

From: [Gabrielle Velez](#)
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Letter to the Mayor of Petaluma & City Council Members
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 7:35:52 PM

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Just wanted to confirm you received my letter below.

February 10, 2024

Petaluma City Council & Mayor,

Our family has lived at the corner of 5th and D Street for 13 years. I grew up on the westside of Petaluma and my husband has been here for 25 years. Our location is where the commercial activities of downtown intersect with the residential area. We both work from home and spend time in and around our home around the clock.

D Street is not safe for cyclists or bike riders - We invite any decision makers to spend a few hours on our porch. The constant stream of emergency vehicles screaming up D Street, speeding automobiles, commercial vehicles of all sizes at every hour, and traffic backed up to a standstill on Friday afternoon. It is an endless parade of screeching brakes from potential accidents, cars shooting across the roadway and regular near misses of pedestrians. No cyclist or parent with a bike riding child would use D Street...and we tell all of our children and friends, completely avoid D Street in their car and when walking, it's entirely unsafe.

Not to be overlooked, removing parking isn't safe for delivery people, construction and service workers, and the elderly who live and visit this neighborhood. Being an avid walker, I find B Street to be much calmer for a family bike ride (and bike lanes are already installed there).

Parking Study - The constant references to the "parking study" are incredulous to the actual residents in our neighborhood. Two less than independent non-residents supposedly counting cars at various times the day with a vested interest in the results is not a study. No documentation, no independent verification of the "results" and no outside confirmation of the methods employed is laughable. Every day of the week there are cars constantly parked on our block (5th to 6th Street) on both sides of the street.

B Street is already equipped with bike lanes, and no one uses them - We already have bike lanes a couple hundred feet away on B Street, parallel to D Street, that essentially no one utilizes. In short, the demand for bike lanes in this part of town by the general public is close to nil. If we want to conduct a relevant study, how about one measuring actual usage of this major bike lane. I suspect what we would learn is that there is much higher demand for INSTALLING bike lanes than there is of actual cyclists using them!

Community & Downtown Event Parking - Who parks on D Street? People taking

public transportation, employees downtown, attendees of street fairs, antique festivals, parades, classic car shows, the unhoused in RV's and campers, jam packed for Wednesday night sessions for Alcoholics Anonymous at the Methodist Church, along with every imaginable community, church, school and business event. With the growing community-wide complaints of "not enough parking downtown", where do you think they end up parking?

The residents are the only constituency without a political agenda and are unanimous in their assessment of the issue and rational remedy - In every meeting in homes, polls, surveys and friendly discussions in the neighborhood, the diagnosis is the same — how do we reduce the speed on D Street. We urge you to properly focus your efforts on calming the roadway, slowing traffic and making D Street a safer place for the entire community to enjoy.

Gabrielle Velez [REDACTED] and husband Rafael Velez [REDACTED]
Parents of four children who live at [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Heather Kratt](#)
To: [Kevin McDonnell](#); -- City Council; -- City Clerk
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment - Improvement to Public Records Request Process
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 2:12:58 PM

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Mayor McDonnell and City Council,

I have a suggestion for improving Petaluma's public records request process. The online request form (<https://cityofpetaluma.org/request-for-public-records/>) asks for a lot of detail, including the requester's email address. However, after submitting the request, no email confirmation or auto-assigned PRA number is sent to the requester. You have to know in advance to take a screenshot of your request as it is the only evidence you will have of your online request.

It would be very easy to email a copy of the completed form to the requester. The form is already emailing a copy to the city attorney's office, so your IT team can simply modify the form to also send a copy to the requester. This would provide needed transparency and accountability to the process and simplify the escalation of an issue when necessary.

As I'm sure you are aware, the CA Public Records Act (PRA) requires agencies to complete public records requests within 10 days and grants an additional 14 days for complicated requests. I submitted a very simple public records request on December 20, 2023, for copies of the permit applications and site layout plans submitted for the three farmers markets in Petaluma. It is now 79 days later and my request is still pending, despite many follow up requests for the information. This is not the first time a public records request of mine has been ignored, so I wonder if there is any oversight over the public records request process to ensure the city is in compliance with the PRA. A regular review of outstanding PRA requests would likely help to reduce these unnecessary delays.

