

CC 11-16-21

Oral
Communications

Written Comments

From: [Jenny Griffin](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: grenna5000@yahoo.com
Subject: SB 9 and SB 10 Will Mean Tree Canopy is Cut Down in Cupertino
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:10:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council:

Implementation of SB 9 and SB 10 will mean that much of the tree canopy in Cupertino Will be lost. There will be no room to plant new trees because every building in the city From SB 9 and SB 10 will be only four feet from property lines so no tree can grow In these areas. Cupertino will be a concrete jungle.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Griffin

Cyrah Caburian

From: Jean Bedord <Jean@bedord.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:24 AM
To: City Council; Cupertino City Manager's Office; City Attorney's Office
Subject: Improve housing production to reduce CUSD enrollment decline

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Mayor Paul and city council members,

I was dismayed by the council discussion on the dais at Tuesday night, Nov. 2, council meeting regarding opposition to CUSD school closures. While no one, including the school board, wants to close schools, the reality is that there are only 298 students at Regnart who will now have to transfer to Lincoln or BlueHills elementary schools starting the fall of 2022 -- a full year away (NO closures this year). COVID-19 vaccine has been available for adults for less than a year, and is now becoming available for elementary school children. By next fall, schools will have a better understanding of managing the pandemic and the "new normal".

While parents have the right to vent at council meetings, I urge you to avoid expending scarce city and CUSD resources in second-guessing a very thoughtful process, and decisions to maintain financial stability for the entire district of 25 campuses in 6 cities, with only 1 campus affected in Cupertino. You can find the criteria for closure at the [CUSD dashboard](#) with a link on the homepage. There has been a decline of almost 5,000 students in the last 5 years so there is a lot of excess capacity in the district -- CUSD expects to lose 4,000 students in the next 8 years. There are likely to be more school closures in the future, but the district has taken a conservative approach pending the Housing Element process from ALL 6 cities. I recommend you review the [FAQ from the district](#) to counter the misinformation expressed during oral communications.

Lack of housing production is the major factor affecting our schools, so I urge the council to focus on the needs of the entire city - approximately 60,000 residents, with seniors vastly outnumbering the K-5 population. **Isn't it time to get Vallco built? Isn't it time to provide incentives for building instead of highly restrictive SB 9 ordinances?**

FYI, the district is forming a 7-11 committee to study future uses for the Regnart campus. The campus will be utilized through the summer of 2022 by the district. It's highly unlikely a lease could commence until 2023. Traffic studies are moot at this point.

Warm regards,
Jean Bedord

Cyrah Caburian

From: Randy Shingai <randyshingai@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 10:41 AM
To: City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: Public Comments for 11/16/2021 City Council meeting.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Cupertino City Council,

I have been reading the imbroglio that Vice Mayor Chao initiated with great interest. I will spare you the usual diatribe on why I am outraged, because your inboxes are probably pretty full of that sort of thing by now.

I believe that you, the City Council, will be selecting a new Mayor next month. I don't care how much contrition Vice Mayor Chao shows between now and that selection. I don't care how many crocodile tears she sheds, Ms. Chao cannot be the Mayor of Cupertino. Her selection as Mayor would be a tacit endorsement of her views.

Thanks for your time,
Randy Shingai
San Jose 95129

Cyrah Caburian

From: Randy Shingai <randyshingai@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 2:34 PM
To: City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: Public Comments for 11/16/2021 Council meeting - part two

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Council,

I want to explain why I am requesting that Ms. Chao not be the next mayor of Cupertino.

Here are the two fundamental reasons that I find Ms. Chao's activities abhorrent:

- Racism is a broad term. To argue that racism is somehow different from "fear of foreigners" and other made-up categories may be true if you want to get really granular in characterizing discrimination, but it ignores the common usage of the term racism. It allows Ms. Chao and others like her to discount the discrimination that other groups are now experiencing, because the racism that they are experiencing can be segmented into other categories and then can be diminished by this Orwellian method.
- There was an aspect of smugness in the characterization of how Chinese were able to successfully deal with discrimination in the posts that Ms. Chao shared with me. This "chest thumping" has consequences:
 1. It undermines efforts to improve inequality, it gives opponents of these efforts an excuse to say, "If they can do it, why can't you?"
 2. It creates and stokes resentment towards Asian Americans.

Ms. Chao wants to characterize her comments as about Chinese Americans, but in fact they will be applied to all Asian Americans. Her position as a public figure gives her ideas an aura of credibility, but the use of her position as Cupertino Vice Mayor to promote her ideas is a misappropriation of power conferred on her by that office.

So why should I care? Throughout my life I have been called both "C" words, the "G" word, and the "Jap" and "Nip" words more times than I can count. I have also very recently been called "Wuhan" by two different people in separate instances here. Anti-Asian feelings are getting worse. I do not want people like Ms. Chao making things worse for our community.

Selecting Ms. Chao as the next mayor of Cupertino would be a tacit endorsement of Ms. Chao's divisive views on race. Ms. Chao cannot be the next mayor of Cupertino.

Thank you for your consideration,
Randy Shingai

Cyrah Caburian

From: Venkat Ranganathan <n.r.v@live.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 3:53 PM
To: City Council; Cupertino City Manager's Office
Subject: Verizon installation of 5G tower

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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As you may know, I have represented against the 5G tower installation in close proximity to the residential structures (hardly 20ft from my bedroom). There were attempts to rip apart the plants as part of laying the pipe, destruction of one section of the park strip (which had plants). In the last few months, we are seeing our kids getting hurt in the bark and by comparing the bark that the contractor has spread on the park strip to the one we had, it is very clear that this is not a bark that should be used in residential areas - particularly on park strips and walkways.

The barks are too long, sharp, and hard and they break through the shoe soles. I would like the bark to be cleared up and we can fill it with good quality ones that we had before. Can you please ask the contractor to do the cleanup of the barks

Thanks
Venkat



Cyrah Caburian

From: Sean Hughes <jxseanhughes@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:07 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting 11/16/21

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Hello,

I would like to submit the following comments pertaining to the first Study Session subject:

Regarding Topic 1 - I am concerned about Vice-Mayor Liang Chao's capabilities to assess AFFH obligations within the Housing Element update process as her comments to CUSD parents reflect a gross-misunderstanding of history and racism. Without an apology, an acknowledgement of how her statements were factually incorrect, and a demonstrable commitment to show an updated understanding of principles key to the HE update process, I question her ability to participate in the Housing Element Update, much less continue in her role as Vice-Mayor or even as a City Council member for Cupertino.

In her communications, she states that "The Chinese Exclusion Act was not even based on race, since only Chinese laborers were excluded" and continues on to down-play the discrimination of Chinese immigrants, saying "Certainly Chinese people were discriminated against pretty badly in the past by some people. But then at the same time, there are always good people who are welcome to immigrants in this country." Both of these statements were rebuked and reacted to by various community members, elected officials, and news outlets (see [here](#)) - I join them in condemning her statements, and find them hurtful, misguided, and deeply disappointing.

In response, she has backtracked her defense of the Chinese Exclusion Act, and pivots to criticism of Prop 16, saying: "When a policy gives preference to some people and discriminates against others on the basis of "self-identified" race, that policy is racist. Period."

Putting aside that a law need not be 100% exclusionary to be "racist", or that having "some good people" doesn't invalidate the history of oppression and violence against Asian immigrants, her latest comments reflect a lack of understanding of history, racism in America, and the concept of "disparate impact". Even if a policy does not explicitly say, or intend to, discriminate against protected groups (such as race, or gender identity) it is still unconstitutional if it has a "discriminatory effect" on such groups ([US Dept. of Justice Legal Manual](#)). A [core tenant of our current RHNA HE update](#) is directly derived from the [AFFH rule-making activity from HUD](#) that relies on understanding the concept of "disparate impact".

Chao's comments truly make her unfit from, at the very least, participating in the HE without advice of someone with a better understanding of the AFFH components of this update. Moreover, her comments and latest defense of earlier comments are disgraceful and severely call into question her ability to represent any members of the Cupertino community.

Regards,
Sean Hughes

Cyrah Caburian

From: Munisekar <msekar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:05 AM
To: City Council; Cupertino City Manager's Office; City Clerk
Cc: Munisekaran Madhhipatla
Subject: Oral Communications: Smear Bloggers attacking Cupertino Residents and Elected Officials

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Mayor & City Council,

My name is Muni Madhhipatla and I am a Cupertino resident and Planning Commission member. I am writing this email in my personal capacity as an involved community member and resident.

It is well known for well over the last 4 years that a certain group of smear bloggers acting on behalf of real estate interests have been smear blogging about Cupertino residents and elected officials in an attempt to silence the voice of the community. They cherry pick some sound bites from long discussion threads and post them on smear blogging sites like the one below.

<https://bittercupertino.wordpress.com/2018/10/29/thug-eric-schaefer-cited-for-assault-and-battery/>
<https://bittercupertino.wordpress.com/2018/12/19/vindictive-petty-darcy-paul/>
<https://bittercupertino.wordpress.com/2018/09/17/mayor-darcy-paul-is-an-embarrassment/>

Their actions are despicable and they hide behind the anonymity curtain of the internet. Since their tactics are not working as evidenced by the election of the overwhelming majority of resident focused city council members, they are now embarking on character assassination of those elected members through social media outlets.

I learned that these despicable characters are seeking a public apology from Vice Mayor Liang Chao for something she did not say. I believe Vice Mayor Liang Chao is one of the finest elected office bearers we have and I fully support her stance. She should NOT be apologizing for something she did not say.

On the other hand, I ask the city council to reprimand and demand from these smear blogging entities that

1. They disclose their financial sources to continue their activities.
2. They register as a lobbying group as per Cupertino lobbying ordinance.
3. They tender a public apology to the Cupertino community at large and the elected officials.

Thank you.

Muni Madhhipatla
Cupertino Resident.

Cyrah Caburian

From: Kirsten Squarcia
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Jun Ma
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: RE: Support Liangfang Chao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning (Council bcc'd on this email), Your comments have been received and will be included in the public record.

Regards,

Kirsten Squarcia
City Clerk
City Manager's Office
KirstenS@cupertino.org
(408) 777-3225

-----Original Message-----

From: Jun Ma <junma16@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:17 AM
To: City Clerk <CityClerk@cupertino.org>
Subject: Support Liangfang Chao

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As the residence of Cupertino, I really appreciated what Liangfang has been done for the city, she is a wonderful vice mayor . And Please put my email in public record. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Cyrah Caburian

From: Ping Ding <dingyiyi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 11:27 AM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: Support our city council and Make our city a better place to live!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Hi,

Some complains that Mayor Liangfang Zhao made wrong statement on Critical Race Theory and the Chinese Exclusion. I believe there is misunderstanding and wrong interpretation on Mayor Liangfang Zhao. She has already clarified her position on the issue. She doesn't need to make any apologize on the issue.

Mayor Zhang has made great contribution on our city and we all benefit on her effort. I really appreciate Mayor Zhao's hard work on our community.

I don't want to see any one enlarge the none sense issue on Mayor Zhao and damage our city council's hard work to the city.

Thanks,
Ping

Please put my email in public record!

Cyrah Caburian

From: Grace Chin <gchin30@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 11:30 AM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: We are so lucky to have Liang Chao here

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Council members,

For elected officials, I care what they did more than what they talked about. Thank you Liang as a Cupertino City Council member leading us to defeat Prop. 16 last year. **Prop. 16 is a real racist policy to give preferential treatment based on** "O>@B-PBU-@LLO" BQEK@QV-LOK>QELK>ILOEDK'K'MR? I@'BJ MLVJ BKQ-MR? I@" BAR@>QELK->KA'MR? I@'@LKQO>@QKD '\$ P">K'BB@QBA'LO@E F'/ F'KD "& E>L '@LRA'EAB'IFB'U LPQMBLMB'AA'%' RQ'PEB'AAKQ'2 K'QEB " @LKQO>OV-PEB '@LRO>DBLRP'V'BA'RP'Q'ABC>Q'Q'"

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Cyrah Caburian

From: J Shearin <shearin.jen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 12:55 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: Urge Council to require apology and retraction of comments by Vice Mayor regarding Chinese Exclusion Act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Mayor Paul and Councilmembers,

I've recently read—as have many of our residents—about the comments made by Vice Mayor Chao in a CUSD parents forum about the Chinese Exclusion Act not being racist. **I ask today that she publicly apologize and retract her comments on this issue.**

If Vice Mayor Chao had stated that she was in error, and apologized for the statements, instead of saying it “was taken out of context”, I would not need to write this letter. (We all make mistakes.) I've read the full post she wrote on November 5, so I have the context. The comments are still completely in error even with the added context.

As a public figure, with significant power both to shape our dialogue and to create policy in Cupertino, she has a great responsibility—much greater than a typical resident—to speak thoughtfully, not wantonly.

As a City Councilmember and our Vice Mayor, i.e. one of a handful of elected representatives of our city, she should exemplify the best of Cupertino, including being against racism in all forms, past or present.

I urge you today to make this apology and retraction a priority. Only by clearly and frankly acknowledging our past can we hope to make a real difference in the future.

Best Wishes,
Jennifer Shearin

Cyrah Caburian

From: Liana Crabtree <lianacrabtree@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:06 PM
To: Darcy Paul; Liang Chao; Kitty Moore; Hung Wei; Jon Robert Willey
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: public comment, 11/16/2021 City Council Meeting, in defense of Freedom of Speech

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao, and Council Members Moore, Wei, and Willey:

Please include my letter as written communications for the 11/16/2021 Council meeting, public comment agenda item.

Earlier this month, subscribers to a community-led email list that addresses matters of interest in the local public schools received posts that discussed now-controversial Critical Race Theory (CRT) and other topics related to ethnic studies curriculum and diversity/equity/inclusion education.

Vice Mayor Liang Chao, participating as herself and in no way asserting to represent the City of Cupertino through her comments, was a prominent researcher and poster to these CRT-related threads.

At some point, the topic of immigration exclusion act laws were introduced in one of the threads, with a clear intent to understand these laws: what are they? why were they introduced? what was their impact on people of the past? what is their impact on people living today? what lessons about them are important to share with young people as we prepare them to be responsible, engaged, compassionate, and productive adult members of society?

It is in the spirit of addressing the questions above that Liang Chao began posting her research and thoughts about the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

Soon after—and in direct violation of established codes of conduct for participation on the email list—an individual captured a snippet of one of Liang Chao's many posts and broadcasted the captured bit on social media to assert through shaming that Liang Chao's comments were something that required an apology.

Post launch of the accusatory social media comment, another community member asserts on the schools' email list that Liang Chao owes the community a public apology for her posts.

Multiple times on the schools' email list the individual calls for Liang Chao to publicly apologize for her posts for reasons never explained.

As a result of Liang Chao's investigative posts on the schools' email list about the role and impact of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, I was prompted to learn more about the dark era in our nation's

history when Chinese exclusion laws—including but in not limited to the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act—were enacted and why their impacts are relevant for all of us today.

It was the post where Liang Chao wrestles with the significance of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act that prompted some participants on the schools email list to publish posts on social media to condemn Liang Chao for her comments and prompted other participants to be inspired to learn more.

I learned from Liang Chao's posts and from her example to seek the truth through research and through interrogation of ideas and "commonly held beliefs" about immigration exclusion laws.

In my own efforts to learn more, I watched the excellent 2018 documentary *American Experience: the Chinese Exclusion Act*. The 2 hour 40 minute production is an intense audio video timeline of Chinese-to-US immigration history told by a dozen or so historians and punctuated by first-person accounts, legal decisions, poetry, and archival photos. The work could be mined for days for commentary, but I will focus on 4 key points from the documentary that are most relevant to Liang Chao's recent comments about immigration exclusion laws:

- 1) Immigration exclusion laws were first applied to Chinese immigrants and were later broadened to apply to "all Asians". These 19th and 20th Century immigration exclusion laws are unknown to or poorly understood by most US residents alive today.
- 2) It is common to conflate one specific law, the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, with the provisions and impacts of scores of local, State, and Federal laws that came before and after that when taken together severely limited the civil rights and economic opportunities of Chinese and Chinese-American women, children, men, and later, all Asian-appearing individuals residing in the United States. The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act specifically applied to male non-merchant workers seeking to immigrate to the US. However, the totality of the Chinese exclusion laws inflicted varied and specific restrictions on a much broader group of people.
- 3) Chinese exclusion laws established the US as a gatekeeping country. Forevermore, "send me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." no longer applies without an asterisk. When we consider the implications today of immigration exclusion acts, beginning with 19th and 20th Century Chinese exclusion laws, we must reconcile the US's reassuring "land of opportunity" narrative with the reality of immigration gatekeeping then and now.
- 4) Chinese immigrants and native-born residents subjected to Chinese exclusion laws fought back. Despite being denied rights to naturalize or claim native-born citizenship and voting rights, they organized; wrote letters to elected officials and newspapers to protest unjust treatment under the law; held strikes; filed many, many lawsuits; and engaged in acts of mass civil disobedience, especially when yet another exclusion act was introduced that was to require Asian-appearing individuals to register for and carry identity cards (domestic passports) that no other groups were required to carry. And, despite very long odds against success, sometimes the determined civil rights protestors prevailed.

Anyone with a Santa Clara County Library District card or ecard can view *American Experience: the Chinese Exclusion Act (2018)* using the Kanopy app available on the SCCLD website (<https://scclld.org/emovies-tv-emusic/>).

Finally, at the end of this letter, I have included Liang Chao's reply to one reporter who requested the posts she shared on the schools' email list that included references to Chinese exclusion laws. Liang Chao shared only her posts with the reporter and with subscribers to the schools' email list.

Whether someone chooses to agree with her research and analyses or not, I believe these posts illustrate that Liang Chao is determined to understand a complex and emotionally charged immigration history that has implications for today's residents and citizens of Chinese and Asian descent. And, Chinese exclusion laws have implications for everyone as we consider the consequences of today's gatekeeping immigration policies that prioritize US entry for highly educated individuals and for high net worth individuals who are prepared to invest their wealth in US real estate.

I hope you will join me in respecting Liang Chao's rights to Freedom of Speech and reject claims from individuals asserting that she must apologize for exercising her Free Speech rights.

Sincerely,

Liana Crabtree
Cupertino resident

RESOURCES

Review of the documentary *American Experience: the Chinese Exclusion Act (2018)*:
<https://ageofthegreek.org/2018/06/02/pbs-american-experience-the-chinese-exclusion-act-%e2%9c%ae%e2%9c%ae%e2%9c%ae%e2%9c%ae%e2%9c%ae/>

<START, Liang Chao's reply to a reporter regarding posts to a schools' email list in November 2021 referencing Chinese exclusion laws and Critical Race Theory>

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

From: **Liang-Fang Chao**
Date: Sun, Nov 7, 2021 at 6:18 PM
Subject: Fwd: What exactly is CRT?
To: Patch Reporter

Enclosed is the context of the email thread when I brought up the Chinese Exclusion Act. The portion that's quoted in the tweet is in response to a comment by another parent. I would rather not to share someone else's comment with a reporter. without their permission So, I am only including mine.

I brought the topic up in the context of trying to understand Critical Race Theory, which would examine a historic event through ONLY the racial lens. As a result, the Chinese Exclusion Act was only viewed as a racist act. But it was more than that. There were multiple historic aspects towards why the Democratic Party in California pushed for the Chinese Exclusion Act at the time. The main reason was not "racist" since the entire Asian race was not excluded. The main reason was to protect domestic laborers who thought those Chinese laborers with lower wages were taking their jobs. Thus, the bill text of the Chinese Exclusion Act excluded only Chinese laborers, not all Chinese. And they did not exclude laborers from other Asian countries, such as Japan, Korea, Indonesia etc.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was enacted because of a fear for their job security by domestic workers and also a prejudice towards Chinese people, rather than all Asians. And it was also a fear of

foreigners and the unknown. People at the time didn't understand oriental culture and thus they fear it and try to resort to negative stereotypes..

I think racism is when one discriminates against another of a different race and thinks the other race is inferior.

But to the contrary, the Chinese laborers were excluded because they were too good at their jobs. Is that racism? Or just fear of foreigners who are better than us?

The prejudice and stereotypes faced by Chinese is very different from other Asians. We are still treated as foreigners more than other Asians.

The FBI and Homeland Security still target Chinese American scholars and engineers more than people from other countries or races TODAY.

What Chinese Americans face is not only racism, but also xenophobia and also a specific kind of phobia against China, another country.

My point is that racism alone is not enough to explain the kind of prejudice Chinese Americans suffer daily in the workplace and on the street.

