



**ZONE 6 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING SUMMARY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th - 12:00pm – 1:30pm**

Covington Elementary
201 Covington Rd.

Questions

Are solicitors allowed to solicit late at night? What is the policy surrounding this?

- per our LAMC Chapter 4.24, soliciting and/or peddling is only allowed **within the hours of 8 AM- 5:30 PM Monday through Saturday**. These hours are enforced in all zoning districts and there are no exceptions to this rule. Anyone that intends to solicit in Los Altos is required to have a permit from the Police Department and a business license. Only exemption to the permit and business license rule include individuals related to religious or non-profit organizations and also people who offer goods or services for less than \$10 per item are exempt. However, every solicitor or a peddler (whether permitted or exempt) is required to follow the hours of soliciting.

Is there construction on the Springer/El Monte or Almond/El Monte intersection? What is the construction?

El Monte & Springer Intersection

Earlier in the Spring residents raised concerns regarding the existing Flashing Red STOP signs at the El Monte & Springer intersection. These concerns came up as part of a different project at Los Altos Ave & Portola Ave where Flashing Red STOP signs were ultimately not installed. No new project was initiated to look at the option of whether the existing Flashing Red STOP signs at El Monte & Springer could be modified to either flash red only during the day or be removed all together. Upgrade to flash only red during the day would be estimated to cost approximately \$30,000 as the old signs do not have timers and would require complete replacement..

Almond Avenue Street Resurfacing

As part of the upcoming street resurfacing program the City will be repaving Almond Avenue from San Antonio Rd to El Monte Ave. The City recently completed a community outreach meeting to solicit public input on proposed concept plan line drawings that include enhanced bikeway treatments along Almond Avenue and a proposed All-Way STOP at Almond Ave & Springer

Rd. The City will complete additional studies to determine if new intersection controls are appropriate.

El Monte Sidewalk Gap Closure

Plans are currently at 95% to install a new pedestrian pathway along the west side of El Monte Ave between Almond Avenue and S Clark Avenue.

What is the County project on Foothill Expressway? Can we have more information on it?

- The following link is the webpage for the project:
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rda/PnS/CP/Foothill/Pages/FoothillProject.aspx>.
Additionally, a Powerpoint presented to the Los Altos Complete Streets Commission last February, which provides a nice visual summary of the project, is attached. Engineering Services Director Jim Sandoval reached out to the County and they agreed to schedule a community meeting in late January or early February to discuss construction logistics, schedule and temporal impacts to the community. The County plans to open bids for the project on January 28, 2020, and construction is estimated to begin in March.

How are the buildings on First St. allowed to be four stories?

- Projects that include affordable units are allowed incentives – such as an exception to height limit. The percentage of affordable units needed to qualify depends on the income category of the proposed affordable unit. A smaller percentage of very low-income units is needed than say moderate income units.

Would it be possible to have the story poles up for longer, and at the same time as other developments nearby?

- This is the policy adopted by the City Council and we will make sure that projects comply with the policy.

How will the replacement of commercial buildings with residential buildings affect the City's tax revenues?

- The specific sales tax cannot be determined because it is confidential, but the City will start getting property taxes to replace it.

Is it possible to turn 999 Fremont Ave. into a plaza or something that is consistent with the Loyola Corners plan? If the Council denies this building, what are the next steps?

- The Loyola Corners Specific Plan was changed to allow the property owner to propose the project currently under consideration. If the project is denied – the applicant/property owner will need to determine their next steps.

Issues

A resident scheduled a home inspection and it turned out great! She wanted to recommend them to other residents

A resident asked about Credit Card skimming and how prevalent it was:

- According to our police representative, it still goes on, but it is not super common or popular. It takes a lot of time to place one on the machine. The trick is to wiggle the reader before you put your card in and if it moves, then it is fake.

A resident wanted to know about setting up meetings between private groups and police officers to go over safety tips, such as counterfeit bills.

- Our police representative gave her his contact information, and recommended she viewed <https://crimereports.com/> to see if the trends or hotspots.

City Staff wanted to encourage residents to participate in the Open Town Hall survey on the Fremont Ave. Rehabilitation Project. Visit us at <https://www.losaltosca.gov/opencityhall>

A resident wanted to know if there were plans to put in traffic calming solutions in front of the high school and surrounding streets to account for student growth and safety

- We are in the process of repaving the road and we may potentially take traffic calming measures into account when we do. There is an open house currently scheduled for _____.

A HOA wanted to bring attention to developers putting their BMR units in nearby HOAs instead of in the actual development.

- The code does allow for this and it is up to the discretion of the City Council to determine whether to approve a project that proposes this.

A resident was worried about multiple developments being built at the same time.

- The City is requiring construction management plans as part of the application to help in the coordination of the project once they are under way.

A resident wanted to know what could be done about single-family homes that have an above average amount of people living in them. Secondly, if there was any way to enforce parking laws to prevent them from blocking safe routes to schools

- There is currently no law that prevents a specific number of people from living in the same house. The blight ordinance is 11.10.20 B, and it describes what would be defined as a “blighted” property. The threshold is quite high for the City to take action.
- The only way that Traffic would be able to take any action is if there were no stopping signs in the neighborhood. While the vehicles may be blocking the safe schools route, if they aren’t illegally parked then there isn’t much that Traffic can do.

A resident brought up the natural gas prohibition on new homes.

- According to Mayor Pepper, the Council directed staff to come back with reach codes which would ban natural gas from being installed in new residential homes.

A resident wanted to know if there was a way that the City could inform or prevent businesses from having their outdoor seating block the pathway for people in wheelchairs or with strollers.

- Our Economic Development coordinator will send the Downtown businesses a reminder, but legally they are required to maintain a specific width for accessibility purposes.

A resident wanted to have increase police enforcement of the u-turn policy downtown, such as increased ticketing to offenders.

- Traffic enforcement does enforce this law downtown, but they have found that most offenders are Los Altos residents. I informed the head of our traffic division about this problem and she will take a note of it.