Thanks for your consideration in improving the public records request process.

Heather Kratt

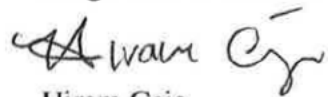
March 5, 2024

Petaluma City Council

I own a landscape design business that services many customers in Petaluma, a large group of those people who live on and around D Street. I have trucks and employees around that area at least five days a week and sometimes on weekends for larger install projects.

I am writing this letter to express my concern for the safety of myself and my employees. On a weekday, I have an average of 8 guys working on and around D Street. I have worked in Petaluma for 22 years and Petaluma residents make up a huge part of my business' income. D Street is dangerous for us with parking. Cars speeding, large trucks, people running stop signs. If parking is taken away my guys will be in significantly more danger while working. Most D Street homes do not have driveways big enough for the owners and us to park our cars in at the same time. My guys will have to be going back and forth across traffic with lawn mowers and other large equipment. We work in ALL weather; we don't stay home when it rains or is freezing cold.

I am asking you to think about the people who work on D Street daily and our safety. I don't think adding bike lanes is a good idea if it means parking will be removed. D Street is way too dangerous for bikers, I know because I work on it daily.



Hiram Ceja

Hiram Ceja Landscaping



From: [John Maher](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: It's Time To Trestle
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024 6:15:54 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

I support the City of Petaluma committing staff and funds NOW to rehabilitate the Petaluma Riverfront Trestle into a beautiful riverfront promenade. Please share this email of my support with the City Manager, the Mayor and the City Council Members. Thank you. It's Time To Trestle!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Judith Ritz](#)
To: -- [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Sidewalk
Date: Saturday, March 9, 2024 8:00:42 AM

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Please address this issue before someone falls. Thanks

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kevin McDonnell <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>
Date: March 8, 2024 at 11:28:03 AM PST
To: Judith Ritz [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Sidewalk

CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org

will do the trick

Thanks

Kevin

From: Judith Ritz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 6:07 PM
To: Kevin McDonnell <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Re: Sidewalk

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thanks is there an email address I can use?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2024, at 3:33 PM, Kevin McDonnell
<kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org> wrote:

I'm sorry and a little embarrassed that the City has not achieved success here.

At Council last week, I brought up the need to get action on all the broken sidewalks. I'm a little frustrated but will keep trying.

It would be a help if you turned the info that you gave me into and email to the whole Council and sent it in the the CityClerk as "General Public Comment" for the next Council meeting. That will help it be in the minds of the Council as we start budget discussions.

Thanks - still working on it.

Kevin

From: Judith Ritz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 9, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Kevin McDonnell <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Re: Sidewalk

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---
Still not fixed. Pink paint now coming off
Sent from my iPad

On Sep 5, 2023, at 8:14 PM, Kevin McDonnell
<kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org> wrote:

Did the City ever get in touch with you or fix the problem?

Thanks
Kevin

From: Judith Ritz [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 4:04 PM

To: McDonnell, Kevin <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>

Subject: Sidewalk

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SYSTEM.---

My husband and I have lived in Petaluma all of our lives.
We walk every morning around Petaluma. The sidewalks
aren't very good, but the one sidewalk that is a danger is 18
Tenth street. We have tripped over it many times. It is a
hazard. Please refer this email to the proper department in
hopes something could be done to fix the problem and let me
know. Thanks
Sent from my iPad

From: [Kerri Petersen](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: City of Petaluma - March 4 meeting
Date: Saturday, March 2, 2024 9:21:58 PM

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The City of Petaluma is in the worst shape I have ever seen it, in the 28 years I have lived here.

The City looks like we live in poverty when you see weeds and trash all throughout the city. Many sidewalks are in the worst shape ever.

We have more people than ever, yet taking lanes away throughout town continues to happen, under the guise of catchy marketing phrases. Road diet, etc. This is ridiculous as you create more traffic.

Adding the green posts on major thoroughfares in town to protect bicyclists is a total waste of money and causes difficulty for street sweepers to sweep the lanes and now there is a ton of leaves and tree debris making it difficult for cyclists to even use the lanes.