Critical Race Theory is an academic theory which examines a society through ONLY the racial lens, like an X-ray, so it does not see all the other complex aspects that form a policy or a society.

To understand history, we must understand multiple historic aspects of those historic events in their historic context. Thus, Critical Race Theory is insufficient for understanding history in K-12 schools.

That was the reason I brought up the Chinese Exclusion Act in the first place.

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

From: **Liang-Fang Chao**

Date: Fri, Nov 5, 2021 at 2:41 PM

Subject: Re: What exactly is CRT?

To: Parent Group

And the Chinese Exclusion Act was not even based on race, since only Chinese laborers are excluded. It was really a labor issue where American laborers wish to keep cheaper Chinese laborers out, for good reasons. We are doing similar things today, through the H1 visa process. We don't want to give work visas to people that will take American jobs.

At that time, laborers from Japan, Philipino or India were not excluded at all. And Chinese students and anyone who is not a laborer would still get permission to enter the US.

(I went to read the original text of the Chinese Exclusion Act, of course, to find out.)

But when a scholar would only examine an event through the racial lens, they would view the Chinese Exclusion Act through the lens that it excluded some Chinese, who are people of color. Thus, it is racism.

Well... the historical context is important if we want to pass judgement on historic events.

At that time, there were certainly a lot of negative stereotypes of Chinese people. And there were people who simply hate Chinese and printed some terrible comics etc. But at the same time, there were people who value a sustained relationship with China and support more interaction with Chinese people. This is true in almost every historic moment.

Do we let those bad people define an entire group of people and an entire historic moment? Or do we look at the big picture and consider multiple perspectives and then have a holistic view?

And back to education, for our children, do we want them to view life by focusing on the worst moments and let it define their life and be miserable? Or do we want them to focus on the positives and on what good people did to each other and be happy and be hopeful about life?

Then, we could ask ourselves again. Should curriculum materials influenced by CRT be used in K-12 education?

Why and why not?

On Fri, Nov 5, 2021 at 2:32 PM Liang-Fang Chao wrote:

The main tenets of CRT are what most CRT scholars agree on. But they vary on other issues too. Besides those CRT scholars in academia, there are others who are inspired by CRT, like Kendi, the author of *White Fragility*, etc. The serious CRT scholars do not consider them CRT. But they are definitely a popularized version of CRT that is infiltrating companies, media and schools.

So, if an author calls out colorblindness as racist, the ideology of this person definitely is influenced by CRT

If an author advocates for present discrimination in order to fix past discrimination, as Kendi does, this author definitely is influenced by CRT

Prop 16 attempts to legalize racial discrimination by the state government, or nicely called "racial preference" (which prefers some races over other races). Thus, many Prop 16 proponents are people who subscribe to the CRT beliefs.

They believe in fighting against racism by more racial discrimination, just against whatever group they deem "not preferred".

This is why <group member> brought up Prop. 16 as an example of CRT.

Thus, if a teacher uses a curriculum that teaches colorblindness is racist and we should not treat everyone equally regardless of race. Some parents would consider that material CRT. But I guess some others would argue, but that's not CRT.

Some call SAT racist simply because the outcome is not evenly distributed among different races. Meritocracy has been called "racist" by some authors, inspired by CRT too.

This is because CRT advocates the outcome is predominantly influenced by one's privilege, which comes from their race.

The conventional wisdom of hard work or even grit is looked down by CRT advocates since they consider them "victim-blaming".

But the traditional life wisdom of empowerment is to ignore what we cannot control, our disadvantages, shortcomings or obstacles, and to focus on what we can control, which is our own effort to overcome obstacles.

So, the CRT-inspired authors would focus on blaming others, those who have privileges or advantages and those obstacles and emphasize on sharing lived experiences of being discriminated against.

For Ethnic Studies, for example, every Chinese I talked to wished the strength of Chinese culture traits and achievement of Chinese American immigrants would be covered. But no. The state model curriculum, created by a committee with mostly CRT scholars, focuses on how much Chinese has been discriminated against, the Chinese Exclusion Act etc. But we, Chinese, want both the ugly, and

the good, to be covered and especially the good, in the K-12 education. We don't want to be portrayed as victims, suffering from some oppression, when most of us have escaped another worse oppressive society in our own country to come to the U.S. for a better life for the next generation.

That version of the Ethnic Studies is in fact called "Critical Ethnic Studies", which focuses more on analyzing the impact of race, rather than on ethnic culture and their people.

On Thu, Nov 4, 2021 at 11:03 PM Liang-Fang Chao wrote:

I thought we should at least try to understand what is considered CRT (Critical Race Theory), since this term comes up a lot.

I never trust the descriptions in either left or right wing media, as you know, since each side has its bias

I thought Britannica's description should be more accurate.

Critical Race Theory - from Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/critical-race-theory>

(Text below are all quoted from Britannica. Text within square brackets [are my comments])

1. The social construction of race

critical race theory (CRT), intellectual and social movement and loosely organized framework of legal analysis based on the premise that race is not a natural, biologically grounded feature of physically distinct subgroups of human beings but a socially constructed (culturally invented) category that is **used to oppress and exploit people of colour**.

2. the normality of racism [=> systemic racism, structural racism.]

Critical race theorists hold that **racism is inherent in the law and legal institutions of the United States** insofar as they function **to create and maintain social, economic, and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites**, especially African Americans."

"Many instances of racist behaviour directed at people of colour take the form of **"microaggressions," which are verbal or behavioral slights, generally subtle and often unintentional or unconscious**, that communicate a stereotype or negative attitude toward a person of colour and thus **indicate an implicit bias based on race**. (Microaggressions may also be directed at members of other oppressed or marginalized groups, such as women and LGBTQ persons.)

3. Interest convergence

"Third, owing to what CRT scholars call "interest convergence" or "material determinism," legal advances (or setbacks) for people of colour tend **to serve the interests of dominant white groups**. Thus, the racial hierarchy that characterizes American society may be unaffected or even reinforced by ostensible improvements in the legal status of oppressed or exploited people."

4. differential racialization

Fourth, members of minority groups periodically undergo "differential racialization," or the

attribution to them of varying sets of negative stereotypes, again **depending on the needs or interests of whites**. Such stereotypes are often reflected in popular culture (e.g., in movies and television) and literature as well as in the news media, and they have even influenced the content of history curricula in public schools.

["Differential racialisation calls attention to the ways in which the dominant society racialises different minority groups in different ways at different times in response to shifting needs."

"Example: WWII the image of Japanese Americans was created to justify putting them in Internment Camps."]

5. intersectionality

Fifth, according to the thesis of "intersectionality" or "antiessentialism," no individual can be adequately identified by membership in a single group. An African American person, for example, may also identify as a woman, a lesbian, a feminist, a Christian, and so on.

6. voice of colour [so-called "lived experience"]

Sixth, and finally, the "voice of colour" thesis holds that people of colour are uniquely qualified to speak on behalf of other members of their group (or groups) regarding the forms and effects of racism. This consensus has led to the growth of the "legal storytelling" movement, which argues that the self-expressed views of victims of racism and other forms of oppression provide essential insight into the nature of the legal system.

Academic and political criticism of critical race theory

Various aspects of CRT have been criticized by legal scholars and jurists from across the political spectrum. Many critics have faulted CRT for its apparent embrace of an incoherent, postmodernist-inspired **skepticism of objectivity and truth, as evidenced in applications of the "voice of colour"** thesis and other discussions in the CRT literature. Others have accused critical race theorists of **undervaluing the traditional liberal ideals of neutrality, equality, and fairness in the law and legal procedures** and of **unreasonably spurning the notion of objective standards of merit in academia and in public and private employment**, instead **interpreting any racial inequity or imbalance in legal, academic, or economic outcomes as proof of institutional racism and as grounds for directly imposing racially equitable outcomes in those realms**. In a similar vein, critical race theorists have also been charged with **unfairly treating any external criticism of their approach, however well-meaning, as evidence of (latent) racism**.

=====

My comments:

As a "theory" to analyze history, CRT has its value. Like X-ray, it highlights the bones, but it does not provide a full spectrum of understanding of the human body, since the soft issues are all missed.

Now, should CRT or anything inspired by CRT be taught standalone in K-12 schools without the proper context?

Then, should you walk around with an X-ray glass and should your child walk around with an X-ray glass without understanding what the X-ray glass is for and what it highlights and ignores?

As you can see from this Britannica description of CRT, some terms that have become "common" recently such as microaggression, systemic racism, intersectionality, lived experience, all come from CRT. And many others created other works "inspired by CRT".

Do they belong in K-12 classrooms?

Some CRT-inspired authors are proposing perspectives, views, theories of one person, not peer reviewed at all by other scholars, and many others object to those perspectives, views and theories.

Do they belong in K-12 classrooms?

NOTE: You might have noticed that I use the term "CRT advocates": rather than "Critical Race Theorists" since most of the authors of popular CRT-inspired books are not "Critical Race Theorists". In fact, some CRT scholars look down on those off-shoots of CRT since they don't think they have learned CRT fully, And they are unhappy that a lot of bad press is due to those views by the off-shoot CRT advocates. (Well... I watch videos of CRT scholars discussing CRT... since I want to be sure that I understand CRT from the people who advocate it.)

Liang

<END, Liang Chao's reply to a reporter regarding posts to a schools' email list in November 2021 referencing Chinese exclusion laws and Critical Race Theory>

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◦ ◦ © ◦ ◦ [County of Santa Clara COVID-19 Updates and Quick Links](#) ◦ ◦ © ◦ ◦

Cyrah Caburian

From: carolhesc@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:16 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Support Liangfang

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it concerns:

Regarding the recent news, Liangfang has already clarified her position on the issue. She does not need own anyone an apology.

Mayor Zhao has made great contribution on our city and we all benefit on her efforts. I really appreciate Mayor Zhao's hard work on our community. We all support her.

Best Regards,
Nannan

Cyrah Caburian

From: frances hu <frances_hu@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:31 PM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Darcy Paul; Kitty Moore; Hung Wei; Jon Robert Willey; Liang-Fang Chao
Subject: Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao and Council Members Moore, Wei and Willey:

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Pls include my letter as written communications for the 11/16/2021 Council Meeting, public comment agenda item, and pls help me to read it in the public comment section.

MY name is Frances Hu, and I am a Cupertino resident & a CUSD parent . I am writing to support Liang Fang for all she has done and is continuously doing for our community, She is highly respected community leader who has contributed a lot to the epic win of California voters against the racist Prop 16 in 2020. Some people at Cupertino-parents google group with ulterior motives took Liang Fang's comments out of the context of her CEA comments to attack her, which is not acceptable!!!

If you read the whole email thread sent in the google group, you can draw your own conclusion that Liang Fang has not said anything that is out of place. She does think CEA was a racist bill, but she firmly believed the racist was not the only factor for the bill. I totally agree with Liang Fang's opinion. She does not need to apologize to anybody !!!

Our community need more leaders like Liang Fang ! ! ! Liang Fang, thank you for everything you have done for our community. We are not blind!!

Best regards,
Frances HU

Cyrah Caburian

From: Ava Li <cupertinosaynotowoke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:49 PM
To: City Clerk; Darcy Paul; Liang Chao; Kitty Moore; Hung Wei; Jon Robert Willey
Subject: Me and My Family Support Liang Fang Zhao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Cupertino City Councilor,

This is from Li's family here in Silicon Valley. We have heard the recent attacks and smears on our beloved Vice Mayor Liang Fang, and we are writing in to send our strongest support to Liang.

Liang's interview was taken out of context and twisted. The far-left politicians and activists like Alex Lee and Gilbert Wong took this opportunity to advance their woke agenda. They are not on the lookout for Chinese-Americans as they claimed! They do not represent us!

Me and my family appreciate all the hard work Liang has done for the city, for the community, and her commitment to supporting equal rights for everyone. We will do all we can to support her and will not let her be cancelled!

Please add my email to the public record. Thank you.

Li's family.

Cyrah Caburian

From: Ping Ding <dingyiyi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:56 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: Re: Support our city council and Make our city a better place to live!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

Some complains that Vice Mayor Liang Chao made wrong statement on Critical Race Theory and the Chinese Exclusion. I believe there is misunderstanding and wrong interpretation on Vice Mayor Liang Chao. She has already clarified her position on the issue. She doesn't need to make any apology on the issue. On the other hand, those people who misrepresent her have to say sorry to public.

Vice Mayor Chao has made great contribution on our city and we all benefit on her effort. I really appreciate Vice Mayor Chao's hard work on our community.

I don't want to see any one enlarge the none sense issue on Vice Mayor Chao and damage our city council's hard work to the city.

We all support Vice Mayor Chao.

Thanks,
Ping

Please put my email in public record!

Cyrah Caburian

From: Kathy Jordan <kjordan114wh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:56 PM
To: City Clerk; Darcy Paul; Liang Chao; Kitty Moore; Hung Wei; Jon Robert Willey
Subject: regarding Liang Chao correctly citing that Labor unions pressed for passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Cupertino City Council:

I write in support of Liang Chao for correctly citing that labor unions pressed the US Congress to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Regarding the Chinese Exclusion Act, Ms. Chao is correct that its passage was not all about racism. It was also about members of US labor unions wanting to remove and reduce wage competition from Chinese emigrants. Labor unions and their members wanted to prop up their wages. Please read the excerpt below from the Washington State Historical Society for background information.

Ms. Chao has only spoken the truth.

Thank you.

Best,

Kathy Jordan

In May 1882, Congress, responding to pressure from unions, passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. This treaty with the Chinese Government banned Chinese emigrants from entering America and called for the deportation of any who arrived after 1880.

American businessmen actively sought Chinese laborers in mines and other industries, using them to provide much of the labor for building the transcontinental railroads. At first praised as diligent workers, praise turned to hostility as the railroad was completed and competition for other jobs increased.

<https://www.washingtonhistory.org/education/curriculum/the-chinese-exclusion-act-of-1882/>

Cyrah Caburian

From: Xin Wang <xinwwang@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:58 PM
To: City Council; cityclear@cupertino.org
Subject: Supporting Liang Fang Chao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino City Council,

I'm writing this email to support Liang Fang Chao in the light of recent events. I believe that some people with their own agenda have twisted Liang Fang's comments and attacked her in the media and publicly.

From my own experience, over the years, Liang Fang has helped the community tremendously, She has always put the interests of residents in the Cupertino area above anything else. I am thankful to have her on the city council and she will always have my support in all circumstances.

Please put my email in the public record.

Thank you and regards,
Xin Wang
zip:95129

Cyrah Caburian

From: XiangChen Xu <xc_xu@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:59 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Subject: My comments on recent news regarding vice Mayor Chao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers and City clerk,

I am a Cupertino residents for more than 10 years. I am writing this email because I saw some biased news on Vice Mayor Chao recently.

Just to clarify, after reviewing all the discussion in our local parents group, I didn't see anyone tried to support the Chinese Exclusion Act.

As Chinese Americans, nobody could lose their mind to say good words on the Act.

In vice Mayor Chao's long long messages, she only said the cause of the Chinese Exclusion Act was not only racism.

You may agree with her or not. But she didn't do anything wrong.

In this world, not all the bad things happened under the name of "racism".

Vice Mayor Chao said the Act was not only caused by racism doesn't mean it was a good thing.

I just hope our city council can focus on their business and ignore the noise.

I don't think our vice Mayor Chao should apologize to anyone.

Hope our city clerk can put my comments in public record. Thanks a lot!

Sincerely yours,
Xiangchen Xu

Cyrah Caburian

From: Tony Zheng <tonyzheng@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:00 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: Appreciation to Council member Liang Chao (Please put my email in public record)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino City Council,

As a West San Jose resident and a member of google CUSD Parents group, I want to say we are fortunate to have Liang in our community. I not only appreciate her work as a Council member to benefit our common neighborhood, but also her serious attitude toward our national history. Regarding the recent discussion about Chinese Exclusion Act (CEA), it is worthwhile to examine all the details and learn full lesson how it started at grass root level and eventually became a shameful federal law. Many factors played roles, in addition to racism.

My appeal to City Council is please do whatever measure to protect the health of community internet forum. One of the former City Mayors has cut people's speech in the forum, presented it in a distorted way, and invoked foreign media to start personal attack and bully. He certainly owes local public an explanation what role he has played in the chain of these worrisome events.

Please put my email in public record.

Thanks

Sincerely,

Tony Weifeng Zheng
West San Jose Resident

Cyrah Caburian

From: Leon Zhu <yzhu.leon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:02 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: I support Liang Chao. No need to apologize.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I support Liang Chao. Liang Chao didn't do any wrong. No need to apologize. Please stop the vicious attack on Liang Chao.

Please put my email in the public record.

Yu Zhu

Cyrah Caburian

From: yinhong chen <yinhongpa2005@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:07 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Liang Chao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,
Good afternoon! I am a resident of Cupertino. Liang Chao has already made a clear statement regarding the issue. She doesn't need to apologize to anyone. She has been working very hard for our school district and our community. We all appreciate it and support her. Thank you!

Yinhong

BTW: Please put my email on the public record. Thank you!

Cyrah Caburian

From: B Leong <bleong@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:14 PM
To: City Clerk; Darcy Paul; Liang Chao; Kitty Moore; Hung Wei; Jon Robert Willey
Subject: To express support for liang chao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Cupertino City Council:

I write in support of Liang Chao for correctly citing that labor unions pressed the US Congress to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Regarding the Chinese Exclusion Act, Ms. Chao is correct that its passage was not all about racism. It was also about members of US labor unions wanting to remove and reduce wage competition from Chinese emigrants. Labor unions and their members wanted to prop up their wages.

Ms. Chao has only spoken the truth.

Thank you.

Best,

Bruce Leong

Cyrah Caburian

From: Alexander Mabanta <alexander.mabanta@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:14 PM
To: City Council; Cupertino City Manager's Office; City Clerk
Subject: Public Comment for November 16, 2021 Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Council Members of the City of Cupertino,

My name is Alex Mabanta and I am a 20 year resident of Saratoga. Before they were incorporated in 1955 and 1956, Saratoga and Cupertino were known as Westside San José. In San José, Chinese immigrants were the primary workforce in developing Santa Clara County as the "fruit bowl of America " and San José was home to five Chinatowns. Chinese immigrants were critical to the Santa Clara County economy, especially in agriculture, manufacturing and heavy construction, notably as workers on the San José Railroad and Santa Cruz-Monterey Line in the 1870s. Despite the contributions of Chinese workers and laborers, leaders of the city of San José were among many who spearheaded the state and federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, and the city held the first State Convention of the Anti-Chinese League in 1886.

Until the 1950's, Chinese Americans were legally barred from owning property, and they could not accumulate wealth. In San José, the Chinatowns built by the collective efforts of low-wage Chinese workers were all burned down, with support from San José City Councilmembers. San José Mayor Breyfogle, on the burning of the last Chinatown, called Chinatowns "a public nuisance, injurious to private property adjacent thereto, dangerous to the health and welfare of all citizens."

Cupertino City Council Members have recently discussed issues of education, race, labor, and Chinese American history. I encourage councilmembers to create a city commission that studies Cupertino's history and role, as a part of Westside San José and as an incorporated city, with respect to discriminatory policies against Asian Americans in general and Chinese Americans in particular. The commission may be empowered to produce timely reports and recommend city action, such as creating historic sites or plaques.

On September 8th, 2021, the City of San José unanimously acknowledged and apologized for the role the city played, including statements and actions by elected city leaders, against Chinese Americans. The resolution sought to educate the public of city history. I urge Cupertino to do the same.

Sincerely,
Alex Mabanta
Resident of Saratoga, California

Cyrah Caburian

From: Shaohua Yang <shaohua.yang@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:15 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: public comment submission for today's council meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino Clerk and Council Members,

My name is Shaohua Yang. I am writing this email for today's city council meeting, and request to have this email be included in the public record.

Recently, a prior mayor of Cupertino City, Mr Gilbert Wong, launched a disinformation campaign based on false information against another Cupertino City public servant, Ms Liang Chao.

Mr Gilbert Wong made a false accusation that Ms Liang Chao defended the Chinese Exclusion Act. As a member of the Google group where Mr Gilbert Wong claimed that he obtained such information from, I am asserting that Mr Gilbert Wong fabricated such information. Ms Liang Chao and some of us discussed how the Chinese Exclusion Act was campaigned for by the progressive workingman's party in California in the 1870s before it eventually signed into law in 1882. We discussed the perspectives of what actually happened and how this history was described in the Californian Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. Our CUSD parent Google group has around 2000 members. Mr Gilbert Wong was the only one of very few people (seemingly two including Mr Gilbert Wong) who attempted to distort Liang's words. Because of his heinous false accusation, the CUSD parent Google group administrators unanimously voted to evict Mr Gilbert Wong.

