

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Wendy Wood](#)
Cc: [Arn Andrews](#); [Rick Van Hoesen](#); [Phil Koen](#); [Kyle Park](#); [Town Manager](#); [Ron Dickel](#); [Stacey Dell](#); [Rick Tinsley](#); [Gabrielle Whelan](#)
Subject: Finance Commission Meeting 11/14/22 Item 3
Date: Monday, November 14, 2022 10:57:21 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

I noticed that the Commission is looking at potential reduction in costs to cover the budgeted losses and have a couple of things to add to the list.

1. The Town has thus far spent \$1.1M dollars for a study on the Blossom Hill Ped/Bike Bridge. As a biker, and having grandkids who bike, I think it is a terrific idea. But the reality is that it has to fit within the budget and this project is so far beyond our financial capabilities that we need to postpone it for 5-10 years. If we have to pay for 10-20% of the project that has gone up significantly (15%?) in estimated price recently, we simply do not have the money anywhere within the next 5, and I would estimate 10 years is the more realistic number.
2. I agree 100% with all points of Mr. Koen's letters. One of our money problems has stemmed from salary and benefit costs. We need to commission a study to see how we compare to other cities like Saratoga and Los Altos. Les White, the former interim Town Manager and I met to discuss the Police Cost study that he did. While I don't agree with some of it, he did say that wage costs for the Sheriff and for our Town were about equal. He went on to say that one reason we are \$5-\$7M more annually is that LG requires a higher level of service. If that is the case, then LG should analyze the service levels to see what reductions could be made there to bring us more into alignment with Saratoga.
3. I also agree with Mr. Koen that the Adult Recreation Center and NUMU are embroidered into the fabric of this Community. They ARE a big reason that everyone says, "I Love Los Gatos". To make them a "profit center" for the Town is not something any other Town or City does in California that I can see. We should be supporting them; not penalizing them for doing such a good job.
4. The Town has refused to do a Financial Impact Analysis on the massive growth approved by 3 Councilmembers. I suggest that the **Finance Committee insists on doing the FIA** on whatever number of housing units are approved for the 2040 GP. Hopefully that unit number is no more than the 1993 prescribed by the state as I anticipate the "surplus" to be a negative **financial** benefit that we will need to pay for, driving us deeper into a hole. We may never see that bridge if that is the case, and I do like the idea of a bridge. Keep in mind that over an 11 year period, there were

16 bike accidents of which only **2 were severe**. There are many, many more severe bike accidents on the Jones Trail (not apples to apples, I realize, but you might set up gates to slow down bicyclists and reduce the injuries significantly. Perhaps a better way to spend money if your goal is to reduce severe accidents)

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Jak Van Nada -

Los Gatos Community Alliance

Facts Matter; Transparency Matters; Honesty Matters

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