Changin Rainier is so stupid!!!! The majority of residents don't like it. The city asks for input, the people respond unfavorably, and it is not put back. Then to add insult to the neighbors, you leave the fading sandwich board out for almost a year!

Building, building, building higher than 2 stories all over town is ruining the character and history of our city.

Clean up the city, rent out what already exists, stop building, stop asking for input when you don't actually care what people want. Stop wasting money! \$450M on a fairgrounds group for you to just do what you want anyway?

No parking where you're building. This is so frustrating to live in this town anymore.

Thank you,
Kerri Petersen
[REDACTED]

From: [Luigi Petrich](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Kevin McDonnell](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); [Mike Healy](#); [Karen Nau](#); [Dennis Pocekay](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [-- City Clerk](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT: Where's the \$2.25 million going in Q1 2024?
Date: Monday, March 4, 2024 12:08:15 AM

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Petaluma City Clerk, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor, and Dear Council Members, I have a public comment:

This quarter, **\$2,210,250** previously available to Petaluma is going missing from Federal coffers, hot on the heels of **\$1.26 billion paid by Petalumans in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars**--painful mistakes, in retrospect. That is the peak of **fiscal irresponsibility**, and the city council has been inactive on this issue. Why—is it incompetence? Is it corruption? Is it apathy to financial loss? Is it plain ignorance?

Where is this \$2M of federal taxes paid by Petalumans going? To a foreign power, the Israeli regime, which has dropped **2 nuclear bombs worth of bombs on an area the size of the 101 corridor through Sonoma County** (5 miles by 25 miles).

Now the Israeli regime, Netanyahu and his Likud party, who everyone agrees is corrupt, is demanding more **money to bomb Israelis' Palestinian neighbors** who are unable to even fight back. **The regime is being as divisive as it possibly can be** in escalating this regional conflict because they know that once there is peace, Israelis will demand they step down for blatant security failures.

Local concerns are Housing. Climate change and Sea Level Rise. Education. No local concerns are addressed by this irresponsible spending, which is just getting started. Remember, **Petalumans paid \$1.26B into the \$8T war on terror--\$21k per Petaluma resident**--and the Taliban still rule Afghanistan.

This makes Genocide a local issue. US funding to escalate a regional war is a local issue. Ceasefire is a local issue. **City council members, you are allowing our money to be wasted!**

Vote for an immediate end to this criminal waste—vote for a Ceasefire Resolution now!

Luigi PETRIGH-DOVE
Resident/taxpayer
Petaluma [REDACTED]

From: [Paul Bailin](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Citizen follow up to Feb 26th City Council meeting
Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024 12:25:25 PM

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To the Mayor and the City Council of Petaluma:

I attended the Council meeting on February 26, 2024 which was the first council meeting I have attended since my family and I became residents of Petaluma about 4 ½ years ago. I was made aware that the Israel-Hamas-Gaza resolution matter would draw a large contingent of attendees and having been in conversation with a number of people in and around Petaluma I wanted to see for myself the community dynamic resulting from this tragic unfolding of events.

I was grateful to see that the Council's statements and the presence of Petaluma police maintained order and decorum, as other municipalities and university administrations have not done so. What occurred on the UC campus in Berkeley last Tuesday evening was disgusting, and the accounts of past city and town meetings in the Bay Area were also very disturbing. Petaluma has a lot to be proud of.

I was intending to speak at the meeting, however I didn't feel that an additional one minute sound bite would add anything to the proceedings. With so much strong emotion in the room it was absolutely right for the council to provide the opportunity for everyone to speak, however one minute sound bites are completely inadequate for fully understanding and considering such a complex issue.

I have a number of observations and viewpoints to share with the City of Petaluma's government:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1) <!--[endif]-->I do not believe that issuing proclamations or approving propositions on the matter of the Israel-Hamas-Gaza tragedy is the Petaluma City government's business. This was stated by one or two speakers at the meeting, and I agree. The premise that Petaluma controls federal tax dollars or can influence county, state or federal officials is a false premise. Furthermore, a resolution from a local government on a potentially polarizing issue and outside of the city's practical control, and put forth by one group of citizens and opposed by another group of citizens will do nothing more than divide residents of