The CUSD parent Google group is made of a significant number of Chinese, Indian, and people of other races. We cherish the diversity and mutual respect in our community. Mr Gilbert Wong's words were not just perceived as political and divisive, but rather racist. Our society is currently plagued by cancel culture. Mr Gilbert Wong, as a public figure, should know better.

I am requesting that the Cupertino City Council condemn Mr Gilbert Wong for his shameless false accusation.

Best regards,
Shaohua

Cyrah Caburian

From: Richelle Duan <richelleduan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:25 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Do not attack Liangfang Zhao!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Liangfang Zhao did so much for our community. Her leadership and contribution in the community was seen by all of us. Someone picked up a few words from her discussion and twist it, to attack her! This strategy was used in the Culture Revolution in the 1960s in China and killed a lot of innocent people. Don't make that mistake here! We support Liangfang!

Cyrah Caburian

From: Maryam Syed <maryam.syed2096@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:28 PM
To: City Clerk; Darcy Paul; Hung Wei; iangChao@cupertino.org; Jon Robert Willey; Kitty Moore
Subject: In Support of Liang Fang Chao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I wanted to say that from my understanding, there is a lot of anger about something Liang Fang Chao said , which was taken completely out of context and was not even a complete quote - and that her explanations have been completely disregarded. I hear that people want her “reprimanded”, and I hope that this board does NOT bow down to the pressure of angry people who do not know the full story. From my interactions with Liang Fang Chao, she has always been clear spoken, polite and calm, and has never justified “racism” in any way. It should be obvious to everybody that racism is only one lens with which to examine the world and negative events, and that for a fuller understanding we must examine all aspects of a given situation when teaching history. Stating this is all Liang Fang Chao did.

If you only look at every problem as an issue of racism, then you will not have an accurate view of the situation and will miss potential solutions. If anybody disagrees, that only merits a conversation, not a punishment for not conforming to the views of others or contributing to an echo chamber. Insistence on such conformity never devalues the one being shut down, it only makes those demanding silence look as if their truth is false.

I want to believe that we can have these important discussions without misrepresenting people’s arguments and shutting people down because we don’t like what they say. It is very hard to be the only one to stand up and suggest something that people may not want to hear. If we believe that diversity is important, then please show that we can have a real dialogue by showing respect to Liang Fang Chao for speaking up, rather than reprimanding her for it at today’s meeting.

Thank you,

-Maryam

--

Maryam Syed

Cyrah Caburian

From: Amy Yuan <yanyuan.cn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:36 PM
To: City Clerk; Darcy Paul; Liang Chao; Kitty Moore; Hung Wei; Jon Robert Willey
Subject: Public Comment, 11/16/2021 City Council Meeting, Stand with Liang Fang Chao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao, and Council Members Moore, Wei, and Willey:

My name is Yan Yuan, and I am a Chinese American and a mother of two children. I am writing to you regarding Liang Fang Chao's comments on the Chinese Exclusion Acts.

I have read what Liang has written and it became obvious that her comment was taken out of context. She used the Chinese Exclusion Act as an example saying we cannot always just use the lens of "racism" to examine EVERYTHING. Other than racism, there might be other factors that contributed to one historical bill or event. Because of that, her critics said "Liang said that the Chinese Exclusion Act is not racist" and they demand apologies from her for something she never said.

Liang is a well-respected leader in our community and she has done tremendous work fighting against racism, e.g., supporting equal rights for Asian students. I stand with her!

Yan Yuan

Cyrah Caburian

From: Helen H <huahelen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:43 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: Council meeting today--In support of Vice Mayor Liang Chao

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City of Cupertino Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of Vice Mayor Liang Chao. I have known Ms. Liang Chao over the last year and half, watched many of her speeches/written comments and worked with her as a volunteer. She is an active grassroots community leader with great integrity, working tirelessly for her community and fighting against injustice and racism. The accusation against Ms. Liang Chao was baseless, taking her words regarding the Chinese Exclusion Act out of context and should be further investigated. Ms. Liang Chao is very valuable to the City of Cupertino, the Asian community and beyond. I trust her and support her!

Best regards,
Helen

Cyrah Caburian

From: Ping Gao <gaoping@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:43 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Subject: Condemn the Attack on City Council Liang

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino City Council,

This is Ping, a 14-year Cupertino resident and also a CUSD parent. I was aware of the recent rumor and malicious attack on our vice mayor Liang-Fang Chao. I just want to write to you and let you know that I condemn Gibert Wong and whoever behind the scenes to manipulate this malicious attack on Liang-Fang.

First of all, I'm also a parent in the school district parent's email group. I have never seen Gilbert Wong participate in any meaningful discussion about school district issues. Instead, he immediately jumped out and pointed fingers at Liang, quoting her words out of context and labeled her as "racist"? I didn't see anything racism from Liang's context. The accusation from Gilbert Wong is solely misinterpreting Liang's words on purpose. I have to say that his acting is so awful that it is insulting to Cupertino residents and CUSD parents' intelligence.

I demand an apology from Gilbert Wong to Cupertino residents and CUSD parents: no integrity, spreading rumors, and attacking other people by falsely labeling other as racist at his will. If we allow someone as Gilbert Wong to be as a political leader, it will be a disaster to all of us.

Please keep my email in the public record.

Thank you,
Ping

Cyrah Caburian

From: Ben Hu <ben.hu2005@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:44 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: No "cancel" war in Cupertino and against Ms. Liang Fang

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao, and Council Members Moore, Wei, and Willey:

Please include my letter as written communications for the 11/16/2021 Council meeting, public comment agenda item, and please help me to read it in the public comment section.

My name is Benjamin Hu, and I am a cupertino resident, a CUSD school district parent, and a member of the CUSD-parents Google group, where Liang Chao's comments on the Chinese Exclusion Acts were taken out of context and became bombshells in the planned attempts trying to cancel Liang. I am also a member of the "Equal Rights for All PAC", which is led by Ward Connerly, the father of Prop 209.

Vice Mayor Liang Chao has been a highly respected community leader, and she has contributed considerably to the epic win of California voters against the racist Prop 16 in 2020 and with a 57:43, Liang and California voters successfully defended the Prop 209 in California constitution, which says:

"The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting." Upholding these equality values, Liang has never been seen as a racist and she has always tried to conduct objectively without blindly falling into any partisan line in her city management decisions. She does that by putting herself into research on every topic she is facing. She won't blindly follow the popular opinions, and she won't blindly follow the media, and she won't blindly follow whoever can donate money to her campaign.

And we, the south bay residents, as well as over 7,000 members of our PAC, respect Liang for her spirit of independent research and thinking.

If you read the whole email thread sent in the CUSD-parents group, you can definitely draw your own conclusion that Liang has not said anything that is out of place. She does think CEA was a racist bill, but she firmly believes that racism was not the only factor for the bill.

And I agree with this observation.

For those who claim Liang Fang is a racist and she tried to defend the CEA, without even the attention to listen or examine what was said by Liang, I condemn their attempt to cancel Liang using this hoax.

And I especially condemn Neil Park who has posted a screenshot of a private (though big) school district forum discussion to Twitter, for cyberbullying. Neil has done this kind of despicable thing before and he was expelled from that group for the same reason. Yet again, he started another fuzz against Liang last week!

Also I condemn Gilbert Wong, who repeatedly ignored the other parents' comments on him about his understanding of the situation, and repeatedly urged Liang to "apologize" for something that Liang has never said or done. Liang never said that CEA was not racist but we know Gilbert was an avid supporter of the racist bill Prop 16. Gilbert, please stop your ugly attempts to stir the emotion among our Chinese community!

Gilbert, you are no leader of us, by any means! And you do not stand for us at all! So stop pretending to be an Asian leader!

Vice Mayor Liang, I would like to let you know that all of our "No on Prop 16" campaign volunteers are standing behind you. And all of our common sense voters are standing behind you. Do not give in to the "cancel culture", and please continue your wonderful work for the benefit of the greater Bay Area!, as well as California!

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Benjamin Hu

Cyrah Caburian

From: Leon Chen <leonlixinchen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:47 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Subject: Support Vice Major Liang Chao!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear city council members,

Recently there have been rumors that Vice Major Liang Chao said "Chinese exclusion act is not racism", which is total nonsense. Vice Major Chao never said that, and this has been deliberately misconstrued. In fact, Vice Major Chao is against all forms of racism.

Vice Major Chao has done a lot for Cupertino residents before and while she's serving on the city council, and we wholeheartedly support her!

Please put my email in the public record.

Sincerely,
Leon Chen
Resident of 10168 Amelia Ct, Cupertino

Cyrah Caburian

From: zhiyu <zybrook@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:52 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Subject: Public Comment for the 11/16 City Council meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao, and Council Members Moore, Wei, and Willey:

Please include my letter as written communications for the 11/16/2021 Council meeting, public comment agenda item, and please help me to read it in the public comment section. The following is my message:

My name is David He. I have been a CUSD Parent for 8 years. As a Chinese immigrant and naturalized US Citizen, I feel we as a community are at a critical moment where a lot of forces are trying to tear apart the people and destroy this peaceful city of Cupertino. These forces and political activists, including the white Sunnyvale Council member Alysa Cisneros and Foothill De-Anza Community College Trustee Gilbert Wong, are very enthusiastic at smearing campaign and telling alternative "truth" to the public. No matter what race they are, and what self-claimed "liberal" stance they took, they are in essence attacking our Asian, especially Chinese community in a very racist approach. Gilbert Wong, for example, has continuously acted as agents for special interest group, to destroy the value of the community. Fortunately their tricks have failed to work for most of the time as our community are still standing united. Their latest gimmick is the coordinated smearing and attacking of Liang Fang. Liang Fang has always been a supporter of a united Cupertino where all the ethnic groups live and work together as one. She has been a role model for Chinese community especially. All of my family and Chinese American friends support Liang Fang and fully understand her opinion about the Chinese Exclusion Act in a context. We are very upset and annoyed to see that Gilbert Wong and Alysa Cisneros have even coordinated the attack with Foreign Agencies that are listed by US national security as very hostile: the CCP's state media outlet "Global Times". We saw as evidence in multiple social media groups that supporters of Gilbert and Alysa even took pride in their effort of involving CCP State Media in this smearing campaign against Liang Fang and our great city of Cupertino. For this alone, I request the city of Cupertino to issue an official condemnation for this smearing campaign and to its organizers: Gilbert Wong and Alysa Cisneros.

The Chinese community in Cupertino and South Bay support Liang Fang, we would not allow any future attack on our elected official who have served this community well and above all the expectations.
Thank you.

--David He
Parent from CUSD

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

Cyrah Caburian

From: Jenny Zhao <yzhao1017@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:52 PM
To: City Clerk; City Council
Cc: Jenny Zhao
Subject: Councilmember Chao has my full support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear mayor and city council,

As a member of the community and a Chinese immigrant, I am writing to express my full support to Councilmember Chao for her dedicated service to the community.

Councilmember Chao is the victim of cyber violence. Her words in the CUSD parent group discussion was cherry-picked and twisted to form an attack piece against her. It's very upset to witness such disgusting behavior in a quiet town like Cupertino.

Councilmember Chao truly cares about the community, her involvements in safety, crime, education and many other things over the years, are well known and recognized especially by our Asian community. She has our full trust and support.

I urge the City of Cupertino to condemn and stop the misinformation. Those so called representatives such as Alex Lee, they cannot represent this community and our value at all.

Thanks,
Jenny Zhao

Cyrah Caburian

From: Tony Guan <guanxiaohua@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:03 PM
To: City Clerk; Darcy Paul; Liang Chao; Kitty Moore; Hung Wei; Jon Robert Willey
Subject: Public Comment, 11/16/2021 City Council Meeting, in defense of Freedom of Speech

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao, and Council Members Moore, Wei, and Willey:

Please include my letter as written communications for the 11/16/2021 Council meeting, public comment agenda item, and please help me to read it in the public comment section.

My name is Tony Guan, and I am a CUSD school district parent, and a member of the CUSD-parents Google group, where Liang Chao's comments on the Chinese Exclusion Acts were taken out of context and became bombshells in the planned attempts trying to cancel Liang. I am also the Vice president of the "Equal Rights for All PAC", which is led by Ward Connerly, the father of Prop 209.

Vice Mayor Liang Chao has been a highly respected community leader, and she has contributed considerably to the epic win of California voters against the racist Prop 16 in 2020 and with a 57:43, Liang and California voters successfully defended the Prop 209 in California constitution, which says:

"The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting."

Upholding these equality values, Liang has never been seen as a racist and she has always tried to conduct objectively without blindly falling into any partisan line in her city management decisions. She does that by putting herself into research on every topic she is facing. She won't blindly follow the popular opinions, and she won't blindly follow the media, and she won't blindly follow whoever can donate money to her campaign.

And we, the south bay residents, as well as over 7,000 members of our PAC, respect Liang for her spirit of independent research and thinking.

If you read the whole email thread sent in the CUSD-parents group, you can definitely draw your own conclusion that Liang has not said anything that is out of place. She does think CEA was a racist bill, but she firmly believes that racism was not the only factor for the bill.

And I agree with this observation.

For those who claim Liang Fang is a racist and she tried to defend the CEA, without even the attention to listen or examine what was said by Liang, I condemn their attempt to cancel Liang using this hoax.

And I especially condemn Neil Park who has posted a screenshot of a private (though big) school district forum discussion to Twitter, for cyberbullying. Neil has done this kind of despicable thing before and he was expelled from that group for the same reason. Yet again, he started another fuzz against Liang last week!

Also I condemn Gilbert Wong, who repeatedly ignored the other parents' comments on him about his understanding of the situation, and repeatedly urged Liang to "apologize" for something that Liang has never said or done. Liang never said that CEA was not racist but we know Gilbert was an avid supporter of the racist bill Prop 16. Gilbert, please stop your ugly attempts to stir the emotion among our Chinese community!

Gilbert, you are no leader of us, by any means! And you do not stand for us at all! So stop pretending to be an Asian leader!

Vice Mayor Liang, I would like to let you know that all of our "No on Prop 16" campaign volunteers are standing behind you. And all of our common sense voters are standing behind you. Do not give in to the "cancel culture", and please continue your wonderful work for the benefit of the greater Bay Area!, as well as California!

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Tony Guan
VP Equal Rights for All Political Action Committee

From: [Mars Cheung](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Darcy Paul](#); [Liang Chao](#); [Kitty Moore](#); [Hung Wei](#); [Jon Robert Willey](#)
Subject: In Support of Liang-Fang Chao
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:21:56 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern on the Cupertino City Council,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Liang-Fang Chiao for some time now. In that time, I have known her to be an individual of integrity and respect as well as a person who has had the courage to speak the language of nuance in the face of difficult narratives.

Recently, there has come about a series of accusations that her commentary about the Chinese Exclusion Act implied that the Act was not racist. There is no doubt that the act was indeed racist but her point in raising her ideas was to address other elements and effects having to do with the Act itself.

Ideas like these should not be strawmanned by bad faith actors. Regrettably, racism is a terrible entity that we must still contend with in the modern era but blanket accusations should not be used to stifle nuanced discussions. Doing so inhibits the process of ideas necessary to solve very real problems and we hurt only ourselves and members of all communities should we do so.

I humbly request that the council please bear this in mind moving forward.

Sincerely,
Mars Cheung

From: [Sujuan Cai](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Political bully should stop!
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 7:10:09 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino city council members,

It has been a week of gut wrenching and apprehension for me! I am shocked to learn the ex Mayor and former city council member Mr. Gilbert Wang, who used common tactics during the chinese cultural revolution era to denounce Liang- Feng Chao. The ex Mayor Wang simply distort Liang- Feng's words out the context regarding the notorious Chinese exclusion act. I am scared, I am anxious, I could not believe how ugly of the Cupertino politician act like a coward against Liang-Feng! Ex Mayor Wang needs to stop his political bully and be a civil, honest citizen of Cupertino. His action makes my brain frozen and worry about what we said or act can be distorted, denounced, and labeled with " a racist" or other high charged term! Cupertino is a scared place to live with this Ex Mayor Wang's political bully!

Stop political bully now! Apologize to all Cupertino citizens for frozen our thoughts process!

Best regards,
Sujuan Cai
phone: 408-832-4205

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rich Altmaier](#)
To: [City Council](#); [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Rich Altmaier](#)
Subject: Liang Chao - supporting position
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:46:55 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Cupertino City Council, I speak in strong support of Ms Chao and the fact she did not in the slightest express any support for the Chinese Exclusion Act or deny its racist nature. Although I have policies upon which I disagree with Ms Chao, in this matter anyone who has worked with her for even a few months knows her detailed nature and exacting methods of reviewing an issue. Her review and commentary upon the Chinese Exclusion Act was within a discussion about parent engagement on CRT related issues in the Cupertino Union School District. Many parents are seeking methods to stop CRT and reviewing past Acts which held a similar racist nature to CRT was helpful to parents.

Please stop the ridiculous claims against Ms Chao. She has absolutely nothing to apologize for. Stop listening to political opponents pretending they have some issue here. Dismiss this matter without further comment.

Thank you,
Rich Altmaier
Cupertino, CA

From: [du vote](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Strongly support Liang Chao and please do not mislead people with manipulated words and understanding
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:04:35 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear cupertino city council,

As a cupertino citizen, I just want to express my strongest support to Mrs. Chao Liang on recent event related to the discussion about CEA.

There are people who is trying to mislead cupertino citizens so much and create a very bad atmosphere to try to knock down people who did so many good things for cupertino community. Please stop playing these type of political game and think more about what is the good for people.

Thanks & Regard,

Du

From: [Paulette Altmaier](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Strongly support Liang - no to cancel culture
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:30:21 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

The controversy around Liang is a phony cancel-culture attempt to silence a powerful voice for our children.

Liang's comment came from a deep knowledge of the politics around the Chinese Exclusion act - it was both to protect domestic workers AND motivated by racism. The context was a discussion of the racist CRT curriculum children are being indoctrinated with.

But the cancel-culture mob is unable or unwilling to grasp the complexity of history and has ginned up this controversy for its own ends. She is a strong voice for us and for children against the racism of CRT, and it is the CRT mob trying to silence her with this fake outrage.

I stand by Liang, and totally reject this trumped-up controversy and the cancel-culture mob.
Paulette Altmaier

From: [Susan G](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Darcy Paul](#); [Liang Chao](#); [Kitty Moore](#); [Hung Wei](#); [Jon Robert Willey](#)
Subject: Support for Vice Mayor Liang Fang Chao!
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 4:36:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao, and Council Members Moore, Wei, and Willey:

Please include my letter as written communications for the 11/16/2021 Council meeting, public comment agenda item, and please help me to read it in the public comment section.

My name is Susan Guo, and I'm a resident in Santa Clara County. Vice Mayor Liang Chao has been a highly respected community leader. If you read the whole email thread sent in the CUSD-parents group, you can definitely draw your own conclusion that Liang has not said anything that is out of place. She does think CEA was a racist bill, but she firmly believes that racism was not the only factor for the bill.

And I agree with this observation.

For those who claim Liang Fang is a racist and she tried to defend the CEA, without even the attention to listen or examine what was said by Liang, I condemn their attempt to cancel Liang using this hoax.

And I especially condemn Neil Park who has posted a screenshot of a private (though big) school district forum discussion to Twitter, for cyberbullying. Neil has done this kind of despicable thing before and he was expelled from that group for the same reason. Yet again, he started another fuzz against Liang last week!

Also I condemn Gilbert Wong, who repeatedly ignored the other parents' comments on him about his understanding of the situation, and repeatedly urged Liang to "apologize" for something that Liang has never said or done. Liang never said that CEA was not racist but we know Gilbert was an avid supporter of the racist bill Prop 16. Gilbert, please stop your ugly attempts to stir the emotion among our Chinese community!

Gilbert, you are no leader of us, by any means! And you do not stand for us at all! So stop pretending to be an Asian leader!

Vice Mayor Liang, I would like to let you know that all of our "No on Prop 16" campaign volunteers are standing behind you. And all of our common sense voters are standing behind you. Do not give in to the "cancel culture", and please continue your wonderful work for the benefit of the greater Bay Area!, as well as California!

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Susan Guo

From: [Ching Lien](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: support Liang Chao
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 4:33:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Cupertino city council members,

I'd like to support the Vice Mayor Liang Chao. She did nothing wrong. She does NOT need to apologize to anyone. She really takes our community's interests into consideration when making public decisions, not from businessmen's perspective.

