managed city land adjacent to the J. Gilbert Smith House - difficult discussion, mixed comments, questions about jurisdictions, majority had concerns about the land ack. Ultimately after straw vote, only Chair supported LAHM collab in whole. **see comment at left</p>
	Performance	Be responsive to staff as they select performance activities	All PARC	<p>We responded to any requests staff had of us in response to the many informational items they brought forward. We were not invited to help in the planning of any of those activities/events, with the exception of selecting the Halloween movie. Therefore our contribution was limited to either supportive volunteering at the events or bringing back commissioner informational updates to the PARC at the end of each agenda.</p>
	Scholarship Program	Work with staff to explore a scholarship program	None assigned	Deprioritized
	Sponsorship	Work with staff to recommend a sponsorship program for summer concerts and events	Cyndie	Commissioner resigned, task not reassigned.

<b>Public Process</b>	Be conduit for public input and city transparency	Park improvement projects and public art purchases	All PARC	<p>CONDUIT FOR PUBLIC INPUT on IMPROVEMENTS: There were several instances where members of the public engaged with us or made requests of us and the city through PUBLIC COMMENT on a variety of topics, including (1) repeated requests to fix a couple dangerous aspects within Redwood Grove (we were amenable to the need but Director took items back to staff); (2) a member of Arts Los Altos (ALA) sought collaboration with us on a unified map of all art in downtown (this is not the actual late-add agenda item of 3/19 where ALA leaders came to formally seek collaboration (see above); (3) a young resident sought our input on her community garden design where we encouraged the petitioner to continue not with a grow-food mission but instead with a contemplation-enabling theme and we welcomed the petitioner to let us know at what point they wished us to make this an agenda item; (4) A resident submitted a list of signatures requesting that the permanent Hilview Dog Park be relocated elsewhere or reenvisioned as a shared offleash in unfenced public parks - we encouraged the commenter to refer to all the workshop findings conducted earlier, including staff-derived parking solutions; on ART PURCHASES: PARC endorsed and staff is in the process of purchasing the Midnight Stomp series of sculptures, which is a favorite amongst visitors and residents alike.</p>
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	Approach parks planning in a holistic way	Update the City's Parks Plan		Dropped at direction of Council in Feb 2024 meeting

**Notes on Work Plan development timeline:**

11/21/2023: PARC BRAINSTORMED content for a 2024 work plan; the output was an unranked list of things to consider in the future 1/16/2024 meeting when the first draft of this Work Plan would be generated.

1/16/2024: PARC meeting generated the content of the first draft Work Plan spreadsheet. That draft's leftmost 3 columns looked substantially different from what's above.

1/18/2024: Chair sent an email to Director asking that he send me a copy of his write up of this 1/16/24 spreadsheet so I could review it for errors. I received a copy of this revision 1/30/2024

1/31/2024: Chair submitted 7 edits to the 1/16/2024 draft Work Plan to Director, including one typo.

2/5/2024: Chair rcvd from Director a new draft (still dated 1/16/2024, however) reflecting his acceptance of 4 edits, 1 partial, 2 no, including leaving the typo.

2/13/2024: The above "1/16/2024" but really 2/5/2024 Version of the Work Plan was submitted to the Clerk and included in the joint PARC-Council meeting packet of 2/13/2024

2/13/2024: PARC prepared to present 3 slide decks: Morris 2023 PARC achievements, Corrigan 2023 Arts achievements, Chair 2024 Work Plan as edited by Director on 2/5/2024 but still dated 1/16/2024

2/13/2024: The only significant feedback PARC receives for their Work Plan proposal is to drop the Strategic Initiative, and CM Sally says we have too much in our plan. Our assumption is our plan has been approved with no further comment or additional direction given. Specifically, no input is given as to any priority Council places on one activity or another.

2/20/2024: PARC finally received minutes and videos of the Nov 2023 and Jan 2024 meetings. It was unfortunate these were received after the Council Joint Meeting held on 2/13.

1/21/2025: Originally slated as the first PARC meeting of 2025 wherein PARC would sum up all work from 2024 and draft that into the Work Plan sheet, incl associated slides, etc. Mtg canx for lack of quorum

1/22/2025: email received from Richardson fwdg email from Director informing PARC that Council had asked Director to prepare a report of PARC's 2024 accomplishments with the report to be posted 1/23

1/27/2025: email received from Director with link to final packet for CC mtg 1/28/2025; at no point has PARC or Chair been asked to weigh in on PARC's accomplishments.

1/27/2025: Chair's review of the posted Work Plan summary reveals errors, misstatements, and incorrect assumptions about priorities of the work of the PARC.

1/27/2025: Chair, upon reading of the posted Staff Report, learns for the first time that its title is implicative of CM Dailey's citation of "Fidelity to the PARC's Work Plan" in a prior CC mtg she missed.

1/27/2025: Chair has been out for pneumonia since before Christmas and is still sick at the time of this writing. Chair does not know the other factors that caused quorum failure for 1/25/2025.

1/27/2025: Chair, with limited input from 2 commissioners, and one ex-commissioner, compiles this report to reflect a more factual compilation of the work of the PARC and its commissioners. There may in fact be some achievement missed for lack of having time (and energy) to reach out to other commissioners.

1/27/2025: In the past few days, Chair asked PARC liaison Sally Meadows what the process would be for PARC's involvement in the 1/28 CC mtg. The advice was that individual members' contribution via Public Comment on the agenda item was the only option obvious to her.

1/27/2025: Chair objects to the lack of clarity and lack of due process afforded the PARC to summarize its work product.

**RELEVANT NAMES shortcuts:**

Jeanine Valadez 2024 Chair = Chair

Janet Corrigan 2024 V. Chair (2025 Chair) = Corrigan

Teri Couture Commissioner = Couture

Teresa Morris Commissioner = Morris

Yong Yeh Commissioner = Yeh

David Young Commissioner = Young

Parc and Rec Director Manny Hernandez = Dir

Staff Admin Casey Richardson = Richardson