Petaluma from each other. The Mayor and Council are to be commended for not following the actions of other local governments and withstanding the pressure and in some cases the vitriol that is occurring. Seeing this play out first hand is much different than reading about it in the local paper.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2) <!--[endif]-->What the world is witnessing in Gaza is a human tragedy. It is a result of the most severe trauma imaginable - over years, decades, even millennia - experienced by Israelis and Palestinians (historically Jews and Muslims). In the modern day, even after Israelis were no longer living in Gaza (as of 2005), Israel has maintained control. Why? Because there was always a potential existential threat and underlying fear in Israel based on prior events, many catastrophic. Then October 7th actually happened. And then Israel reacted severely, out of outrage and out of fear, and so the cycle of trauma continues. If we trace it back to even before the founding of Israel in 1948, again both peoples have experienced generational and existential traumas. This is the very important context that must be acknowledged, and it speaks again to the misplaced concept of a resolution which is being positioned by pro-resolution advocates as the only solution to their expressing their points of view (which again are valid and a sincere).

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3) <!--[endif]-->Antisemitism is on the rise. Jews feel threatened, and they should feel this way based on history and based on factual data. An Anti-Defamation League study of over 4,000 Americans done in January, 2024 showed that Anti-Jewish trope beliefs continue to increase, and younger Americans are showing higher rates:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->From 2022 to 2024, the average number of anti-Jewish tropes endorsed by Americans increased from 4.18 to 4.31 out of 14. Using the original 11 statements comprising the ADL Index, agreement with 6 or more anti-Jewish tropes increased from 20% of the U.S. population in 2022 to just under 24% in 2024.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->In a reversal of past trends, younger Americans are more likely to endorse anti-Jewish tropes, with millennials agreeing with the greatest number of anti-Jewish tropes on average, at 5.4. They're followed by Gen Z at 5, Gen X at 4.2, and Baby Boomers at 3.1.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->In addition to individual attitudes, more than 42% of Americans either have friends/family who dislike Jews (23.2%) or find it socially acceptable for a close family member to support Hamas (27.2%).

So, as a Jew in attendance at the meeting, I fear that statistically, somewhere in the neighborhood of one out of five of those who are voicing support for a Petaluma resolution on the Israel-Hamas-Gaza issue harbor some level of antisemitic sentiment. With all of my heart, I hope my speculations are wrong, and that living in Petaluma within the state of California would skew the number lower. But the underlying point is that this is part of the cycle of trauma, with the resulting fear and distrust. Without police presence and a clear statement that no disturbances would be tolerated, any Jew attending the meeting would have cause to be fearful.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4) <!--[endif]-->When I fully read the most recent proposed resolution distributed at the council meeting, I didn't disagree with much of it, if not most of it. However my question is, who are the authors? And did they consult with others who may have legitimate concerns that the document doesn't contemplate? Why is there no mention of Hamas? Surely Hamas should not be grouped with Palestinians in the aggregate? Should all prisoners held by Israel be unconditionally released – even those who committed serious crimes (and acknowledging that some Palestinians being held by Israel with no formal charges should absolutely be released)? Here again, the council should very seriously consider its role in issuing a resolution, not only because it is not appropriate to do so, but also because it would not incorporate the concerns of all parties, or common ground held by all.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5) <!--[endif]-->Any resolution, even one that is unanimously endorsed will be used by extremists for their own purposes. The most virulent antisemites will say, "Look, all of these cities and towns agree with us and stand against Israel" (or worse), while those on the pro-Israel far right will use the combined resolutions to say, "These resolutions show that we continue to be attacked and Israel must continue bombing Gaza until we destroy Hamas" (despite the tragic consequences and the loss of support in the court of public opinion). Unfortunately, both extremes will leverage any Petaluma resolution as if it stated the same things as the resolutions issued by Richmond, Oakland, San Francisco, etc.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6) <!--[endif]-->In the end, a proposed approach for consideration is the following:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->a. <!--[endif]-->The Petaluma city government acknowledges the tragic events occurring in Israel and Gaza and the wider

region, and the undeniable trauma experienced by everyone, including residents of Petaluma.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->b. <!--[endif]-->Petaluma’s city government does not have any influence on how federal tax dollars paid by its citizens are spent, and as registered voters, Petaluma citizens should lobby their federal representatives directly; they can do this as individuals, or they can form coalitions of citizens to do so.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->c. <!--[endif]-->The Petaluma city government calls on all interested parties to take part in a mediated dialogue which the city will sponsor along with other civic organizations, with the goal of issuing a “Petaluma Citizens Statement” to include all points of view directly from the citizens of Petaluma and not the city government, which must represent all citizens of Petaluma equally. This dialogue should take place immediately and urgently.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->d. <!--[endif]-->As such, the Petaluma city government will issue such a “Petaluma Citizens Statement” to the public on behalf of its citizens.