On the contrary, you should condemn the ex-Mayor Gilbert Wong. He spreaded toxic words into the community and tried to put those words into Liang's mouth. What a shame!

Respectfully,
Ching
a CUSD parent

From: [Jun Ma](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support Liangfang Chao
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 7:58:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear city council members,

Recently there have been rumors that Vice Major Liang Chao said "Chinese exclusion act is not racism", which is total nonsense. Vice Major Chao never said that, and this has been deliberately misconstrued. In fact, Vice Major Chao is against all forms of racism.

Vice Major Chao has done a lot for Cupertino residents before and while she's serving on the city council, and we wholeheartedly support her!

Please put my email in the public record.

Sincerely, Jane Ma

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Yixue Qiu](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Darcy Paul](#); [Liang Chao](#); [Kitty Moore](#); [Hung Wei](#); [Jon Robert Willey](#)
Subject: Support Ms. Liang Chao
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:03:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino Clerk and Council Members,

My name is Yixue Qiu. I am writing this email for today's city council meeting, and request to have this email be included in the public record.

I got to know Ms. Liang Chao more than two years ago along with my involvement with CUSD. I saw how much time and effort she had been spending for the district, for the students and for the community. I also searched media and read the reports and stories about her earlier work and contribution to the School District and the Cupertino City. In my impression she is very objective and professional. Her thoughts were based on abundant data and facts. She often worked late into evening to share the info and facts with us. One of the most important thing is that she speaks truth and is always open to discussions. It's been acknowledged and appreciated by significant number of Chinese, Indian and people of other races.

It's heartbreaking to see she was attacked by false accusation right now. We should protect the City Council Members who work for the City and the communities rather than hurting them. I am requesting the Cupertino City Council take action to stop the misinformation and condemn the people who twisted her words for false accusation.

Best Regards,
Yixue

From: [JZ](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Darcy Paul](#); [Liang Chao](#); [Kitty Moore](#); [Hung Wei](#); [Jon Robert Willey](#)
Subject: Support Ms. Liang-fang Chao
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 4:42:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I intended to send this email before 4:00pm today but somehow I could access the web email server.

Dear Cupertino city council member:

I'm a CUSD parent. I'm writing this email to express my support for the Vice Mayor and our dear community leader, Ms. Liang-fang Chao on the recent incident in regards to her comment about the Chinese Exclusion Act. I fully understand that her intent was to address the historical background around the labor issue on top of the discrimination issue. She never said it's not racial discrimination.

Some people might have misunderstood her comments in the beginning. We all understand that misunderstanding happens. But with her explanations and statements, I don't think people should keep misunderstanding her and even use it to attack her.

Liang-fang has worked so hard to fight for the community, especially for the Chinese community where she is deeply rooted. I don't have any political stance and I haven't been following political issues closely until recent school closure discussions. From an objective perspective, I found that Liang-fang's analysis on the school district issues is always based on the facts/data/truth, very logical and convincing from a neutral view. Just from observing what she has been contributing to the community, I have no doubt that she has no racial discrimination against anybody, especially to the Chinese community.

Everybody knows that taking part of a screenshot as "evidence" and interpreting it out of context is not right. Accusing her of "defending the Chinese Exclusion Act" or "being racist" is illogical. It really doesn't make sense.

Again, I don't have any political stance. I judge matters based on the matter itself, based on right or wrong, not right or left. For this matter, I support Liang-fang!

Thank you for taking your time to read this email.

Jun

From: [Yonghui Mou](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: support of vice Major Liang Chao
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:59:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino City Council,

I'm writing to support Cupertino Vice Major Liang Chao. Liang Chao has been under attack by some so called civil rights activists with faked facts. Liang is a very respected community servant and has the majority of community support. Liang has done so much service to the community and a lot of people benefit from her.

Please put my comments in the public record.

Thanks a lot,

Yonghui Mou (Cupertino resident)

From: [Wenyu Cai](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: We wholeheartedly support Vice Major Liang Chao
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:32:09 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear city council members,

Recently there have been rumors that Vice Major Liang Chao said "Chinese exclusion act is not racism", which is total nonsense. Vice Major Chao never said that, and this has been deliberately misconstrued. In fact, Vice Major Chao is against all forms of racism.

Vice Major Chao has done a lot for Cupertino residents before and while she's serving on the city council, and we wholeheartedly support her!

Please put my email in the public record.

Sincerely,
Vera

From: [Jenny Griffin](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: grenna5000@yahoo.com
Subject: A BAG and Heart of the City
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:00:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council:

What is ABAG trying to do with Heart of the City? They should not do anything With Heart of the City. Heart of the City is a part of Cupertino and not something For HCD or MTC or ABAG to be involved with.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Griffin

From: [Jenny Griffin](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: grenna5000@yahoo.com
Subject: Heart of the City
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:33:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council:

I hope that nothing is going to be done to impact the Heart of the City. I don't think it is a good idea to do anything to change the setbacks and characteristics of Heart of the City.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Griffin

From: [GMAIL](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Supporting Our Cupertino Vice Mayor
Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 11:11:28 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk and City Council Members,

Thank you so much for reading my email.

My name is Li and I live in West San Jose, but my kids went to CUSD before our school was announced to be closed. I know Vice Mayor Chao Liang through school closure. I strongly support her.

Ms LiangFang, zhao's made comments in a members-only local parent group regarding the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. Please do not twist Ms. Liang Fang Zhao's statement and frame her for something that she didn't say or imply. This is defamation. She never stated that "The Chinese Exclusion Act was NOT racist" ever. Her comment in that original discussion was along the lines of: "The Chinese Exclusion Act is not ONLY based on racism, but also based on many other issues, such as a fear of foreigners, a fear of competition by foreigners and a distrust of Chinese Americans with ancestry originally from a foreign country, China. Thus, we cannot ONLY address racism when examining prejudice against Chinese Americans."

It is really a shame for the persons who intensionally tried to harm her. To have council members like Liang, who really put community interests first, can make our city better.

Thank you so much again.

Best regards,

Li

CC 11-16-21

Study Session #1

Housing Element
Update

Written Comments

Cyrah Caburian

From: Connie Cunningham <cunninghamconniel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:03 AM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Cc: Kerri Heusler
Subject: Second Revision of input: Housing Element Study Session NOV 16 CC Agenda Item 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers:

As I thought more about this Stakeholder Focus Group, I remembered that we cannot assume that minority voices are included among them, although the groups I have suggested cover many slices of our City's residents. Minority voices, especially Black and Latinx, are a small percentage of our City. To address the requirement for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) we need to ensure these voices are on our Stakeholder Focus Group. [This does not necessarily raise the number of Stakeholders on the Focus Group. It does highlight the need to actively search for voices among the stakeholder categories who are Black or Latinx. I have put these comments \(in blue\) in my original/revised email below so the thoughts can be read as a whole.](#)

Sincerely,
Connie Cunningham

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers:

Subject: Stakeholder Focus Group, Housing Element process

The Housing Element report by EMC for Nov 16 includes the idea for a stakeholder focus group to be assigned by the City Council. It includes 7 categories as possible stake holders, although 10 is the estimated number in the group. I urge the Council to include ~~3~~ [4–5](#) more categories: a person with lived unhoused experience, a non-profit home builder and a student from De Anza College and a [representative for seniors](#). [I note that the Council must consider adding minority voices to the Stakeholder Focus Group by either raising the number of Stakeholders, or selecting minority voices who belong to the groups already being considered.](#)

The first category would include someone that has not been included in the past, but more recently has been included—Santa Clara County and organizations that help the unhoused, now realize that the opinion of people with unhoused experience can inform our understanding of what they need and how to provide housing.

In the second category, non-profit homebuilders have different challenges than for-profit homebuilders, so their voice would add much to the conversation.

In the third category would be a person (currently a student) who already has been facing the tough housing market as a high school graduate, and will be looking ahead to their prospects after college.

The fourth category that needs a seat on the Stakeholder Focus Group are seniors. They want housing they can downsize into. Given that 1/3 of households have someone over the age of 60, that's a pretty sizable population that needs housing more suitable to their needs. 91% of the city is zoned SFR (Single-Family), so senior friendly, denser housing would free up larger single family homes for families.


The fifth category that needs a seat on the Stakeholder Focus Group is that of minority voices. This does not necessarily raise the number of Stakeholders on the Focus Group. It does highlight the need to actively search for voices among the Stakeholder categories who are Black or Latinx.

Eleven (11) representatives would not be too much for a Focus Group, and all categories need to be included.

I urge you to enrich our discussion with the stakeholders focus group by ensuring these five categories of voices are on the focus group.

Sincerely, Connie L Cunningham
Chair, Housing Commission (self-only)

Excerpt from the report: "Stakeholder Meetings: We anticipate a total of three stakeholder focus group meetings. Stakeholder groups are made up of individuals with interest in a process or project. We are looking for direction from City Council regarding the makeup of the stakeholder group and selection process, and we request that Council share guidance on criteria for no more than 10 members. A well-rounded stakeholder group could include property owners, renters, block group leaders, developers, business owners, local employees, and service providers. A form will be available on the Housing Element Update website for applicants and members will be appointed to this ad-hoc group by Council, with recommendations provided by staff in ..."

 Watch out for typos; Siri might be on duty.

Cyrah Caburian

From: Connie Cunningham <cunninghamconniel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:10 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Cc: Cunningham Connie
Subject: Housing Element Study Session NOV 16 CC, Agenda Item 1
Attachments: Attachment A-2.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Housing Element Study Session NOV 16 CC, Agenda Item 1

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers:

I want to thank EMC for their Housing Element Update, with its focus on I. Sites Inventory and II. Community Engagement. I have the following comments about issues that need to be addressed for each.

I. Sites Inventory: a) New locations, b) new building types

In regards to the two maps they included from the General Plan (see below), and the excerpt from the report that I have copied in full text below, I have the following comments:

a. Although the map Figure PA-1, Special Areas, LU-40, is a good start for finding property owners who may want to build homes on their property, I think that there are likely other areas that will be good for housing. For example: McClellan Road between De Anza and Monta Vista has properties that would be nicely placed for below-market rate homes. This area is near schools, shopping and bus routes. Two properties that sold recently near the corner of McClellan and Stelling would make excellent locations. I suggest that the city reach out to those new property owners to encourage them to develop multi-family homes, especially below-market rate homes, on those properties.

b. Figure PA-2, Neighborhoods, LU-67 is a good map to show the various planning neighborhoods. AS LU-67 is currently worded, it uses words that are often interpreted as being exclusionary. These words are "neighborhood" in conjunction with "character." Given the new goal of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), I would urge that the term "character" in relationship to "neighborhood" be deleted, so that it is clear that Cupertino wants to become more inclusive. Cupertino will become more inclusive by adding homes that are affordable to teachers, hospitality workers, people facing serious health issues, people at risk due to low-incomes in an expensive city, children of current residents when they graduate from high school and college, and seniors who would like to downsize from their family homes. Neighborhoods will continue to change, and, although change is hard, the City will maintain control of our future by planning for these changes

We need to look beyond what our neighborhoods look like today, and envision what the city will look like in the future. Condominiums and apartments buildings need to become more available. Since we have examples of nice apartment buildings in our city now, it will be helpful to envision those types of buildings as we plan our next Housing Element.

II. Community Engagement: a) Apple, b) unmet housing needs, c) traffic, d) Balancing Act Tool

a) In the education portion of the outreach to the community, it will be important to remind residents that when the Apple Campus was completed within city limits a few years ago, this addition of the most powerful and rich tech company — in the world — opened a new chapter in the ongoing life of our relatively small city. From orchards to suburbs to a small city. Apple will continue to attract more technical workers to our city. Another 7 workers for each technical worker will be attracted to work in our economy, too.

b.) Residents need to learn about the large, and growing, unmet housing needs of many residents.

i) A large number of people are low-income because of the huge increase in housing prices here combined with slow-growing wages. This number includes teachers, government staff, hospitality workers, and children of residents when they graduate from high school and college.

ii) ELI: Extremely-low incomes residents, some of whom are Intellectually Developmentally Disabled (IDD), and some who are identified in other vulnerable categories, whether from being unhoused due to high housing costs, or housed/unhoused people who are suffering other financial, mental health, domestic abuse problems, among other challenges.

iii) Seniors are not necessarily low-income, but, also, need homes where they can downsize for their new lifestyles. One third (1/3) of households have someone over the age of 60. Senior friendly, denser housing would free up single family homes for families.

iv) Students at De Anza College struggle with the high cost of housing which distracts them from their studies and fulfilling their, and our community's, hopes for their success. Many are unhoused and food insecure.

c) Traffic. Outreach must emphasize to residents that the former practice of workers in Cupertino commuting from other communities is no longer practicable. Commutes that were 20 minutes have grown to an hour or more. Many workers spend hours on the road each day. This is not sustainable. By increasing the number of homes in our community, we will reduce traffic by having places for workers to live close to work. They will be able to walk or bicycle. Denser housing will, also, reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

d) I look forward to learning more about the on-line Balancing Act Tool that will be used to plan the site inventory. I, also, look forward to being involved in the Housing Element process on the Housing Commission.

Sincerely,

Connie L. Cunningham
34 year resident
Chair, Housing Commission (self-only)

Excerpt from EMC Report: The following two types of areas are shown on two separate maps (Attachment A.2). The following types were chosen because together, they represent the entire City. Excerpts from the Cupertino General Plan describes these two categories of land in specific ways:

SPECIAL AREAS (LU-40)- Special Areas are located along major mixed-use corridors and nodes that have access to a variety of different forms of transportation. Future growth in Cupertino will be focused in these areas to manage growth while minimizing traffic, greenhouse gas and health impacts on the community.

NEIGHBORHOODS (LU-67)- The City has many neighborhoods, each with its own distinctive character and setting. These neighborhoods play a vital role in supporting Cupertino's great quality of life. Neighborhood goals and policies help preserve and enhance the quality of life by protecting neighborhood character and improving walking and biking connections to parks, schools and services. Neighborhoods typically offer a variety of housing choices to meet a spectrum of community needs.

Cyrah Caburian

From: Connie Cunningham <cunninghamconniel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 5:23 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Cc: Kerri Heusler
Subject: Revised input: Housing Element Study Session NOV 16 CC Agenda Item 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers:

Another category that needs a seat on the Stakeholder Focus Group are seniors. They want housing they can downsize into. Given that 1/3 of households have someone over the age of 60, that's a pretty sizable population that needs housing more suitable to their needs. 91% of the city is zoned SFR (Single-Family), so senior friendly, denser housing would free up larger single family homes for families. I have added this below for ease of reference.

Eleven (11) representatives would not be too much for a Focus Group, and all groups need to be included.

Sincerely, Connie Cunningham

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers:

Subject: Stakeholder Focus Group, Housing Element process

The Housing Element report by EMC for Nov 16 includes the idea for a stakeholder focus group to be assigned by the City Council. It includes 7 categories as possible stake holders, although 10 is the estimated number in the group. I urge the Council to include ~~3~~ 4 more categories: a person with lived unhoused experience, a non-profit home builder and a student from De Anza College and a **representative for seniors**.

The first category would include someone that has not been included in the past, but more recently has been included—Santa Clara County and organizations that help the unhoused, now realize that the opinion of people with unhoused experience can inform our understanding of what they need and how to provide housing.

In the second category, non-profit homebuilders have different challenges than for-profit homebuilders, so their voice would add much to the conversation.

In the third category would be a person (currently a student) who already has been facing the tough housing market as a high school graduate, and will be looking ahead to their prospects after college.


The fourth category that needs a seat on the Stakeholder Focus Group are seniors. They want housing they can downsize into. Given that 1/3 of households have someone over the age of 60, that's a pretty sizable population that needs housing more suitable to their needs. 91% of the city is zoned SFR (Single-Family), so senior friendly, denser housing would free up larger single family homes for families.

Eleven (11) representatives would not be too much for a Focus Group, and all groups need to be included.

I urge you to enrich our discussion with the stakeholders focus group by adding these ~~three~~ four categories to the focus group.

Sincerely, Connie L Cunningham
Chair, Housing Commission (self-only)

Excerpt from the report: "Stakeholder Meetings: We anticipate a total of three stakeholder focus group meetings. Stakeholder groups are made up of individuals with interest in a process or project. We are looking for direction from City Council regarding the makeup of the stakeholder group and selection process, and we request that Council share guidance on criteria for no more than 10 members. A well-rounded stakeholder group could include property owners, renters, block group leaders, developers, business owners, local employees, and service providers. A form will be available on the Housing Element Update website for applicants and members will be appointed to this ad- hoc group by Council, with recommendations provided by staff in ..."

 Watch out for typos; Siri might be on duty.

From: [Jenny Griffin](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Rezoning of Land in Cupertino
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:54:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council:

I am glad to hear the information of the actual zoning and rezoning of land in conjunction With the Housing Element. It is indeed a complicated process.

Is it possible that a land owner could submit a piece of property to the Housing Element Just to get the property rezoned to higher density and have the property be worth more Money? Land is worth more money when it is zoned for higher density. This seems like An easy way to change the zoning of parcels of land. Using the Housing Element to rezone Land like this seems to too convenient a way of making more money on land.

I would hate to think the intent of Housing Elements is to make more money on land. One might draw this conclusion based on current housing laws.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Griffin

From: [Cupertino ForAll](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [City Council](#)
Cc: [Darcy Paul](#); [Hung Wei](#); [Kitty Moore](#); [Liang Chao](#); [Jon Robert Willey](#); [Kirsten Squarcia](#); [Cupertino City Manager's Office](#)
Subject: Re: 11/16/2021 City Council Study Session Item 1: Housing Element Update; 2. Climate Action Plan update
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:12:55 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Paul and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of Cupertino for All, I write to you to encourage your consideration of the following points and actions in order to ensure that Cupertino not only crafts a Housing Element that the Department of Housing and Community Development will certify, but that truly reflects the varied needs and aspirations of current and future residents, and which allows us to actualize our Climate Action Plan goals.

1. Give staff direction on a neutral selection process for the stakeholder representatives.

Selecting stakeholders yourselves will prolong the process and leave the community wondering if the matter had been politicized. De-politicizing every part of the Housing Element process, but most especially the stakeholder selection process, should be a priority.

2. Ensure that stakeholders reflect the full diversity of housing needs in Cupertino.

Whoever does the selection of the stakeholders, should ensure that younger voices and renters' voices are represented in proportion to our population. The city's households are 39% renter at present and their concerns deserve proportionate weight. Similarly, the typical make-up of public comment at public meetings rarely sees as much participation from the population aged 40 and under, and especially aged 30 and under. They should apply similar considerations to the needs of our growing senior community, as well as the developmentally disabled in need of extremely low income housing. You can rectify these representative disparities with the direction you give staff on stakeholder selection, and ensure that the city's new Housing Element fulfills the intentions of AB 686's affirmatively furthering fair housing mandate.

3. The Housing Element update should be coordinated with the Climate Action Plan update.

One of the prime drivers of the methodology underpinning the Regional Housing Need Allocation is the reduction of vehicle miles traveled so that we are planning, on a regional basis, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These goals clearly overlap with the principles behind the city's Climate Action Plan. Focusing our housing around job centers, creating mixed use centers that allow people alternatives to driving, creating development policies that foster biking and walking infrastructure to serve new housing, revisiting our minimum parking standards that encourage too much driving, and ensuring that we have viable transportation demand management policies will allow these two planning exercises to knit together. Coordinating between them would have the collateral benefit of saving staff time during a period when the city continues to suffer from critical vacancies. We direct you to the work of the CoolClimate Network attached to UC Berkeley. Their mapping tools graphically and clearly demonstrate the benefits of three metrics for Cupertino: infill development, vehicle miles traveled reduction, and electrification. Infill housing impacts all three as it reduces sprawl, allows people to live closer to where they work, and because new

buildings can be required to meet new building electrification standards. You can find these maps here: <https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/maps>

4. Partner with the community to satisfy new legal requirements for the site inventory analysis. Consistent with the requirements AB 1397, Cupertino for All stands ready to help the city identify properties whose owners would be interested in building new housing during the 6th RHNA Cycle production period. Because AB 1397 requires cities siting over half of their low-income housing on non-vacant sites to support the nomination of those sites with substantial evidence, we believe that this requirement poses an important challenge for Cupertino. Very little legally "vacant" land of suitable size to support affordable housing exists in Cupertino, so the city will almost certainly need to fulfill this specific evidentiary requirement. We want to help the city overcome that challenge. We invite you to partner not only with us, but with the rest of the NGO community in Cupertino and the region so that sufficient sites of appropriate size and density can be identified.

