

8 March City Council Meeting  
Presentation by Steve Lopez or Pete Rowe, University Avenue Residents  
Contact: [michelesrowe@yahoo.com](mailto:michelesrowe@yahoo.com), 650-948-5898

- 1) Introduction
  - a. Traffic is high priority for Los Altos residents
  - b. Traffic is increasing everywhere
- 2) Who Are We?
  - a. University Avenue residents between Milverton Avenue and El Monte Avenue
  - b. Have had worsening traffic problems on our street for a number of years
  - c. Congestion and Waze app has caused many cars to cut through our neighborhood from Foothill Expressway
  - d. In July 2015, sign was installed on Milverton Avenue "No Right Turn between the Hours of 4:30-6:30PM". No one on University Avenue advised of intent to install sign.
  - e. Per Milverton data provided to Transportation department, approx.150 cars cut through on their street during peak times.
    - i. Since sign installed, Milverton traffic has dropped to approx. 50
    - ii. University Avenue traffic has increased from approx. 450 to 592
      1. Data taken by University Resident in Nov 2015 between 4:10PM and 5:15PM
- 3) Neighborhood Transportation Management Plan Policy (NTMP) dated April 2005
  - a. Turn restriction sign requires City Council approval- not obtained
  - b. Per NTMP, maximum diversion of 10% is expected to adjacent streets. Per Milverton data, University Traffic has increased 33%.
  - c. University Avenue, per the General Plan, is a neighborhood street. With the new Milverton sign, there is only one access out of the neighborhood with over 300+ homes plus the cut-through traffic
- 4) Request removal of sign
  - a. All streets in a neighborhood affected by a traffic problem should be informed of and involved with the problem's solution.
  - b. We would like opportunity to work with Milverton, other neighborhood streets, and the Transportation department to solve the cut-through traffic problem for the neighborhood as a whole
  - c. Petition has been signed by 68% of the University Avenue residents between Milverton and El Monte avenues.
  - d. Request you direct that this sign be removed and that City policies be adhered to.

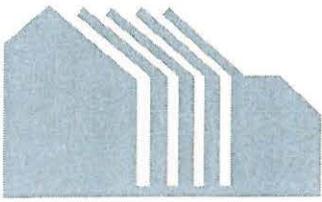
**Submitted @ Los Altos City Council Meeting**

March 8, 2016

DATE

# Old Los Altos Alley Neighborhood





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March 8, 2016

To: Los Altos City Council

From: William Maston

Re: City Wide Parking Committee Brown Act Issues

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

As a City Wide Parking Committee member, I would like to formally request that the City Council authorize a closed door session with the City Council, City Attorney, City Manager, and/or other persons deemed appropriate to discuss the alleged Brown Act violation levied by FOLA.

As a City Wide Parking Committee member I have been left in the dark regarding this issue. I would like a number of questions answered including the following:

1. Copies of the actual allegations made by FOLA.
2. Understanding my legal rights and obligations.
3. Understanding what portions of the Brown Act have been allegedly violated.
4. Understanding who in the city is representing the committee members.

I have a number of other questions as well that I would like discuss directly during that meeting. I believe that the City, City Attorney, and City Manager have an obligation to the public and City Wide Parking Committee to keep us informed. A closed door session is the most appropriate way to achieve these goals.

I also formally request that the city authorize the City Wide Parking Committee reconvene and continue its work while the investigation concerning the allegations brought forth by FOLA continues. I see no reason for the committee to stop its work. The frivolous threat of a lawsuit is no reason to shut down city government.

Respectfully,

William J. Maston

**Submitted @ Los Altos City Council Meeting**

*March 8, 2016*

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Date: March 8, 2016  
To: Los Altos City Council and Los Altos Town Crier  
From: Mark Rogge  
Subject: **Suspension of the Citywide Parking Committee**

It is sad that the work of the Citywide Parking Committee has been suspended. This Committee is all about open government. We have been exposing the facts that have led to parking problems, while indicating factors that shroud the truth from being clearly seen.

Several subcommittees were formed to concentrate on specific areas. Although, there is some overlap in members, this merely shows the commitment of some members to do more work than others. They should be thanked rather than chastised for this service to the community.

Suggestions that the work of these subcommittees resulted in serial meetings or any violation of the Brown (sunshine) Act are ridiculous, misguided, and untrue. Each subcommittee prepared Draft reports that were sent to the City for posting on the City's website and for distribution to other members. These reports were then discussed at regularly scheduled, posted, public meetings, by both committee members and the public audience. Only then did the separate hypotheses of each subcommittee synthesize with the cross-pollination of ideas.

Draft reports which include many or all committee-member's names are not evidence of Brown Act violation. The point of a draft report is to present it to others at a public meeting and get comments from them and from the public. Reports are revised to reflect those comments and as necessary to satisfy the entire committee. Only after the entire committee approved a report, did it move on to a joint meeting with the Planning and Transportation Commission, and other interested Civic groups.

Reports are revised after each iteration of hearing additional input from others. This process has been far more public and open than most City processes. Most City consultant reports or staff reports remain confidential until completed and posted for review. The Citywide Parking Committee reports have been posted and made available as drafts throughout the process.

We welcome open government and the broadest possible public input. However, the results should not be judged until we have heard all the comments from our other colleagues on the Committee, from City staff, other City commissions and the general public. It is hard to understand why a few members of a secret society, that meets secretly, in private locations would want to squelch the Committee's public process, and slow down its progress toward completing a final coordinated report that is suitable for City Council consideration. Perhaps they do not like how some of the conclusions are shaping up.

For example, they decry the idea that parking ratios should be reasonable and relate to the types of uses found in Los Altos. They complain that the recommended ratios are lower than what current regulations require. If current ratios were applied to existing businesses in the downtown core it would require over 1,000 new parking spaces. Any rational person would

immediately realize that this is not only unnecessary but also contrary to the lovely village character of Los Altos.

The parking problem downtown is real but it is not nearly as “doom and gloom” as some would have you believe. According to past studies, done at great expense to the City, and reasonable estimates the downtown could use somewhere between 100 and 200 additional parking spaces. *Interestingly enough, this is about the number of spaces that were either lost due to streetscape improvements or were added to the parking demand due to variances or exceptions approved by the City in the last decade.*

This fairly simple deficiency of parking spaces can be easily corrected. The City of Los Altos should adopt the safe and efficient parking geometry that is standard and found in most of our neighboring cities. This would allow reformation of the Parking Plazas that would: 1) increase the number of trees, 2) add bio-swales to filter storm-water before entering our creeks, 3) create safer parking, that does not require backing into sidewalks, and 4) add more than 200 spaces, all at a reasonable cost well below that of a parking structure.

Although our focus has truly been Citywide, these few downtown examples illustrate some of the work of the Citywide Parking Committee. You may agree or disagree with any of our *preliminary recommendations, so please speak up and let us know. That is in fact what our Committee has really been all about – open government!* We think the ordinances and regulations should be clear, reasonable, and support Los Altos’ unique character. Why would anyone want to undermine this public process? Perhaps they like the concept of using unreasonable regulations to harm their detractors, while using exceptions and variances to enrich and reward their supporters. That is not open government, and it is not what the good people of Los Altos want or deserve.

Please read the draft reports of the Citywide Parking Committee and tell us what you think. Or come to a public meeting of the Citywide Parking Committee to voice your opinions – well that is if they are allowed to continue.