Respectfully,
Paul Bailin
Petaluma resident

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Peggy Flynn](#); [Dennis Pocekay](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Karen Nau](#); [Kevin McDonnell](#); [Mike Healy](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); -- City Clerk
Subject: Urgent request to cease and desist on on "I" Street project.
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:20:30 AM

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---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,

I am providing to you an email I sent to the City Manager and the City Traffic Engineer to cease work on creating an obstacle on I Street, a major Petaluma arterial.

The proposal changes I Street from an arterial into a neighborhood street, contrary to the General Plan traffic flow. The proposal reduces traffic speed from 30 mph to 15 mph.

The below email requests a "cease and desist" on the project until it can be properly addressed by stake holders. As the project appears to be locked in, I am asking for your intervention.

Sincerely,

Richard Brawn

[REDACTED]

Petaluma, CA [REDACTED]

Dear City Manager and Traffic Engineer.

This is a request to immediately stop the proposed "I" Street project as it has not been thought out properly and has not received public attention.

Today, Saturday March 9, 2024, I received a notice of "upcoming I Street Safety Upgrades" for I Street that refers to placement of a speed bump "rubber speed cushion" that reduces traffic speed from 30 mph to 15mph.

It appears to be the product of a series of mistakes; the most serious are a violation of the Petaluma General Plan, the Transportation and Traffic Engineering Handbook used throughout California, and failure to consult stake holders.

I Street is a designated city arterial in the General Plan. As such it has a specified speed limit that is sign boarded as 30 mph with traffic heading south, out of town, set at 35 mph. That speed limit has satisfactorily been in effect for decades without mishap. It also complies with the Transportation and Traffic Engineering Handbook and California DOT policies.

The notice indicates the speed will be slowed from 30 mph to 15 mph; even below that allowed in a school zone.

Project location is within the City Boundaries north of the joining of I Street Extension (County roadway) and I Street. From a design perspective, the proposed location is entirely wrong. The proposed placement would not make use of a blind hill and natural narrowing of I Street that causes traffic to slow. Instead, it would impose a sudden 15 mph obstacle at the bottom of the hill. As such it would only impact West Ridge Knolls residents and those entering Petaluma from the south. West Ridge Knolls neighborhood was not notified or engaged. I have no information on coordination with the County.

A safer and less intrusive location would be South of Grevillia Drive. At that point, it would transition traffic from County to City. It would make use of a road narrowing and a blind hill.

At this point I have not contacted the City but the urgency is apparent as the city spent funds on a Notice of Change to public street.

Therefore, I ask that the project be postponed and subject to appropriate attention.

Returning to the issue of stake holder involvement, I am aware of no outreach. I am unaware of any "neighborhood discussion" or with the users of I Street. I have to assume Sonoma County Traffic management has been consulted.

I believe such an obstruction requires a warrant to justify its placement. I would like to read through the warrant, how it addresses General Plan traffic, the design specifications, safety reasons and stakeholder engagement. I do not see that I Street has been redesignated a neighborhood street in the New Proposed General Plan.

Summary:

The obstruction is contrary to the General Plan and the traffic flow of that plan.

A warrant is required for placement of a traffic obstruction on a major roadway.

Engagement of street users/stake holders is needed.

Sincerely,

Richard Brawn

[REDACTED]

Petaluma, CA [REDACTED]

From: [susan kirks](#)
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: General Public Comment
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 2:37:44 AM

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For the Mayor and Members of the Petaluma City Council,

I've observed a different pattern of providing General Public Comments for your meetings - and request a change to be more considerate of members of the public.

Please ensure comments received the week before your meeting are posted that week before. Please ensure any comments received over the weekend before Monday are posted on Monday before Noon.