We hope that you look on this process as we do--as a special chance to shape the future of Cupertino as a place of inclusion and opportunity.

Many thanks,

J.R. Fruen
Policy Director - Cupertino for All

CC 11-16-21

Study Session #2

Climate Action Plan
Update

Written Comments

From: [Dan Marshall](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Andre Duurvoort](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comment related to Cupertino City Council meeting with Sustainability Commission Nov 16, 2021
Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 3:42:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

11/17/2021

Cupertino City Council members,

Thank you for permitting me to view your Nov 16 meeting with the Sustainability Commission.

I applaud the Sustainability Commission's goal to achieve net zero green house gases by 2040. Also, the current focus on transitioning Cupertino's natural gas powered energy consumption to electrical energy makes sense. But I have two suggestions which are not in the plan.

The first suggestion is for the City to lobby federal and state governments to take actions to stimulate transition to net zero. For example, imagine if Federal and/or California offered citizens tax credits for converting a furnace from gas to electrical power. This would turbo boost our rate of transition. City Council members, because you represent 60,000 citizens, Ro Khanna, our representative in the House, will place substantial weight on a statement or request from you. He would probably have time to meet with you if you ask. The same goes for Evan Low, our California state representative.

My other recommendation is to employ the Pareto Principle in our effort to transition from natural gas to electricity. In case you're not familiar with the Pareto Principle, it posits that a very few contributors cause most of an issue. So the most effective way to make progress is to identify the few things causing most of the problem. I applied the Pareto Principle to my families' carbon footprint. Within the context of natural gas consumption, I found that annually our furnace uses 5 times as much natural gas as the sum of our gas stove, gas clothes dryer, gas water heater, and natural gas bar-b-que. So to make rapid progress, we should focus on replacing gas furnaces with electric heat pumps.

(Note that we have solar hot water so it would be wise to repeat my analysis on a sample of homes before reaching final decisions)

Thank you for considering my suggestions,

Dan Marshall 

408-859-6628

DanMarshall22@Gmail.com

Cyrah Caburian

From: Giulianna Pendleton <giulianna@scvas.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 4:51 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Shani Kleinhaus; Matthew Dodder; Alice Kaufman; Idrruff psychology; Connie Cunningham
Subject: November 16th Agenda Study Session Item 2: Consider Climate Action Plan Update Draft Measures
Attachments: Joint Letter Cupertino CAP .pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please find the attached joint comment letter from Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Green Foothills, and California Native Plant Society regarding the Climate Action Plan Update draft measures.

Thank you,

Giulianna Pendleton

Environmental Advocacy Assistant
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
22221 McClellan Rd
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-656-7978
giulianna@scvas.org

Cyrah Caburian

From: Neela S <neela.nandu@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 10:34 AM
To: City Council
Subject: November 16th Agenda Item: CAP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Paul and Council Members,

My name is Neela Srinivasan and I am a resident/community member of Cupertino. I appreciate the City's work on updating our Climate Action Plan, especially for including a Tree Canopy Goal. We support the goal of planting 24,000 trees in Cupertino within the CAP Measures and Actions and ask that 80% of the planted trees and shrubs should be native to California. This will be a critical step forward in addressing the synergistic and devastating impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Hoesung Lee, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recently pointed out that the new IPCC report was an "important step" in the collaboration between scientific fields focusing on climate and those focused on biodiversity, stating "Climate change and biodiversity loss combine to threaten society -- often magnifying and accelerating each other". More trees also help people: improved moods and mental health, reduce impact of extreme heat, and increase quality of life!

The importance of cities in providing habitat for wildlife, especially for birds and beneficial insects, has been widely recognized. Cities around the globe are encouraged to adopt biodiversity and "rewilding" priorities to address our global biodiversity crisis. For these reasons we are asking the CAP Measures to include 80% native trees within the Tree Canopy Goal.

Thank you,
Neela Srinivasan

Cyrah Caburian

From: Peg Albrets <pegmomrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 1:46 PM
To: City Council
Subject: November 16th Agenda Item: CAP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Paul and Council Members,

My name is Peg Albrets and I am a resident/community member of Cupertino. I appreciate the City's work on updating our Climate Action Plan, especially for including a Tree Canopy Goal. We support the goal of planting 24,000 trees in Cupertino within the CAP Measures and Actions and ask that 80% of the planted trees and shrubs should be native to California. This will be a critical step forward in addressing the synergistic and devastating impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Hoesung Lee, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recently pointed out that the new IPCC report was an "important step" in the collaboration between scientific fields focusing on climate and those focused on biodiversity, stating "Climate change and biodiversity loss combine to threaten society -- often magnifying and accelerating each other". More trees also help people: improved moods and mental health, reduce impact of extreme heat, and increase quality of life!

The importance of cities in providing habitat for wildlife, especially for birds and beneficial insects, has been widely recognized. Cities around the globe are encouraged to adopt biodiversity and "rewilding" priorities to address our global biodiversity crisis. For these reasons we are asking the CAP Measures to include 80% native trees within the Tree Canopy Goal.

Thank you,

Peg

Cyrah Caburian

From: Connie Cunningham <cunninghamconniel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 13, 2021 10:28 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Cunningham Connie; Gilee Corral; City Clerk
Subject: November 16, 2021 Special Study Session, Agenda Item 2: CAP Update

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Councilmembers:

Subject: November 16, 2021 Special Study Session, Agenda Item 2: CAP Update:

Please add the metric of 80% native trees to the metric for the tree canopy in CAP 2.0 Draft Measures

Quote: "Hoesung Lee, chair of the IPCC*, recently pointed out that the new IPCC report was an 'important step' in the collaboration between scientific fields focusing on climate and those focused on biodiversity, stating "Climate change and biodiversity loss combine to threaten society -- often magnifying and accelerating each other". * Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

I thank the Staff for their excellent report on CAP 2.0 for November 16, 2021. I am very pleased that the comments requesting "protecting biodiversity" made by people attending the October 21, 2021 Sustainability Commission meeting were included. I am, also, pleased that the Sustainability Commissioners were supportive, and that the consultant confirmed that biodiversity and resiliency can be addressed in the adaptation and resiliency section. I am heartened, too, to read that the CAP 2.0 Plan is focused upon equity among all areas of Cupertino.

I urge the Council to make the following changes to the Draft Measures to include protecting biodiversity. This will significantly strengthen the Climate Action Plan 2.0 goals because biodiversity and climate change are interconnected.

I. In the Staff Report on 5, I urge you to change the Carbon Sequestration GHG Reduction Measure to read (red highlights are the recommended wording):

Double the urban tree canopy by 2030, **with 80% native trees**, to absorb more carbon from the air and provide resiliency benefits.

Sustainability Commission Draft CAP 2.0

Attachment A: Draft Climate Action Plan Update Measures and Actions:

II. Page 9 of Attachment A, Measure CS-1.

I urge adding a metric as follows:

CS-1: Increase carbon sequestration by planting 24,000 new trees throughout the community by 2030 and, of these, plant 80% native trees to protect bioiversity

Also, regarding Measure CS-2 "Studies and Plans:

III. I urge adding the following words: "and protect biodiversity." at the end of the sentence so it reads as follows:

CS-2 Studies and Plans: Study options to manage Cupertino's open spaces, parklands, and fields to sequester more carbon and protect biodiversity.

Cupertino has many avenues for successfully reaching this 80% goal. Here are just a few thoughts.

1. Cupertino has roads with medians that could include native trees.
2. Cupertino has an exciting new park in process: Lawrence-Mitty Park. Design of that park could include native trees.
3. Cupertino can ensure that native trees are included in all areas of the city, with special attention for parcels and census block groups that do not currently have trees. Equity is key to ensuring that Cupertino is a livable city for everyone. Plantable space information can be overlaid with land use and zoning information. Much of land with areas suitable for planting are privately owned.
4. Cupertino citizens are very interested in gardens, nature and wildlife. Educating them on the critical need for native trees will create valuable partners for the city.

I urge the Council to add the metric of 80% native trees to CAP 2.0.

Best regards,
Connie Cunningham
34 year resident
Audubon Member

Cyrah Caburian

From: Mary Vanatta <vanattam@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 13, 2021 8:59 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Agenda Item for Meeting on 11/16/21: CAP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Paul and members of the Cupertino City Council,

I am a resident of Cupertino - I moved here in 2013, and one of my favorite things about the city is how filled with beautiful trees it is! I am very excited to hear that the city has the goal, as part of its Climate Action Plan, of planting 24,000 trees in Cupertino by 2030. I think that it is very important that the city plant native trees and shrubs, so I ask that 80% of the planted trees and shrubs be native to California.

I am a member of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, which is also making this request. SCVAS has made it clear that planting native trees is critical to address the synergistic and devastating impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Again, I applaud the city for their goal of improving our tree canopy - the importance of cities in providing habitat for wildlife, especially for birds and beneficial insects, has been widely recognized. Please do consider this request that 80% of these trees/shrubs be native to California.

Thank you,
Mary Vanatta
10445 Merriman Road
Cupertino

Cyrah Caburian

From: Lauren Sapudar
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:18 AM
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: FW: Comments re: Study Session Subject 2 on 11/16/21

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning Mayor and Councilmembers (Bcc'd on this email),

Please see the below communication for tonight's Study Session No. 2 on the CAP.

Regards,



Lauren Sapudar

Deputy City Clerk
City Manager's Office
LaurenS@cupertino.org
(408) 777-1312



From: Sean Hughes <jxseanhughes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Lauren Sapudar <LaurenS@cupertino.org>
Subject: Re: Comments re: Study Session Subject 2 on 11/16/21

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Yes, I would like the comments to be included in the record, as well as forwarded to the Council.

Thank you,
Sean

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 11:17 AM Lauren Sapudar <LaurenS@cupertino.org> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Hughes,

The City Clerk's office is in receipt of this communication. Did you wish for it to be included as part of the public record for tonight's City Council meeting and as part of the study session CAP item? Also, I am not sure if the Council was blind-copied on this email or if you would like me to forward it?

Regards,



Lauren Sapudar

Deputy City Clerk
City Manager's Office
LaurenS@cupertino.org
(408) 777-1312



From: Sean Hughes <jxseanhughes@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:09 PM
To: City Clerk <CityClerk@cupertino.org>
Subject: Comments re: Study Session Subject 2 on 11/16/21

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I would like to submit the following comments pertaining to the second Study Session subject:

Regarding Topic 2, the CAP update draft measures

At a high-level, I hope that the council places more emphasis and energy in the areas of highest impact - by the staff report findings, these areas are increased transit use, *commercial* ZEV (zero-emission vehicle) adoption, and *residential* electrification building targets.*

I hope that the council endorses many of the recommendations, has the ambition to pursue the more "aggressive" policies, and focuses on actions with the most measurable impacts - namely shifting land-use policy and adjusting building ordinances to pursue a more sustainable future with more transit, less car use, and electrified homes.

*This is based off Table 1, “Draft Climate Action Plan Update Measures” within the Staff Report for the CAP Update Study Session on 11/16/2021, graphic provided below

Table 1. Draft Climate Action Plan Update Measures

Proposed Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures	2030 Emissions reduction (MT CO ₂ e)	2040 Emissions reduction (MT CO ₂ e)
Building Energy		
Increase participation rates in Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE)		
Reduce SVCE opt-out rate to 2% for residential use by 2030 and maintain through 2040	40	20
Reduce SVCE opt-out rate to 10% for commercial use by 2030 and maintain through 2040	740	250
Electrify existing buildings		
Electrify 49% of existing residential buildings by 2030 and 86% by 2040	21,920	38,610
Electrify 24% of existing commercial buildings by 2030 and 49% by 2040	13,960	28,730
Transportation		
Implement programs for active transit that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)		
Achieve 15% of bicycle mode share by 2030 and 25% by 2040	180	290

Proposed Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures	2030 Emissions reduction (MT CO ₂ e)	2040 Emissions reduction (MT CO ₂ e)
Implement programs for shared transit that reduce VMT		
Achieve 35% of public and shared transit mode share by 2030 and 40% by 2040	64,240	73,210
Increase zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption		
35% of passenger cars are zero-emission vehicles by 2030, and 100% by 2040	11,470	35,210
20% of commercial vehicles are zero-emission vehicles by 2030, and 100% by 2040	7,760	47,590
Waste		
Reduce community-wide landfilled organics 80% by 2025 and 90% by 2040 compared to 2018 levels	2,400	2,610
Reduce community-wide landfilled inorganics 35% by 2030 and 90% by 2040 compared to 2018 levels	5,160	13,490
Off-road		
Off-road equipment such as construction machinery and landscaping tools are 25% electric by 2030, and 100% electric by 2040	3,950	16,380
Carbon Sequestration		
Double the urban tree canopy by 2030 to absorb more carbon from the air and provide resiliency benefits	1,400	1,400
Total GHG Reduction Potential	133,220	257,790

Measure BE-1:

-
-
- “Define equity metrics for ordinance enforcement based on feedback from local low-income communities
- of color and structure the ordinance and permitting compliance program to meet these metrics.”
-

Hope to see follow-up and attention on this item so that it is not an empty commitment. Especially hope to see partnership with community organizations or partnerships in implementing any potential ordinance.

-
-
- “Adopt an electrification ordinance for existing residential buildings by 2023 to
-

be implemented through the building permit process which bans expansion of natural gas infrastructure and requires replacement of HVAC systems, hot water heaters, and other appliances to be all-electric at time of replacement,

-
-
- major renovation, and time of sale.”
-
- “Require [subgroup(s) of residential building owners] to electrify their natural gas appliances
- by 2025”
-

Highly recommend both of these actions, assuming there are no loop-holes for owners doing renovations or “flipping” of properties (presumably covered under the definitions of “replacement” or “time of sale”). I also hope that any requirement here is paired with educational campaigns highlighting recent science on the health effects of indoor gas appliances (see [here](#), [here](#), & [here](#)).

I applaud and very much agree with the need for the engagement and partnership goals highlighted within Measure BE-1, in particular the need to work with local contractors and labor unions on the benefits and technical requirements for electrification.

Measure BE-3

-
-
- “Reduce Silicon Valley Clean Energy opt-out rates to 2% for residential and 10% for commercial by 2030 and maintain through 2040”
-

How does this commercial target account for, if at all, buildings owned by companies that may be pursuing their own renewable energy supply goals (such as a recent trend for tech companies pursuing 24/7 clean energy goals)? Presumably, if it was verifiable, I would think that those buildings would *not* contribute to the percentages, as they were already moving to clean energy supply anyways.

Measure T-1

-
-
- “Conduct an analysis of the potential community impacts and benefits of implementing disincentive-based policies for driving single passenger vehicles, including a congestion charge program, limiting parking options, increased local taxes (income tax, gasoline tax, or car registration tax), and Transportation Network Company (TNC) user taxes”
-

It goes without saying but I hope the City treats these communications delicately, as tax-based policies will likely generate a high political cost and negative feedback. I believe the council would be much more successful in increasing transit by changing the built environment and laws governing such (land-use / zoning), rather than pursuing highly visible demand-side tax policies.

-
-
- “Ban cars in high-traffic zone(s) or on individual roads in the City where other transit options are available by implementing a congestion charge that applies to passenger cars and car-sharing services like Uber and Lyft with exceptions for disabled drivers and residents of those areas.”
-

I applaud and strongly agree with the banning of cars in high-foot traffic zones (in particular developments like the Oaks or all interior roads within Main Street are obvious candidates for closed streets and conversion to permanent outdoor seating and walkways), but would like to express concern on this highly-specific congestion charge scheme. This seems like it would be logistically and technically complicated (by targeting very specific sections of the population) and may have equity considerations (punishing those who have to commute into work in high-traffic areas, or just want to visit employment and city centers). Simply, it just doesn't seem worth the effort, when there is much “lower-hanging fruit” available (with arguably clearer benefits), in the form of land-use policies, closing of streets in retail / shopping areas.

-
-
- “Consistent with the intention of Senate Bill (SB) 10, allow developers to build housing without off-street parking if they are close to frequent transit service.”
-
-
-
- “Eliminate or severely limit parking options for single-passenger vehicles in commercial areas of Cupertino.”
-

I would argue that neither of these measures are aggressive as they require the least amount of political will, and bureaucratic capital, to implement. Both are simple changes to land-use policy with profound implications and benefits to pedestrian safety, public health of residents, and nudges toward transit adoption.

Measure T-2

-
-
- “Develop and implement an Active Transportation Plan to achieve 15% of bicycle mode share by 2030 and 25% by 2040”
-

How would Measure T-2’s goal treat e-bike riders? I would argue for inclusion, even though adoption is very earlier, Cupertino’s affluent resident-base and prevalence of food-delivery services (a demographic of worker adopting e-bikes at an increasing pace) make it at least worth ensuring there is language that counts e-bike riders as a “bicycle mode” of transportation.

Measure T-3

-
-
- “Implement public and shared transit programs to achieve 35% of public transit mode share by 2030 and 40% by 2040 ”
-

For being projected as having one of the largest impacts in terms of GHG reductions, the concrete policy goals - particularly those with tangible, measurable outcomes- is disappointing.

Some easy, tangible goals would be setting level-of-service goals related to connections to larger transit interconnections. For example, it currently takes 37 minutes, or 30 minutes (assuming you get on the 55 bus, which has 30 minute baseline frequencies every day of the week) to get to the closest CalTrain station (Sunnyvale). 30 minute baseline frequencies are not viable for large parts of the community, in particular when this frequency does not adjust for peak times during the weekday.

Partnerships with the VTA should focus on seeing what Cupertino can do to increase frequency and ensure easier connection to other transit hubs. Bus-Rapid transit, or the dedication of particular bus-only lanes along major streets seems like an easy way to improve service at the cost of just a little paint and enforcement.

Similarly, if we continue to use Via, we could have reduced fares, or a single Via vehicle dedicated only to connections to and from the nearest CalTrain Station (Sunnyvale).

And of course, the city's approach to land-use and development will greatly affect this largest piece of our Climate Action Plan. I hope that the current - and future - Council can see that our climate goals are fundamentally tied to our housing goals, in particular, our ability to build more, denser housing. To date, Cupertino's efforts do not reflect a serious stance on either housing or climate goals, and I hope to see this change in the future.

Regards,
Sean Hughes

Cyrah Caburian

From: Gary Latshaw <glatshaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:14 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Comments on Item 2: Climate Action Plan Update

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor, Council Members, City staff -

I am submitting these recommendations as a private citizen. These recommendations are independent of any assessment by the Sustainability Commission. I comprise them based on my expertise in physics and study of climate change. I have been giving presentations on climate change for about 15 years and I have been trained by the Climate Reality Project. I am also a co-founder of a group called [securethefuture2100](#), which has advised elected national representatives (such as Senators Feinstein and Harris, Representative Khanna and others) on climate-related issues.

I have observed over the last 15 that there has been a failure of the Climate Science Community to properly assess how quickly the earth is undergoing massive changes (see appendix). Although the projected global temperature increases have matched the Community's consensus, the consequences of increased forest fires, exceptional weather events causing flooding, freezing storms and unprecedented heat waves, loss of biodiversity, and other disruptions have been much worse than previously anticipated. Billions of dollars are being spent already to rebuild after these unprecedented events.

One of the misunderstood facets of controlling emissions was the excessive leakage of natural gas. While under laboratory conditions natural gas combustion produces less carbon dioxide than coal or oil, the significant gas leakage in its acquisition, processing, transportation, and combustion produces as much or more atmospheric warming than a comparable amount of coal or oil. This is because the leaked gas has a very high warming potential. The warming is almost hundred times that of carbon dioxide. The use of natural gas for heating is comparable to that of coal based on the current infrastructure.

-
The current IPCC assessment has concluded that it will be necessary to actually remove carbon dioxide and perhaps methane (primary component of natural gas). Current technologies require about \$1000/ton of CO₂ for removal. The 2014 Cupertino CAP has assessed that municipal operations will release in 2020 about 2,000 MT/CO₂. This then translates to a future cost to the next generation of about \$2,000,000/year. These cost will accrue until the buildings and equipments are electrified.

In view of the dire situation the future generation will face, I am making specific recommendations that are focused on objectives that are achievable in a city such as ours.

1. The City must remodel or replace all its buildings, vehicles, and off-road devices so they operate only on electricity.

2. The City should target 2030 to eliminate all natural gas use within the City's jurisdiction.
3. Enforce the Reach Codes for new buildings aggressively. I learned that some of the construction since the Codes were passed did not meet the codes. This should be reversed based on the City's declaration of a Climate Emergency.
4. The Reach Codes should be revised to eliminate any use of natural gas by 2030.

These are specific and detailed recommended changes:

M-1 Decarbonize 100% of municipal buildings by ~~2030~~ 2026 and remaining facilities by ~~2045~~.

Comment: All Municipal buildings will be operated by zero-emission electricity by 2026.

In particular, the City Hall will be renovated or replaced to achieve this objective. The City Hall and other municipal buildings do not meet earthquake codes, so major renovations or replacements are in order in any case.

Both the University of California and Stanford University have committed to transition to zero-emission buildings^[i].

Comment: This is the costliest item and may require financing out of the normal expenditures. However, the current interest rates are at all-time lows so the City should act with dispatch on this item.

M-5 Electrify or otherwise decarbonize the municipal fleet by ~~2040~~ 2026.

Comment: There are currently comparable electric vehicles comparable to gas-driven ones available on the market. In the coming years there should be viable alternatives to all the vehicles. Electric vehicles are cheaper to maintain and operate.

M-6 Electrify or otherwise decarbonize all municipal off-road equipment by ~~2040~~ 2026.

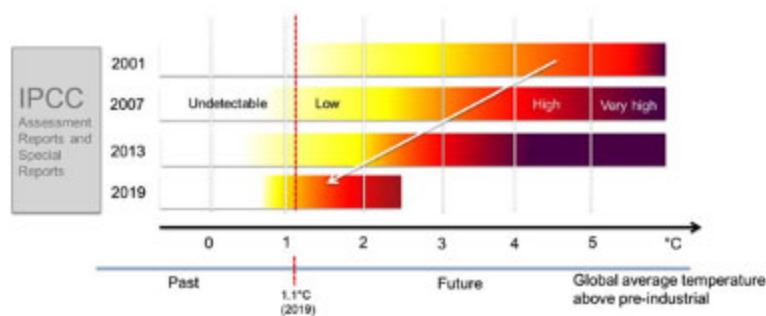
Comment: All municipal off-road engines should be easily replaceable by 2026. Most of the gardening equipment is already sold commercially.

The City should provide a quotative annual update to its progress on the CAP items. Such an update is not necessarily tied directly to emissions but might specify the progress on some items. For example, a statement like "New City Hall is 65% complete" would be appropriate.

The City should work with the CPUC and/or the legislature to obtain direct information and possibly control of the commercial buildings. As of this writing the commercial sector can obtain electricity by direct access. This does not allow visibility into the carbon emissions associated with the electricity.

Appendix

The context of the CAP must consider both State Laws/Regulations and the most recent scientific evidence on climate change. What scientist have learned in the last few years, since much of the State Laws/Regulations were written, is that damaging climate events are happening quicker than expected. This unfortunate conclusion is demonstrated by this graph which is from a IPCC report^[ii]. As shown graphically and called out in the caption, the analysis of when "large-scale discontinuities" might become a high risk is now at much lower temperatures. This might be NOW.



Too close for comfort. Each subsequent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change revises downwards the temperature at which “large-scale discontinuities” in the climate system become a high risk. Meanwhile global average temperature continues rising.

A recent analysis by Canada^[iii] on their forest fires reveals that Canada’s managed forests now emit more CO₂ than the absorb. According to the Canadian report, *the flood of CO₂ coming out of them [forests] reached record levels, at nearly a quarter billion tons of CO₂ in a single year. That’s more than Canada’s once biggest climate pollution source – the oil and gas sector-emitted in a single year.*

California’s wildfires may have caused the forests to be net emitter in 2020^[iv].

Thus, it is likely that one of the carbon “sinks” had now turned into an “emitter.”

The IPCC report as well as the “Getting to Neutral” report by Lawrence Livermore National Labs^[v] (prepared for the state of California) call for Carbon Dioxide Removal as a necessary development to get to a carbon-neutral position.

[i] *California Universities Are Transitioning to All-Electric Buildings*, Justin Gerdes, greentechmeida.com, September 2018

[ii] IPCC_AR6_WGI_Full_Report

[iii] Saxifrage, Barry, Canada’s managed forests have turned into super-emitters, and 2018 set a record, Canada’s National Observer, June 5th, 2020

[iv] *The Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Contemporary Wildfire, Prescribed Fire, and Forest Management Activities* prepared by the California Air Resources Board December 2020 (Draft), on page I the graph shows 2020 preliminary estimate for wildfires emission at 110 MMT of CO₂; on page 19 the graphic states that the typical Gross Stock exchange is 26-36 MMT CO₂/year. Thus, the combined forests and rangeland absorbed LESS CO₂ than the wildfires emitted.

[v] *Getting to Neutral – options for negative carbon emissions in California*, prepared by Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, LLNL-TR-796100

--
Fight for Renewable Energies! Save the global ecology; create jobs; eliminate dependence on foreign oil; reduce military requirements

Gary Latshaw, Ph.D.
408-499-3006

Cyrah Caburian

From: Eugene <elin12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:06 PM
To: City Council
Subject: November 16th Agenda Item: CAP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Paul and Council Members,

My name is Eugene Lin and I am a longtime resident of Cupertino. I appreciate the City's work on updating our Climate Action Plan, especially for including a Tree Canopy Goal. We support the goal of planting 24,000 trees in Cupertino within the CAP Measures and Actions and ask that 80% of the planted trees and shrubs should be native to California. This will be a critical step forward in addressing the synergistic and devastating impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Hoesung Lee, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recently pointed out that the new IPCC report was an "important step" in the collaboration between scientific fields focusing on climate and those focused on biodiversity, stating "Climate change and biodiversity loss combine to threaten society -- often magnifying and accelerating each other". More trees also help people: improved moods and mental health, reduce impact of extreme heat, and increase quality of life!

The importance of cities in providing habitat for wildlife, especially for birds and beneficial insects, has been widely recognized. Cities around the globe are encouraged to adopt biodiversity and "rewilding" priorities to address our global biodiversity crisis. For these reasons we are asking the CAP Measures to include 80% native trees within the Tree Canopy Goal.

Thank you,

Eugene Lin

From: [Lisa Warren](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Tree canopy - CAP
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:45:26 PM

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Council,

When I spoke for 2 minutes this evening, I was not aware of the request for enhanced tree canopy to be 80% 'native trees'. Please keep in mind that trees/plants that are considered 'native' are vulnerable to climate change, like any living thing. **Climate appropriate trees is a far better goal.** Also, tree diversity is important to avoid disease .

.... oh, Councilmember Moore is speaking about some of this as I type. ☐

With tall buildings and narrow alleys between, don't let commercial developers make you think they will plant sufficient trees that will have a chance to thrive. Sun and water are ever so important.

Thanks.

Lisa Warren

From: [Tara Sreekrishnan](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: PLEASE READ ALOUD - RE: Study Session Item 2 - Public Comment from Kunal Gupta - Consider Climate Action Plan Update draft measures
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:00:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

PLEASE READ ALOUD - Public Comment from Kunal Gupta - RE: Study Session Item 2 - Consider Climate Action Plan Update draft measures

Good evening Council Members, My name is Kunal Gupta, and I'm a senior at Cupertino High School. As a member of the Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action Team and CHS Environmental Club, I would like to articulate my support for ambitious carbon reduction goals in Cupertino. Unfortunately due to schedule restrictions I have to keep my comment brief. The drastic effects of climate change have already begun to take shape: destroying communities from more prevalent and powerful natural disasters, making regions of the world inhabitable from drying rivers and a crossed wet-bulb temperature threshold, and resulting in the greatest extinction event in recorded human history. It's really important for our future that we cut net carbon emissions as much as possible, which requires strict policy on a state and local level. I think, though quite difficult, the least our community can do to literally save our world is striving for carbon neutrality by 2030.

From: [Tara Sreekrishnan](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: PLEASE READ ALOUD - RE: Study Session Item 2 - Public Comment from Elise Chiu - Consider Climate Action Plan Update draft measures
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:00:59 PM

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PLEASE READ ALOUD - Public Comment from Elise Chiu - RE: Study Session Item 2 - Consider Climate Action Plan Update draft measures

Elise Chiu, Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team Member

"Hello Councilmembers! My name is Elise. I am a high school student at Monta Vista High School and co-lead of the Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team of SVYCA. I'd like to make a brief statement on some general areas of improvement I'd love to see the city focus on. First, I urge the development of Climate Action Plans within schools so that aspiring youth activists such as myself can see action taken on this climate problem firsthand. Second, a great interest of mine is saving native plants, so in the Climate Action Plan I hope more public encouragement or even regulation of limits to invasive plants and planting native species would be stressed. Especially given issues such as the continued selling of invasive plants and endangered plant species, hopefully Cupertino can take more action in some way so that the spread does not continue. Overall, it's just as urgent that we are more efficient with our goals, so that we may have carbon neutrality by 2030. While it is ambitious, I really hope we can raise our goal and be more impactful in climate activism, as a city with so many youth leaders and climate activists. Thank you for hearing me out!"

From: [Tara Sreekrishnan](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: PLEASE READ ALOUD - RE: Study Session Item 2 - Public Comment from Gwyn Azar - Consider Climate Action Plan Update draft measures
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:00:56 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

PLEASE READ ALOUD - Public Comment from Gwyn Azar - RE: Study Session Item 2 - Consider Climate Action Plan Update draft measures

Gwyn Azar, Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team Member

"Hello Councilmembers, My name is Gwyn Azar, I'm currently a senior at Cupertino High School, and representing the Cupertino chapter of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA). I am unfortunately not able to attend this meeting live due to school extracurriculars, but wanted to make sure the youth voice was present to communicate the urgency that we feel as young people for concrete climate action. I have been following the CAP update process since it started, attending Sustainability Commission meetings and CAP workshops. Mainly I have been advocating for a stronger GHG reduction goal, as well as generally representing the youth voice and pushing for a strong and ambitious plan. San Jose recently joined cities like Menlo Park in setting a goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. I believe we too can set this goal, and encourage the council to press for a goal far more aggressive than the current draft goal of 2040. We simply do not have the time to afford to taking this process at a leisurely place.

The recent IPCC report shows us what science has already told us: that we need to make drastic changes in order to minimize human suffering from climate change. Us young people have not been impressed by our global leaders and governments at the COP26 conference in Glasgow. It's becoming increasingly clear to us that global leaders are not willing to make the emission cuts required to give us a liveable future. This reinforces the importance of climate leadership from local governments. Targets like net neutrality by 2030 are simply the necessary sweeping change for a global crisis this dire. I strongly encourage Cupertino to live up to its reputation as a climate leader and set emission reduction targets as strong as San Jose and other cities. In 2018, the council declared a Climate Emergency. I believe to live up to that declaration, we need to take leadership and set stronger reduction goals. Additionally, as a high school student, another thing that I am interested in seeing is Climate Action Plans within our schools. Another topic SVYCA has been pursuing is climate literacy in students, and I believe this would help raise awareness for climate issues amongst our students, as well as contribute to reducing our carbon emissions, water use, and food waste within our schools, and by extent our cities.

Again, I would like to reiterate the need for the strongest possible GHG reduction goal, which I believe is carbon neutrality by 2030. We youth are looking for climate leadership right now in our governments, to give us a sense of hope for our futures. I believe that Cupertino can and should provide that, and lead the rest of the county, state, country, and world in real, effective, climate action."

From: [Peggy Griffin](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Cupertino City Manager's Office](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: FW: 11-16-2016 CC Study Session - Climate Action Plan CORRECTION
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:45:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council, City Manager and Staff,

I forgot to add "AND parking lots" to Item #10 WATER (see in RED).

Sincerely,
Peggy Griffin

Staff Report

1. In the tables, it needs to show the current numbers. How can you come up with percentage increases without knowing where you currently are today?

Comments on Attachment A "Draft Climate Action Plan Update Measures and Actions"

1. **EQUITY** (throughout document) ...Remove "of color" from the phrase "low-income community of color" because low income has no color. If you're low income you can't afford it and it doesn't matter what color you are! Climate action applies to everyone!
2. **Page 2, Measure BE-1, Funding**...should include rebates like commercial buildings.
3. **What does neighborhood level electrification** mean and what are the impacts to residents?
4. **PARKING** (throughout document)...do not reduce parking! With today's state housing laws coming down on us, parking will become limited.
5. **Page 5, Measure T-2, Partnerships**...Remove specifically listing Walk-Bike Cupertino. This elevates one organization over all others. The Bike-Ped Commission is chartered to handle this issue and all organizations have equal access to them.
6. **Page 5, Measure T-3, 2nd to last row Structural Change**...Requiring ALL employers will be a huge financial hit for smaller businesses.
7. **Page 5, Measure T-3, last row Funding...new position communicating with VTA** – really not sure about this. Darcy and Kitty would know if this is worth it.
8. **TAXING**...Between the state tax, local taxes and property taxes and existing vehicle taxes, residents and businesses are TAXED OUT!
9. **WASTE**...Page 7-8...Landfill and organics...require the same trash cans everywhere and in all businesses so that people get trained as to what to put in what bin!
10. **WATER**...add requirements for permeable driveways and hardscapes **AND parking lots!**
11. **ROOFS**...require lighter colored roofs

Sincerely,

Peggy Griffin

From: dinosaddr3-email@yahoo.com
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comments on the Climate Action Plan Update
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:58:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor, Council Members, City staff -

I appreciate the effort invested in developing the CAP update and especially the extraordinary effort to assure everyone is heard.

I have a couple of comments which I believe will fast track the electrification of buildings.

1) Focus on quantifying and eliminating Natural Gas Water Heaters. Approximately 50% of building CO2e emissions are a result of heating water. There are significant incentives (approx \$3000) to replace them and even more rebates available to low income citizens.

I suggest this is be separate metric under electrification of buildings and businesses.

- Reduction/Elimination of the permit cost for Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Elimination of the nes permits for Natural Gas Water Heaters asap

2) De-carbonize 100% of municipal buildings by 2026 and remaining facilities by 2035.

3) Electrify or otherwise de-carbonize the municipal fleet by 2026.

4) Provide annual updates to progress on the CAP items.

5) Add a new measure to gain transparency into the Direct Access Customer's energy usage to assure it is consistent with this CAP. This may require working with the California Utilities Commission.

Dino Sakkas
30 year Cupertino Citizen

From: [Peggy Griffin](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Cupertino City Manager's Office](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: 11-16-2016 CC Study Session - Climate Action Plan
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:16:06 PM

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Staff Report

1. In the tables, it needs to show the current numbers. How can you come up with percentage increases without knowing where you currently are today?

Comments on Attachment A "Draft Climate Action Plan Update Measures and Actions"

1. **EQUITY** (throughout document) ...Remove "of color" from the phrase "low-income community of color" because low income has no color. If you're low income you can't afford it and it doesn't matter what color you are! Climate action applies to everyone!
2. **Page 2, Measure BE-1, Funding**...should include rebates like commercial buildings.
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10. **WATER**...add requirements for permeable driveways and hardscapes
11. **ROOFS**...require lighter colored roofs

Sincerely,
Peggy Griffin

From: [Liana Crabtree](#)
To: [Darcy Paul](#); [Liang Chao](#); [Kitty Moore](#); [Hung Wei](#); [Jon Robert Willey](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: written communication, 11/16/2021 Council Study Session, Agenda Item 2, Climate Action Plan Update.
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:25:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao, and Council Members Moore, Wei, and Willey:

Please include my letter as written communication for the 11/16/2021 Council Study Session, Agenda Item 2, Climate Action Plan Update.

First, Thank You to Everyone responsible for helping Cupertino achieve ambitious and necessary goals of carbon neutrality and zero waste.

I have a few comments and questions related to information provided in Attachment A - Draft Climate Action Plan Update - Measures and Actions:

Measure T-3, Structural Change, (Pilot). *Conduct a free public transit pilot program for students, foster youth, and unhoused youth in Cupertino that makes it free for participants to travel via VTA and Via with funding from [X].*

Measure T-3, Structural Change (Pilot), Comment/Question: I understand that in Riverside, CA everyone age 18 and under and all college students ride the local public transit, RTA, for free. It seems like a great plan because young people who seek independence are rewarded for learning how to navigate the bus network. These are skills that can carry over into their adult habits.

Is “free for everyone ages 18 and under and all college students” the same group as “students, foster youth, and unhoused youth”? If no, how are the groupings different?

School buses. CUSD has announced school closures, which means some younger students will now travel farther and cross busy streets to reach their assigned schools. Many families already choose to drive their children to magnet schools or neighborhood schools that are a located a long walk or bike ride away from home. It seems like restoring school bus service could go along way reducing GHG emissions from so many cars idling during school drop off and pick up. What would it take to restore school bus services for Cupertino students?

Measure T-3, Funding. *Dedicate staff time or create a staff position for supporting Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in obtaining grant funding for region-wide service expansion*

Measure T-3, Funding, Comment/Question. Thank You for expanding the Via Cupertino network to include Rancho San Antonio County Park. Is it possible to prioritize bus access to other parks in the area, including Stevens Creek County Park, McClellan Ranch Preserve/Blackberry Farm, Sanborn County Park, Villa Montalvo, Baylands Park, and Los Gatos Creek County Park? Today, there are few or no options to travel to these hiking and recreation destinations using public transit, especially on weekends.

Multiple references. When “People of Color” and “BIPoC” are referenced, which groups are included and which groups are excluded?

Measure CS-1, Equity. *Prioritize low-income areas of Cupertino with less existing tree canopy for tree plantings*

Measure CS-1, Equity, Comment/Question. In the plan, the City commits to planting 24,000 new trees by 2030. What does “prioritize low-income areas of Cupertino” look like? How will low-income areas be identified? What kind of tree canopy improvements can be expected in prioritized areas?

Sincerely,

Liana Crabtree
Cupertino resident

CC 11-16-2021

#2

Brief Reports on
Councilmember Activities
and Brief Announcements

Written Communications

November 16, 2021

Mayor's Corner

Recently, our Vice Mayor, Liang Chao, has been in the news regarding certain comments that she made in a closed email-group discussion with CUSD parents.

Regarding the part of Vice Mayor Chao's comments related to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, I was asked for comment by members of the media, and I stated, "The Chinese Exclusion Act was obviously racist legislation. I have no further comment on this matter."

I don't have any further comment on what I view as the fact of the racism of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

However, I would like to make two other statements. First, although I may have certain political disagreements with each and every person at one point or another, I view it as highly inappropriate to misuse those disagreements as motivations for attacking a person with such gusto for other purposes. For instance, in our City, valid disagreements over perspectives on land use and development have, over time, led to smear attacks online and over email, both of the anonymous and the disingenuous varieties. We do a severe disservice to the integrity of a discussion when we engage in political opportunism to attack others not in an effort to discuss the substance of an issue, but to incite or to teach a lesson about who gets to have an opinion. When we do this, even if there are reasonable underlying points, they tend to get lost in the shuffle of the unnecessary parts. My advice, to everyone, is, drop the smirking. Just address the substance of an issue. If your perspective is then the perspective of the group, our system is about finding a fair and effective way to pursue courses of action. I use the plural term "courses" in "courses of action" deliberately. This is not winner-take-all. But it is something that requires that we be honest with ourselves, and not vicious to each other. And it becomes functional only when we recognize that this is not some variation of a food fight.

The second statement that I will make is that, in the aftermath of the treatment of the Vice Mayor's comments, I have looked into how we can, as a community, have an intelligent and complete discussion about the topic of race and exclusion within the context of the Chinese Exclusion Act and critical race theory. With that in mind, I've taken a few different approaches for a future panel discussion. First, I spoke to a couple of former elected officials representing Cupertino in our State Assembly. Then I approached a Stanford Law professor who specializes in critical race theory. Neither of those avenues panned out. But now I am currently in discussion with a group of people who helped produce a documentary aired in 2017 on PBS regarding the Chinese Exclusion Act. I would like the community to know that I will continue to work to set forth to Cupertino an event in which we will hold a showing of this documentary, followed by a discussion panel which I will moderate. The basic ground rule for this event, however, is that we are there to create a safe and democratic space not just for you or for me, but for each and every one of us. More details forthcoming. Given the current restrictions we have on gathering, I am not sure if this takes place live, only virtually, or by some combination of both, but I do anticipate that we will put together a high-quality discussion sometime within this next quarter.

Cupertino is a wonderful place. We have been successful in many ways, including when it comes to having a highly diverse and functional community. But as with everything, we can always do better, as we are constantly reminded. And the aspirations that we have as a society, as Americans, tell us that we are here to help each other do better as well. I ask that we understand this and that we don't adopt a mentality where such and such a person needs to be taught a lesson for this reason or that. Work harder for a more honest conversation. That is what we have been doing on City Council, and I know that is what we will continue to do. I thank the many members of our community and the broader community for your concern and compassion on this topic. Happy Thanksgiving. See you in December.