Only comments received the afternoon of a Monday meeting should be posted in the 4 p.m. timeframe.

Historically, this has always been a norm of serving the public.

The City Clerk receives a high level of compensation.

The publication of General Public Comments along with agenda item comments needs to be provided in a much more timely way.

In addition, for General Public Comments, individual comments - as has always been done until recently - need to be posted with a full name or last name file identifier. Why has there been a change to ONE pdf file of ALL General Public Comments comments with no identifying names?

Timing for posting General Public Comments has also been late in the day on Monday, the day of the City Council meeting, when comments have been submitted over the prior weekend or early on Monday.

The process of serving the public needs to be more timely and considerate.

Susan Kirks
Petaluma

From: [susan kirks](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: General Public Commentpublic Comment
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 3:01:08 AM

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For the Mayor and Members of the Petaluma City Council,

Please agendize discussion of and a decision on a Resolution to support a permanent ceasefire of the Israeli ongoing war said to be against Hamas, but clearly a Genocide against the people of Palestine. Support accountability, a call for Peace, and to stop the war. Support release of all hostages.

The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights recently approved a comprehensive and excellent letter on these topics that can help inform your process.

Two elected officials can place this topic on your agenda. On March 11, many of us see you have agendized a discussion about retail cannabis, requested by Council members Barnacle and Cader-Thompson.

In early morning news today is a report Netanyahu plans to move forward with invasion of Rafah. The Petaluma City Council has the opportunity and responsibility to be on record regarding the historic horror, Genocide against Palestinians, and call for a permanent ceasefire with release of all hostages.

Following a discussion and proposed Resolution, your vote will reflect the record and your position. You do owe this to the Petaluma community. Indeed, this historic horror calls for speaking up, which so many of our Petaluma and Sonoma County members are doing.

The City of Petaluma Resolution could be provided to the CA Governor, our State and Federal elected representatives, the US Secretary of State, and the US President and Vice President.

Very painful to see has been the avoidance, double-talk and nonresponse from your dais following the multiple sincere and well informed pleas of commenters often limited to just 1 minute of a comment.

Susan Kirks
Petaluma

From: [susan kirks](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: General Public Comment
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 4:20:41 AM

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For the Mayor and Members of the City Council,

At your Goals and Priorities workshop, in the Open Space discussion, not one of you commented on my provided comments about the City's dishonesty and habitat destruction, with loss of wild lives, at the Paula Lane open space property.

The City was never intended to hold the Paula Lane property title for more than a few years. The City has caused serious destruction at this open space land and the time for acknowledgment and change is long overdue.

At your Goals and Priorities workshop, the City Manager waited to hear if any of you would comment or give direction. Not one of you commented or cares. In the City of Petaluma, we are devoid of leadership, based on conservation depth and understanding, about open space.

The property title for the Paula Lane open space land needs to be transferred to a qualified entity that can partner with PLAN and other conservation colleagues - to restore habitat, including removal of the brown roadway violently constructed in habitat, and provide the intended amenity of the Paula Lane Nature Preserve, PLAN's project, with volunteer and education programs.

At the end of your Goals and Priorities workshop Open Space section, not hearing any of you comment at all about the Paula Lane open space land, the City Manager pretended to remember Paula Lane - oh, we will talk about what we're "doing" at Paula Lane, "Patrick." No one had commented, no one questioned.

Three of you - Barnacle, Pocekay and McDonnell - have been directly asked over the last almost four years to obtain support and direct the City Manager to ask the Petaluma City Schools District, the largest landholder in Petaluma, to consider accepting the property title and relieve the City of responsibility.

At the very least, a discussion needs to begin. I have been speaking with PCSD about this opportunity for several years. No one should partner with the City of Petaluma at the Paula Lane open space land. The dishonesty of and destruction caused by the City should not be supported or given cover in any way. Experts and dedicated volunteers of the intended Nature Preserve should return and restore the land and the intended amenity provided to the community.

This would represent true community and conservation.

As several of you are aware, the in-depth experience of PLAN with conservation expertise means operational and program infrastructures already exist to support a new functional title

holder. This just as in 2017 when PLAN and the City requested approval of the Open Space District for a transfer to Earthways Foundation.