Lauren Sapudar

From: Kirsten Squarcia
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 1:33 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: CC 11-16-21 Item #2 - Vice Mayor Chao's Personal Statement

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

=====

The Chinese Exclusion Act was racist, no doubt about it.

The current California Constitution states: "The State shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting." In 2020, I have campaigned against Prop. 16 to preserve this clause specifically because I detest any policies that divide people by race, either in the past, present or in the future, whatever was the "good intention". I am glad that 57.2% of California voters choose to uphold this equal treatment clause.

Throughout history, racism has been used by opportunist self-serving politicians to divide people. In this incident, racism has been manipulated again for political gains by taking snippets out of a long discussion on K-12 education in a members-only local parent group.

And their goal is to bring down me, an outspoken Chinese American woman who has always fought to give voices to powerless grassroots residents.

And here I'd like to thank everyone for the outpouring of support by many of you. Those who supported me in the past and even those who disagreed with me on some issues have expressed their appreciation of what I do.

Today, Chinese Americans are still being treated as "forever foreigners" in our own country. Chinese American scholars and engineers are targeted by the FBI, Homeland Security and the State Department, even after they have passed security clearances. The kind of discrimination Chinese Americans face is not merely racism. It is much more than that, and that was my point. Failing to see other factors affecting the discriminatory treatment ignores the nature of the injustice many Asian Americans faced in the past and still face today, being treated as "forever foreigners," who somehow cannot be trusted as fellow Americans, and who can be scapegoated to achieve other means. This is wrong. We are proud Americans, just like everyone else.

I am sorry that many people were misled by what they read in social media or headlines in the print media. You are upset because you are against racism. And so am I.

I invite you to join me to stand up against all racist policies that divide people and also injustice against anyone on the basis of race, ethnicity or country of origin, not only in the past, but also today and in the future.

We will solve complex problems facing us only through thoughtful consideration of the issues, while respecting each other's viewpoints with fairness and civility.

Let's be role models for our future generations.

Let's make a commitment to a clean election in 2022 without dirty smear campaigns to demonstrate the American values of democracy and freedom of speech.



Kirsten Squarcia

City Clerk
City Manager's Office
KirstenS@cupertino.org
(408) 777-3225



CC 11-16-2021

#14

City Manager Approval of
Employment Agreement

Written Communications

**Oral Summary Read Aloud by the Mayor at the November 16, 2021 Meeting Prior to Council's
Approval of the Item Regarding City Manager's Employment Agreement**

In accordance with Government Code section 54953(c)(3), I am providing an oral summary of the recommended action. The item before the Council tonight is to set the salary and terms and conditions of employment for the City Manager position, effective January 3, 2022.

The proposed base compensation is \$288,000, effective January 3, 2022. The employment agreement also provides for an automobile allowance of \$500 per month and for reimbursement of relocation expenses not to exceed \$5,000. The total annual compensation is \$417,496.48, inclusive of fringe benefits, payroll taxes, and retirement contributions.

Additional details regarding this item are set forth in the agenda and resolution associated with this item.

From: [JOHN KOLSKI](#)
To: [Rhoda Fry](#)
Cc: [City Council](#); [Darcy Paul](#); [City Clerk](#); [Greg Larson](#); [Roger Lee](#); [Jean Bedord](#); [Jean Bedord](#)
Subject: Re:
Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 8:46:09 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On Nov 16, 2021, at 9:14 PM, JOHN KOLSKI <ducksfly10@gmail.com> wrote:

since a new city manager has been appointed.

**ANY DECISIONS ON THE CUPERTINO WATER
UTILITY AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE NOW WITH
THE EXPIRATIONS OF THE LEASE TO SAN JOSE
WATER.**

**MUST BE PUT ON HOLD TILL THE NEW CITY
MANAGER CAN UNDERSTAND AND MAKE THE
DECISIONS TO ADVISE THE COUNCIL THAT ARE
ILLEGAL AND RIGHT FOR THIS CITIES FUTURE.**

**ROGER LEE AND THE CURRENT TEMP. CITY
MANAGER ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING IN THE BEST
INTEREST OF THIS CITY ON THIS EXCEPT DOING
WHAT THEY WANT TO MEET THEIR OWN PERSONAL
AGENDAS. AND HAVE BEEN FOR YEARS NOW.
IT IS TIME THE CORRUPTION IN THE CITY STOPS!
AND THE RESIDENTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE
PROCESS OF WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN TO THE CITY
WATER SYSTEM SINCE IT IS OWNED BY THE
RESIDENTS AND WE ARE THE RATEPAYERS.**

**EVERYTHING THAT IS BEING DONE NOW IS BEING
DONE IN SECRET AND ILLEGALLY.**

JOHN KOLSKI

*THIS IS A CASUAL COMMUNICATION AND ALL STATEMENTS ARE MY
OPINION*

The information contained in this e-mail message is intended only for the CONFIDENTIAL use of the designated addressee named above. Recipients should not file copies of this email with publicly accessible records. If you are not the designated addressee named above or the authorized agent responsible for delivering it to the designated addressee, you received this document through inadvertent error and any further review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication by you or anyone else is strictly prohibited.

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CC 11-16-21

#16

Westport Final Map

Written Comments

Cyrah Caburian

From: Connie Cunningham <cunninghamconniel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 7:06 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Cc: Cunningham Connie
Subject: NOV 16 CC, Agenda Item 16, Consider approval of a Final Map...

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

NOV 16 CC, Agenda Item 16, Consider approval of a Final Map...

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers:

Agenda Item 16: Subject: Consider approval of a Final Map, the Subdivision Improvement Agreement, and the Affordable Housing Regulatory Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants (the BMR Agreement) for Westport Cupertino Development Project; Tract No. 10579; Applicant: 190 West St. James, LLC (KT Urban); Location: 21267 Stevens Creek Boulevard; APN #326-27-042 & 043.

Westport Cupertino is an exciting project that will provide much-needed housing for Below-Market Rate income earners, Assisted Living for Seniors, and Memory care. It, also, provides market-rate housing that is in short supply in our City.

I support this Agreement and urge you to approve the Final Map...for Westport Cupertino Development Project...KT Urban... Location: 21267 Stevens Creek Boulevard....

Sincerely,

Connie L. Cunningham
Chair, Housing Commission (self only)

CC 11-16-21

#17

Vista Drive and
Merritt Drive On-
Street Parking
Removal

Written Comments

Cyrah Caburian

From: Valerie Lucas <valucas22@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:00 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Lawson Middle School Bike/Parking Removal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to the city installing a bike lane along Vista Drive. I am all for the safety of children but I just don't understand the logic behind your plan:

1. Vista Drive is NOT McClellan Road. It is a small road located in a residential neighborhood that is impacted negatively by the expansion of Lawson Middle school.
2. The bike lanes may narrow the road enough to hinder emergency vehicles , PG&E trucks, garbage trucks, service and repair vehicles, street sweepers etc. Have your engineers taken all of this into account?
3. All the overflow of cars that normally park on the school side of the street will now park in front of our houses taking any spaces we have for our cars and our visitors cars. Permit Parking?
4. A barrier will not make the road safer for the kids nor will it encourage more kids to ride their bikes. The roads throughout all Cupertino are dangerous for bikers as well as pedestrians. I cannot count the number of times I have almost been hit trying to cross streets in this town. Their journey to school is far more dangerous before they even make it to Vista Drive.
5. The major hazard on the roads are the parents that drive it. They are on their phones, they do not pay attention, they stop in the middle of the road to let off their kids, they go out of their lanes to try and pass, they don't stop at stop signs, they block driveways etc. They have no consideration for the kids or the neighborhood. Until their behavior is changed nothing constructive will happen.
6. You are under the illusion the kids will actually stay in the bike lane and not jut out in traffic.

There has to be a different solution to this problem. A possible solution would be to open the school gates on Forest/Lazaneo Ave to the kids. New bike racks can be installed inside the fence and they can walk the short distance to their classes.

Is there an environmental impact study that I can read?

Thank you.

Concerned Homeowner
Valerie Lucas
10304 A Vista Drive
Valucas22@gmail.com

Cyrah Caburian

From: Kirsten Squarcia
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 1:15 PM
To: Lauren Sapudar
Subject: FW: Lawson Middle School Bike/Parking Removal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

FYI – expect to post written comms for this item the Monday before the 11/16 meeting.



Kirsten Squarcia

City Clerk
City Manager's Office
KirstenS@cupertino.org
(408) 777-3225



From: Greg Larson <GregL@cupertino.org>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 8:27 AM
To: David Stillman <DavidS@cupertino.org>
Cc: Roger Lee <RogerL@cupertino.org>; Dianne Thompson <diannet@cupertino.org>; Kirsten Squarcia <KirstenS@cupertino.org>
Subject: FW: Lawson Middle School Bike/Parking Removal

Comment re: 11/16 agenda item.



Greg Larson

City Manager - Interim
City Manager's Office
GregL@cupertino.org



From: Hung Wei <HWei@cupertino.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:31 PM
To: Valerie Lucas <valucas22@gmail.com>
Cc: Greg Larson <GregL@cupertino.org>
Subject: Re: Lawson Middle School Bike/Parking Removal

Dear Valerie,

I'm cc'ing your comments to Interim City Manager Greg (Larson) so that he can forward your comments to the appropriate staff for answers. Thanks for your communication. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,
Hung



Hung Wei

Councilmember
City Council
HWei@cupertino.org
(408) 777-3139



From: Valerie Lucas <valucas22@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:59 PM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@cupertino.org>
Subject: Lawson Middle School Bike/Parking Removal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to the city installing a bike lane along Vista Drive. I am all for the safety of children but I just don't understand the logic behind your plan:

1. Vista Drive is NOT McClellan Road. It is a small road located in a residential neighborhood that is impacted negatively by the expansion of Lawson Middle school.
2. The bike lanes may narrow the road enough to hinder emergency vehicles , PG&E trucks, garbage trucks, service and repair vehicles, street sweepers etc. Have your engineers taken all of this into account?
3. All the overflow of cars that normally park on the school side of the street will now park in front of our houses taking any spaces we have for our cars and our visitors cars. Permit Parking?
4. A barrier will not make the road safer for the kids nor will it encourage more kids to ride their bikes. The roads throughout all Cupertino are dangerous for bikers as well as pedestrians. I cannot count the number of times I have almost been hit trying to cross streets in this town. Their journey to school is far more dangerous before they even make it to Vista Drive.
5. The major hazard on the roads are the parents that drive it. They are on their phones, they do not pay attention, they stop in the middle of the road to let off their kids, they go out of their lanes to try and pass, they don't stop at stop signs, they block driveways etc. They have no consideration for the kids or the neighborhood. Until their behavior is changed nothing constructive will happen.
6. You are under the illusion the kids will actually stay in the bike lane and not jut out in traffic.

There has to be a different solution to this problem. A possible solution would be to open the school gates on Forest/Lazaneo Ave to the kids. New bike racks can be installed inside the fence and they can walk the short distance to

their classes.

Is there an environmental impact study that I can read?

Thank you.

Concerned Homeowner
Valerie Lucas
10304 A Vista Drive
Valucas22@gmail.com

Cyrah Caburian

From: Jayasimha Raghavan <mr.jayasimha@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 1:35 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Bike path at Lawson

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Respected Mayor Paul and councilmembers,

I'm writing today to urge you to vote in support of the proposed Lawson Middle School Bike Path.

The bike path that the city is recommending has been developed over 3 years by a cross-functional working group as the best solution after reviewing multiple different options.

The discussion on the bike path started in August 2018. A cross-functional group met several times at the school over the next 3 years to discuss proposed improvements. Over time, the group has included:

-
- **City Staff:**
- David Stillman, Public Works, Prashant Dullu, Public Works, Cherie Walkowiak, SRTS, Matt Shroeder, SRTS
-
-
- **CUSD:** Kevin Jenkins, CUSD Facilities, Jeff Bowman, CUSD COO
-
-
- **Lawson Staff:** Kit Bragg, Principal, Celestina Pakel, Assistant Principal
-
-
- **Lawson PTA:** Sophia Chan, PTA President
-
-
- **Parent Community:** Seema Lindskog, Jennifer Shearin
-

The current situation is very unsafe for kids walking and biking to school.

-
- Numerous reports of cars running the stop sign at Vista & Forest
-
-

- Numerous reports of cars speeding and behaving recklessly both on Merritt and on Vista
-
-
- Heavy car traffic on Vista in front of the school and lack of a dedicated bike path forces kids to mix very closely with cars as they're biking on Vista.
-
-
- Lack of a bike crossing in front of the bike corral on Vista creates a dangerous situation for students trying to cross the street to go into the bike corral.
-
-
- Students resort to biking on the sidewalk to stay safe, but there is too much pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks for bikes and pedestrians to safely share the sidewalk.
-

The proposed bike path solves all these problems in a cost-effective and thoughtful manner.

A two-way separated bikeway is the only option that solves the issues around all three sides of the school and that provides separation for cyclists from both motor vehicles and pedestrians. It is also the most cost-effective alternative because it involves little to no concrete work, trail construction, asphalt grading, or removal of trees or landscaping. This bikeway was modeled after a two-way separated bikeway around Greene Middle School in Palo Alto that works well and is heavily used by students.

Please vote in support of the Lawson Bike Path.

Best regards,
Jayasimha

Get Outlook for iOS

Cyrah Caburian

From: Sophia Chan <sophia_y_chan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 3:06 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Support Lawson Middle School Bike Path

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mayor Paul and councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote in support of the proposed Lawson Middle School Bike Path.

The discussion on the bike path started in August 2018. A cross-functional group met several times at the school over the next 3 years to discuss proposed improvements. Over time, the group has included:

- **City Staff:** David Stillman, Public Works, Prashant Dullu, Public Works, Cherie Walkowiak, SRTS, Matt Shroeder, SRTS
- **CUSD:** Kevin Jenkins, CUSD Facilities, Jeff Bowman, CUSD COO
- **Lawson Staff:** Kit Bragg, Principal, Celestina Pakel, Assistant Principal
- **Lawson PTA:** Sophia Chan, PTA President
- **Parent Community:** Seema Lindskog, Jennifer Shearin

The current situation is very unsafe for kids walking and biking to school.

- Numerous reports of cars running the stop sign at Vista & Forest
- Numerous reports of cars speeding and behaving recklessly both on Merritt and on Vista
- Heavy car traffic on Vista in front of the school and lack of a dedicated bike path forces kids to mix very closely with cars as they're biking on Vista.
- Lack of a bike crossing in front of the bike corral on Vista creates a dangerous situation for students trying to cross the street to go into the bike corral.
- Students resort to biking on the sidewalk to stay safe, but there is too much pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks for bikes and pedestrians to safely share the sidewalk.

A two-way separated bikeway is the only option that solves the issues around all three sides of the school and that provides separation for cyclists from both motor vehicles and pedestrians. It is also the most cost-effective alternative because it involves little to no concrete work, trail construction, asphalt grading, or removal of trees or landscaping. This bikeway was modeled after a two-way separated bikeway around Greene Middle School in Palo Alto that works well and is heavily used by students.

Please vote in support of the Lawson Bike Path.

Best regards,
Sophia Chan

Cyrah Caburian

From: Lori Cunningham <cunningham_lori@cusdk8.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 10:46 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Lawson Middle School Bike Path

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor Paul, Vice Mayor Chao, and Councilmembers,

I'm writing today to urge you to vote in support of the proposed Lawson Middle School Bike Path, which I understand is coming before council for a discussion soon. I would like to express my strong support as an advocate for children and families in our CUSD community.

The bike path that the city is recommending has been developed over 3 years by a cross-functional working group as the best solution after reviewing multiple different options.

The discussion on the bike path started in August 2018. A cross-functional group met several times at the school over the next 3 years to discuss proposed improvements. Over time, the group has included:

-
-
- **City Staff:**
- David Stillman, Public Works, Prashant Dullu,
- Public Works, Cherie Walkowiak, SRTS, Matt Shroeder, SRTS
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- **CUSD:**
- Kevin Jenkins, CUSD Facilities, Jeff Bowman, CUSD COO
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- **Lawson Staff:**
- Kit Bragg, Principal, Celestina Pakel, Assistant Principal
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- **Lawson PTA:**
- Sophia Chan, PTA President
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- **Parent Community:**
- Seema Lindskog, Jennifer Shearin
-

The current situation is very unsafe for kids walking and biking to school.

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- Numerous reports of cars running the stop sign at Vista & Forest
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- Numerous reports of cars speeding and behaving recklessly both on Merritt and on Vista
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- Heavy car traffic on Vista in front of the school and lack of a dedicated bike path forces kids to mix very closely with cars as they're biking on Vista.
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- Lack of a bike crossing in front of the bike corral on Vista creates a dangerous situation for students trying to cross the street to go into the bike corral.
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- Students resort to biking on the sidewalk to stay safe, but there is too much pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks for bikes and pedestrians to safely share the sidewalk.
-

The proposed bike path solves all these problems in a cost-effective and thoughtful manner.

A two-way separated bikeway is the only option that solves the issues around all three sides of the school and that provides separation for cyclists from both motor vehicles and pedestrians. It is also the most cost-effective alternative because it involves little to no concrete work, trail construction, asphalt grading, or removal of trees or landscaping. This bikeway was modeled after a two-way separated bikeway around Greene Middle School in Palo Alto that works well and is heavily used by students.

I hope our students can count on your support for the Lawson Bike Path. I sincerely appreciate all of the work, investment, and effort the City of Cupertino continues to put into ensuring Safe Routes to Schools for all children.

Best,
Lori

Lori Cunningham
Trustee, Board of Education

Cyrah Caburian

From: Eileen Fujikawa <fujikawabachan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:03 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Parking around Lawson Middle School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I live on Orange Tree Lane near the school and think it's a great idea! I hope the whole street will be loading/unloading only during the school days. I believe this could help alleviate the serious traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon student/parent rush hours. There are no apartments in the area and this restriction should not impact the residents. I hope this will get the council vote!

Thank you,

E. Fujikawa

10544 Orange Tree Lane, Cupertino

Cyrah Caburian

From: Kit Bragg <bragg_kit@cusdk8.org>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:22 AM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Subject: Lawson Principal, Kit Bragg - Please Consider

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I write to you to request your support of the proposal being brought to the Council Tuesday night for a dedicated bike lane into Lawson Middle School. I have the joy of leading Lawson, and our partnership with our community is very strong. Through this positive relationship, we have sought to mitigate long-standing concerns for pedestrian, bike, and car safety. Through education and outreach alongside our Safe Routes to School team, we have helped students and parents understand their critical role in ensuring safety on our streets and sidewalks.

Respectfully, a fundamental change to the infrastructure is the only mitigation that will go far enough to help ensure safety for all community members.

Please consider the following:

1. This new bike path will significantly improve the safety and accessibility to Lawson Middle School for students biking and walking to school.
2. This solution is the outcome of multi-year collaborative work by City Staff, CUSD staff, Lawson school staff, and the parent community. Over time, the group has included City Staff David Stillman, Public Works, Prashant Dullu, Public Works, Cherie Walkowiak, SRTS, Matt Shroeder, SRTS. CUSD Staff Kevin Jenkins, CUSD Facilities, Jeff Bowman, CUSD COO. Lawson Staff Kit Bragg, Principal, Celestina Pakel, Assistant Principal, Erin Leary Assistant Principal. Lawson PTA Sophia Chan, Lawson PTA President. Parent Community members Seema Lindskog, Jennifer Shearin
3. Heavy car traffic on Vista in front of the school and lack of a dedicated bike path forces kids to mix very closely with cars as they bike on Vista.
4. Numerous reports of cars running the stop sign at Vista & Forest, and of vehicles behaving recklessly both on Merritt and on Vista.
5. Lack of a bike crossing in front of the bike corral on Vista creates a dangerous situation for students trying to cross the street to go into the bike corral.
6. Students have resorted to biking on the sidewalk to stay safe, but there is too much pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks for bikes and pedestrians to safely share the sidewalk.
7. The proposed bike path solves all these problems in a cost-effective and thoughtful manner.
8. A two-way separated bikeway is the only option that solves the issues around all three sides of the school and that provides separation for cyclists from both motor vehicles and pedestrians.
9. It is also the most cost-effective alternative because it involves little to no concrete work, trail construction, asphalt grading, or removal of trees or landscaping.
10. This bikeway was modeled after a two-way separated bikeway around Greene Middle School in Palo Alto that works well and is heavily used by students.