In my earlier comment submitted for your meeting with the Goals and Priorities workshop, I requested a public apology from now retired Asst. City Manager Scott Brodhun whose blunders and scapegoating were too innumerable to count. That request continues. Perhaps one of you could contact Scott.

The new support for PLAN and for me and what we have endured, with ongoing despair of community members seeing the open space land and immense losses, is very much appreciated.

PLAN's return to Paula Lane will mean restoring the habitat so it will be safe for the Mother Badger to return.

The dysfunctional politics and harmful City of Petaluma decisions and actions need to be transcended.

The Paula Lane open space land, a \$1,000,050 public funds investment, is located in the Oak Hill voting district.

For the community, learn more about #ReSavePaulaLane on NextDoor (Badger, Badger, Badger post) and the Facebook page (with comments) of Paula Lane Action Network.

Support our wildlife, environment, and community service.

Susan Kirks, Naturalist
Petaluma

From: [susan kirks](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: General Public Comment
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 3:10:54 AM

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For the Mayor and Members of the Petaluma City Council,

Please resume allowing General Public Comments and Agenda Item comments via virtual meeting access.

Understandably, not doing so limits public input and is easier for your staff to not do.

Accommodating virtual meeting public input does likely require a higher level of awareness for meeting management, but that could also contribute to better meetings, more communication and also support equity, a priority that is not being supported at this time.

Susan Kirks
Petaluma

From: [susan kirks](#)
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: General Public Comment
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 5:50:32 AM

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For the Mayor and Members of the City Council,

During Council Comment at your last meeting, Vice Mayor Shribbs gave information on the recent Advisory Committee meeting of Open Space.

A comment about using sheep for grazing as being successful and the District being very satisfied was quite over-stated.

A report by District staff indicated satisfaction with selected sites where this was appropriate. I gave a public comment about a conversation with Hattie at Regional Parks and the site specific and multiple considerations they consider for including animals to graze for optimal vegetation management. I had asked for the conversation because someone within Petaluma came up with what I said was a potentially harmful situation with grazing.

That harmful situation was placing sheep to graze in the Petaluma Wetlands. This generalization of objectifying animals and just placing the animals to graze as if they are lawnmowers doesn't consider the animals or the parameters of a situation.

Nesting season at Alman Marsh, Shollenberger Park and Ellis Creek is Feb. 15 to early December. Many ground nesting birds, unseen, nest in the wetlands. Nesting birds, their nests, eggs and nestlings are protected from disturbance and harm by federal and state regulations. Bringing sheep to graze at the wetlands is contraindicated. In addition, the wetlands are a movement area for coyotes who could easily prey on the sheep. I do not know whose idea sheep grazing at the Petaluma Wetlands was, but this reflects low conservation awareness in general.

Last year, the sheep grazing in Petaluma parks and designated areas were clearly placed in too large numbers and escaped more than once to graze in more attractive areas to them.

Susan Kirks
Petaluma

From: [susan kirks](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: General Public Comment
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:51:22 AM

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For the Mayor and Petaluma City Council,

Please ensure the description of the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance on the City's website is changed.

This request, with needed changes, has been submitted to you on 3 previous occasions.

It is both disingenuous and dishonest to portray the Ramsar designation, the process about how "special" the Petaluma Wetlands are and how the City "received" the designation.

The designation would not have occurred, had I not initiated it through my role with Madrone Audubon, prepared the application and mapping with Greeninfo Network, funded that, and then followed up for four years until the designation was finally attained. Petaluma Wetlands Alliance obtained GPS coordinates for the properties to be included and provided those to Madrone Audubon. PWA was a committee of Madrone Audubon at that time.

Again, I request the exaggerated PR with pertinent omitted information be changed to reflect who is responsible for attaining for the City of Petaluma this international honor. You would not otherwise have it.

And please discern who wrote the current Ramsar website description, which omits the pertinent history and the truth.

I described this in a recent presentation about nesting season at the Petaluma Wetlands to the PWA docents in training.

I might add, for the benefit of members of the public, the City of Petaluma has never expressed one word of gratitude for the effort put forth and/or the achievement of the honor for the Petaluma Wetlands.

Not one.

Susan Kirks
Petaluma