With respect and gratitude, I implore you to vote unanimously to support this motion before the Council.

Kind Regards,

--

Kit Bragg

Principal, Lawson Middle School

Cyrah Caburian

From: Sylvia Leong <cusdsylvia@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 10:17 AM
To: City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: Lawson Bike Path

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino Councilmembers,

I hope you are well. I'm writing to support the proposed Lawson Middle School Bike Path, which will significantly improve the safety and accessibility to Lawson Middle School for students biking and walking to school.

I was happy to hear that this proposal came out of collaboration between city and school staff and the local community. I always appreciate when our cities and schools work together to solve issues that impact our communities.

We all want to provide the safest options possible when it comes to our kids. I know that's a priority for all of us as representatives of the community. The proposed bike path is a relatively easy and cost-effective way to offer more accessibility to the school, and separates bicyclists from cars and walkers.

Cupertino has been recognized as a city that promotes road safety, as we know your McClellan Road Separated Bike Path was honored recently by Public Works. It's a wonderful honor to have and something I'm sure the city is proud of. The Lawson Bike Path would be another small change that would create a big impact for the children of Cupertino and be consistent with Cupertino's values on bike safety.

I hope you'll support the project to continue the legacy of innovation and safety that Cupertino has become known for.

Sincerely
Sylvia Leong

Cyrah Caburian

From: Dino Sakkas <dino_sakkas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 2:05 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Subject: Support of the two-way separated bike path around Lawson Middle School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to voice my support for the two-way separated bike path around Lawson Middle School.

We need to get more students riding to school, because bicycling:

- reduces congestion
- reduces cupertino's carbon footprint
- is healthier for our children

A recent poll of the bay area by the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition indicates that the primary reason given of why parents do not allow their children to ride to school is safety. This study also indicated that most persons who bike into adulthood biked when they were young!

This new bike path will significantly improve the safety and accessibility to Lawson Middle School for students biking and walking to school and is the outcome of multi-year collaborative work by City Staff, CUSD staff, Lawson school staff, and the parent community. This design has been implemented at Greene Middle School in Palo Alto where it works well and is heavily used by students.

-The current situation is very unsafe for kids walking and biking to school.

- Heavy car traffic on Vista in front of the school and lack of a dedicated bike path forces kids to mix very closely with cars as they're biking on Vista.
- Numerous reports of cars running the stop sign at Vista & Forest, and of vehicles behaving recklessly both on Merritt and on Vista.
- Lack of a bike crossing in front of the bike corral on Vista creates a dangerous situation for students trying to cross the street to go into the bike corral.
- Students have resorted to biking on the sidewalk to stay safe, but there is too much pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks for bikes and pedestrians to safely share the sidewalk.

The proposed bike path solves all these problems in a cost-effective and thoughtful manner.

Please vote in favor of implementing the two-way separated bikeway around Lawson Middle School!

Kind Regards

Dino Sakkas,
30 year Cupertino Resident

Cyrah Caburian

From: Byron P Rovegno <brovegno@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 3:37 PM
To: City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: Lawson Middle School Bike Path

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing in support of the Lawson Middle School bike path. City personnel, CUSD, school staff and parents have been involved to craft the solution before you. They all concluded that the current situation is very unsafe for kids walking and biking to school and that the proposed bike path is a safer solution. It has the added benefit of very minimal cost to the city to implement. Please support this safe routes to school proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Byron Rovegno
Walk Bike Cupertino

Sent from Mail for Windows

Cyrah Caburian

From: Taghi Saadati <tsaadati@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:21 PM
To: City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: Bike lanes around Lawson Middle School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor & City Council,
I am a strong supporter of safety improvements for walkers and bikers and asked you to approve the separated bike path around Lawson Middle School.
This would significantly improve safety for the students.
Thank you
Taghi Saadati

Sent from my iPhone

Cyrah Caburian

From: Helene Davis <helene@crewdavis.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 8:30 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Subject: Separated Bike Path at Lawson Middle School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

I've just heard about the separated bike path project at Lawson Middle School but understand it's been in the works for quite a while and that all the interested parties are very supportive of the project.

This project will enhance safety and accessibility for students that bike to Lawson. Parents will have more confidence that their children will be safe and will be more apt to allow them to cycle to school. It could be a model for other school sites in our community.

I urge you to approve this project.

Best regards,

Helene Davis
Cupertino Resident

Cyrah Caburian

From: Helene Davis <helene@crewdavis.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 8:30 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Subject: Separated Bike Path at Lawson Middle School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

I've just heard about the separated bike path project at Lawson Middle School but understand it's been in the works for quite a while and that all the interested parties are very supportive of the project.

This project will enhance safety and accessibility for students that bike to Lawson. Parents will have more confidence that their children will be safe and will be more apt to allow them to cycle to school. It could be a model for other school sites in our community.

I urge you to approve this project.

Best regards,

Helene Davis
Cupertino Resident

Cyrah Caburian

From: J Shearin <shearin.jen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 8:44 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Subject: Agenda item 17; Removing parking to allow for Lawson Middle School Bikeway

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Paul and Councilmembers,

I urge you to vote in support of the proposed Lawson Middle School Bike Path, and allowing the parking to be eliminated along the school site, at the upcoming City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 16. This new bike path will significantly improve the safety and accessibility to Lawson Middle School for students biking and walking to school.

This solution is the outcome of multi-year collaborative work by City Staff, CUSD staff, Lawson school staff, and the parent community.

Currently, kids walking and biking to school face many hazards and unsafe situations. Each day, heavy car traffic on Vista and Lazaneo cause biking students to travel dangerously with cars and make unsafe left turns across traffic. With the high volumes, frustrated parents also make unwise decisions--such as to drive recklessly or not stop fully at stop signs--which furthers the danger to the students. Many biking students have resorted to biking on the sidewalk, which is difficult for both pedestrians and cyclists; the sidewalk is too narrow and there is too much of both pedestrian and cycling traffic to allow safe sharing.

This two-way separated bikeway is the only option that solves these issues at all points of entry to the school and that provides separation for cyclists from both motor vehicles and pedestrians. This bikeway design was modeled after a two-way separated bikeway around Greene Middle School in Palo Alto that works well and is heavily used by students.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue. I know that our entire community, including the Cupertino City Council, wants the best for our children. Voting to support this project is one way of showing that support.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Shearin
Cupertino resident

Cyrah Caburian

From: smkale@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:19 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Support Lawson Middle School Bike Path.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Respected Mayor Paul and Councilmembers,

I'm writing today to urge you to vote in support of the proposed Lawson Middle School Bike Path. I am parent of 2 Lawson graduates who still bike to high school and use bikes for transportation frequently.

The bike path that the city is recommending has been developed over 3 years by a cross-functional working group as the best solution after reviewing multiple different options.

The current situation is very unsafe for kids walking and biking to school.

- Numerous reports of cars running the stop sign at Vista & Forest
- Numerous reports of cars speeding and behaving recklessly both on Merritt and on Vista
- Heavy car traffic on Vista in front of the school and lack of a dedicated bike path forces kids to mix very closely with cars as they're biking on Vista.
- Lack of a bike crossing in front of the bike corral on Vista creates a dangerous situation for students trying to cross the street to go into the bike corral.
- Students resort to biking on the sidewalk to stay safe, but there is too much pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks for bikes and pedestrians to safely share the sidewalk.

The proposed bike path solves all these problems in a cost-effective and thoughtful manner.

A two-way separated bikeway is the only option that solves the issues around all three sides of the school and that provides separation for cyclists from both motor vehicles and pedestrians. It is also the most cost-effective alternative because it involves little to no concrete work, trail construction, asphalt grading, or removal of trees or landscaping. This bikeway was modeled after a two-way separated bikeway around Greene Middle School in Palo Alto that works well and is heavily used by students.

Please vote in support of the Lawson Bike Path.

Best regards,
Sonali Kale
Jaydeep Marfatia

Cyrah Caburian

From: Eugene Wong <eugenejw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:32 AM
To: City Council
Cc: City Clerk; Eugene Wong; Donna Lee
Subject: 11-16-2021 CC Agenda Item #17-Prohibiting Parking along Lawson

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

City Council Members,

As a resident, living between Lawson Middle and Collins Elementary Schools, I must comment on this proposal to prohibit parking along Lawson's streets.

The neighborhood in this area may be severely impacted by this proposal, which seemed to be rushed and insufficiently evaluated, if not ill-advised. The signs of being incomplete are:

1. The lack of studies showing the number of bicycle riders that are or would be using these bike lanes. While safety for bike riders is important, does it justify the cost and potential additional dangers to the rest of the community?
2. How does the proposal deal with the displacement of all the cars that currently occupy those parking spaces that will be lost? Simple logic will say that they will need to park in the next few streets nearby. This will create additional traffic and potential safety concerns on all the neighborhood streets.
3. None of the neighbors beyond the immediate streets of the proposal have been consulted or notified, and yet these neighbors farther from Larson will be the ones impacted, as they already have been for many years. As a block Leader, I have heard complaints that some parents have parked near Apple Tree Lane and Plum Tree Lane to wait for Larson students (and the subsequent litter left behind).
4. The traffic patterns will be forced to move further east from Vista Drive to Plum Tree Lane, the only other way to get to the closest alternate parking spaces on Cherry Tree Lane and Prune Tree Lane. What mitigation steps will be put in place for this likely eventuality?
5. Plum Tree Lane is already heavily travelled and parked by parents picking up students from Collins. Congestion and speeding on this street is already a common complaint by residents. Not to mention the occasional blocked driveway, near-miss collisions with pedestrians, or double-parked child loading. Again, what safety measures have been proposed to prevent this already existing problem from getting worse?

In light of the above points, the proposal to prohibit parking next to Larson School has created more problems than solutions. Encouraging bicycling is an optimistic desire to reduce automobile traffic and increase student health, but more work is needed to optimize a solution to give the community a net benefit. This proposal is woefully inadequate in that respect and it must be rejected at this time.

Respectfully yours,
Eugene Wong and Donna Lee,

Cupertino Block Leaders

Sent from my phone, please excuse typos.

Cyrah Caburian

From: Eugene Wong <eugenejw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Liang Chao
Subject: 11-16-2021 CC Agenda Item #17-Prohibiting Parking along Lawson

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Council Member Chao,

As Cupertino residents, living between Lawson Middle and Collins Elementary Schools, we must comment on this proposal to prohibit parking along Lawson's streets and urge you to vote NO on this proposal.

The neighborhood in this area may be severely impacted by this proposal, which seemed to be rushed and insufficiently evaluated, if not ill-advised. The signs of being incomplete are:

1. The lack of studies showing the number of bicycle riders that are or would be using these bike lanes. While safety for bike riders is important, does it justify the cost and potential additional dangers to the rest of the community?
2. How does the proposal deal with the displacement of all the cars that currently occupy those parking spaces that will be lost? Simple logic will say that they will need to park in the next few streets nearby. This will create additional traffic and potential safety concerns on all the neighborhood streets.
3. None of the neighbors beyond the immediate streets of the proposal have been consulted or notified, and yet these neighbors farther from Larson will be the ones impacted, as they already have been for many years. As a block Leader, I have heard complaints that some parents have parked near Apple Tree Lane and Plum Tree Lane to wait for Larson students (and the subsequent litter left behind).
4. The traffic patterns will be forced to move further east from Vista Drive to Plum Tree Lane, the only other way to get to the closest alternate parking spaces on Cherry Tree Lane and Prune Tree Lane. What mitigation steps will be put in place for this likely eventuality?
5. Plum Tree Lane is already heavily travelled and parked by parents picking up students from Collins. Congestion and speeding on this street is already a common complaint by residents. Not to mention the occasional blocked driveway, near-miss collisions with pedestrians, or double-parked child loading. Again, what safety measures have been proposed to prevent this already existing problem from getting worse?

In light of the above points, the proposal to prohibit parking next to Larson School has created more problems than solutions. Encouraging bicycling is an optimistic desire to reduce automobile traffic and increase student health, but more work is needed to optimize a solution to give the community a net benefit. This proposal is woefully inadequate in that respect and it must be rejected at this time.

Respectfully yours,

Eugene Wong and Donna Lee,
Cupertino Block Leaders

Cyrah Caburian

From: Eugene Wong <eugenejw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Kitty Moore
Subject: 11-16-2021 CC Agenda Item #17-Prohibiting Parking along Lawson

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Council Member Moore,

As Cupertino residents, living between Lawson Middle and Collins Elementary Schools, we must comment on this proposal to prohibit parking along Lawson's streets and urge you to vote NO on this proposal.

The neighborhood in this area may be severely impacted by this proposal, which seemed to be rushed and insufficiently evaluated, if not ill-advised. The signs of being incomplete are:

1. The lack of studies showing the number of bicycle riders that are or would be using these bike lanes. While safety for bike riders is important, does it justify the cost and potential additional dangers to the rest of the community?
2. How does the proposal deal with the displacement of all the cars that currently occupy those parking spaces that will be lost? Simple logic will say that they will need to park in the next few streets nearby. This will create additional traffic and potential safety concerns on all the neighborhood streets.
3. None of the neighbors beyond the immediate streets of the proposal have been consulted or notified, and yet these neighbors farther from Larson will be the ones impacted, as they already have been for many years. As a block Leader, I have heard complaints that some parents have parked near Apple Tree Lane and Plum Tree Lane to wait for Larson students (and the subsequent litter left behind).
4. The traffic patterns will be forced to move further east from Vista Drive to Plum Tree Lane, the only other way to get to the closest alternate parking spaces on Cherry Tree Lane and Prune Tree Lane. What mitigation steps will be put in place for this likely eventuality?
5. Plum Tree Lane is already heavily travelled and parked by parents picking up students from Collins. Congestion and speeding on this street is already a common complaint by residents. Not to mention the occasional blocked driveway, near-miss collisions with pedestrians, or double-parked child loading. Again, what safety measures have been proposed to prevent this already existing problem from getting worse?

In light of the above points, the proposal to prohibit parking next to Larson School has created more problems than solutions. Encouraging bicycling is an optimistic desire to reduce automobile traffic and increase student health, but more work is needed to optimize a solution to give the community a net benefit. This proposal is woefully inadequate in that respect and it must be rejected at this time.

Respectfully yours,

Eugene Wong and Donna Lee,
Cupertino Block Leaders

Cyrah Caburian

From: A Chen <acchen3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:08 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Comment regarding parking removal for bicycle lanes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

As a member of this community who happens to live along Vista Drive, the neighborhood already has traffic and parking issues. I would like to ask the city NOT to remove street parking as it will negatively impact this neighborhood. If street parking along Vista is taken away, people will still park in nearby streets further crowding the neighborhood. I am in support of bicycle lanes but please don't take away street parking nor add those concrete curb things. I have noticed that driving in Cupertino is becoming increasingly difficult with all the new road obstructions.

Thank you.
Local Cupertino resident

Cyrah Caburian

From: Connie Cunningham <cunninghamconniel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 5:34 PM
To: City Council; City Clerk
Cc: Cunningham Connie
Subject: Agenda Item #17, City Council NOV 16, Parking prohibition

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am writing in support of Agenda Item 17.

Subject: Consider conducting a first reading of an ordinance that prohibits parking along the west side of Vista Drive between Forest Avenue and Merritt Drive, and along the south side of Merritt Drive between Vista Drive and the western end, to accommodate the construction of a Class IV bicycle lanes.

This new bike path will significantly improve the safety and accessibility to Lawson Middle School for students biking and walking to school.

This solution is the outcome of multi-year collaborative work by City Staff, CUSD staff, Lawson school staff, and the parent community.

The current situation is very unsafe for kids walking and biking to school.

The proposed bike path solves all these problems in a cost-effective and thoughtful manner.

This bikeway was modeled after a two-way separated bikeway around Greene Middle School in Palo Alto that works well and is heavily used by students.

I want to thank all the people who have worked hard to bring this safe route to school to Lawson Middle School:

Over time, the group has included:

-
- **City**
- **Staff:** David Stillman, Public Works,
- Prashant Dullu, Public Works, Cherie Walkowiak, SRTS, Matt Shroeder, SRTS
-
-
- **CUSD:**
- Kevin Jenkins, CUSD Facilities, Jeff Bowman, CUSD COO
-
-
- **Lawson**
- **Staff:** Kit Bragg, Principal, Celestina
- Pakel, Assistant Principal
-

-
- **Lawson**
- **PTA:** Sophia Chan, PTA President
-
-
- **Parent**
- **Community:** Seema Lindskog, Jennifer
- Shearin
-

Please approve the first reading of this ordinance to prohibit parking to accommodate the construction of the planned bicycle lanes.

Sincerely,
 Connie Cunningham
 34 year resident

From: [Peggy Griffin](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Cupertino City Manager's Office](#); [Greg Larson](#); [City of Cupertino Bike and Ped Commission](#); [David Stillman](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: 11-16-2021 City Council Meeting - AGENDA ITEM #17 ISSUES Removing parking around Lawson MS
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:19:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council, City Manager, Mr. Stillman and Bike Pedestrian Commission Members,

I realize that as of this time, this agenda item is postponed but there are several issues that seem to pertain to process.

The proposed ordinance and subsequent Class IV bike plan was a complete surprise to many people in the neighborhood. After reading the material I was appalled that this seemed to come out of the blue! I thank City Manager Larsen for sending this item and all the future bike projects back to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission for review.

There are several items that concern me regarding the handling of this project and the project itself:

1. This project is not listed anywhere that I could find on the City website under the Bicycle Transportation Plan! It's not listed as one of the Class IV Bike Plan Projects either! See what's listed below

<https://www.cupertino.org/our-city/departments/public-works/transportation-mobility/bicycle-and-pedestrian-travel/bicycle-transportation-plan-implementation/class-iv-separated-bike-lane>

2. This project is NOT listed as a prioritized Transportation project that is to be implemented!

<https://www.cupertino.org/our-city/departments/public-works/transportation-mobility/bicycle-and-pedestrian-travel/bicycle-transportation-plan-implementation>

BIKE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Font Size:  Share

In June 2016, the Cupertino City Council adopted the [2016 Bicycle Transportation Plan](#). The Plan identifies a prioritized list of projects that support and promote bicycling in Cupertino. It includes facilities like separated bikeways, bike boulevards, and *The Loop*, a bicycle route encircling Cupertino (described below).



Click above for [interactive map](#)!

The Transportation Division has prioritized the following projects for implementation:

Class IV Separated Bike Lanes

Existing Class II bike lanes on Stevens Creek Boulevard and McClellan Road will be upgraded to Class IV, separated bike lanes. [Read more here...](#)

Bike Boulevards

Bike boulevards will provide a network of Class III shared bike routes along

Q: So how did staff time get allocated on this project above those that were higher priority?

3. The Staff Report has an incorrect statement.
 - a. "...Currently, parking is already prohibited along the north side of Forest Drive." This is NOT TRUE! Parking is allowed and is used although it makes the turn and congestion difficult to maneuver.
4. The Staff Report does not mention that parents who currently park on the west side of Vista to pickup and drop off their students will be impacted. These parents and students will likely move into the neighborhood to park or add to the long pickup/drop-off lines. Also, sports teams using the fields after school or on the weekends will need to park elsewhere.
5. The Staff Report does not address how cyclists traveling past Lawson (not to Lawson) say from Donut Wheel to Blaney Ave. move from a "normal" bike lane on Lazaneo to this two-way bike lane on Forest Ave. Then from Vista Ave two-way bike path to the normal bike way on Merritt Dr. to get to Blaney Ave. These 2 transitions are dangerous! It forces cyclists to cross against traffic 2 times.
6. The Staff Report says nothing about emergency services access/response time impacts to our neighborhood.
 - a. How much clearance does a large fire truck require width-wise? How much would be available?
 - b. How much clearance does a large fire truck require to make a turn? How much would be available?
 - c. Emergency vehicle response times
 - i. Emergency vehicle response times have already increased in our neighborhood with the addition of speed bumps around the neighborhood and bollards at both ends of Vista Dr.

They also were trying to narrow the curve on Lucille Ave which is a critical exit to our neighborhood and would further reduce response times for emergency vehicles coming down Blaney Ave.

7. The Staff Report does not address how these special bike lanes are going to be kept debris-free. It's one thing to have an open bike lane where cyclists can dodge debris but these do not allow any escape routes. The street sweeper cannot clean these paths.

REQUEST: Please look into these issues both from a project planning and bike project perspective.

Sincerely,
Peggy Griffin