

**From:** [Donna West](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Mary O. Grizzle](#); [dan.ondrasek.jv@renesas.com](mailto:dan.ondrasek.jv@renesas.com); [Dan Ondrasek](#); [Donna West](#)  
**Subject:** II. 2024 CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY SESSION #1 1. 24-219  
**Date:** Saturday, March 23, 2024 11:45:30 AM

---

You don't often get email from [dwestsfo@gmail.com](mailto:dwestsfo@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

City Clerk  
[clerk@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov)

Mayor and Council

Grogan, Jōvan  
City Manager, Santa Clara CA  
408-615-2210  
[Manager@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:Manager@santaclaraca.gov)

Dear, Mayor and City Council, and City Manager Grogan,  
With review of the city survey concerns:

**Concerns from residents: Focusing on strategies to boost the local economy 76% with  
Downtown revitalization is 2%' Supporting local businesses 80%**

- Downtown is a proven piece and adopted a plan to provide immediate solutions to all THREE of these.resident concerns. Let's get started immediately with the selection of a Federal Funding consultant to utilize funds from the Department of Transportation available *so we are ready for the next major city events*.
- Please add "Form Based Code Objective Designs Standards" to the Station Area Plan.
- *HIRE "city community development department director"* with thorough knowledge and expertise to implement and execute this form base code from A to Z and manage the Department of Transportation funding to focus on the local economy strategies.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Dec. 5, 2022 our current city council signaled a change of our city practices by voting unanimously to approve the new Downtown Precise Plan and Form Based Code. Thank you and your staff, and city council for supporting this citizen driven effort.

The correct implementation of Form-Based Code will deliver excellent results based on our adopted Precise Plan and cut the red tape so the right developers are on board. We have seen good and bad implementations in downtown revitalizations..

We choose to skip over the errors and divided ways of the city past our recent Op-Ed in San Jose Spotlight by Mary Grizzle and Dan Ondrasek speaks about. Let's bring the right people in the city to make the changes needed for an amazing downtown and station area plan.

We need someone working as the *"city community development department director"* with thorough knowledge and expertise to implement and execute this form base code from A to Z as other economically viable Downtowns have done.

Mayor Berke from Downtown Chattanooga TN simplified the message: "compared to conventional zoning, "form-based codes are people-centric."

The following Downtowns are ones where our Core Team called city managers, city planners and urban planners and asked how they used and executed form base code with downtown revitalization projects.

- Downtown Redwood City
- Downtown Mountain View
- Downtown Ventura
- Downtown Fort Worth
- Downtown Chattanooga
- Downtown Tucson
- Downtown Winston-Salem
- Downtown Pasadena
- Downtown Lancaster
- Downtown Claremont

When we hire the people on staff with this deep knowledge and experience, we will finally create an incredible downtown destination for this community after 60 long years.

Please let me know any questions you have about these downtown best practices.

Sincerely and Thank You -  
Smiles,

Donna West

Head of Research - Reclaiming Our Downtown

Business Mailbox:

3561 Homestead Rd No 483

Santa Clara CA 95051

408-489-4651

Copy

Mary Grizzle

Dan Ondrasek

**From:** [Nandana Maheskumar](#)  
**To:** [Mayor and Council](#); [Clerk](#); [Manager](#)  
**Cc:** [shreeya.k.khairnar@gmail.com](mailto:shreeya.k.khairnar@gmail.com); [Rosie Chen](#)  
**Subject:** Letter about Santa Clara City Priorities for 2024  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 11:01:55 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Santa Clara City Council on Priorities.pdf](#)

---

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nandanamahesk@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Santa Clara City Council and Mayor,

We are a team of youth from the Santa Clara Youth Climate Action Team. Our team would really appreciate it if you could read through our letter about the upcoming priority session on March 25th. We have attached a pdf of the letter to this email.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,  
Santa Clara Youth Climate Action Team (SCYCAT)



March 24th, 2024

Re: March 25th 1st Priority Setting Session  
Hello Santa Clara City Council Members,

We are the Santa Clara Youth Climate Action team, a youth-led group that wishes to fight against the climate crisis. We are a team consisting of high-school students from Wilcox and Santa Clara High School working to make an impact through environmental advocacy and volunteering. The climate crisis is the biggest threat facing our generation. It will impact our future careers, health, and security. We fight the climate crisis in order to protect our future. By transitioning to renewable energy sources and incorporating more greenery into our cities, we can ensure a more sustainable future. We hope that the Santa Clara City Council can support us in our goal to combat climate change. We strongly support the council to incorporate more sustainability priorities in the upcoming year, in line with the overall council priority of “Promoting Sustainability and Environmental Protection.”

### **Priorities We Support**

After reviewing the council priorities that are being considered for 2024, we would like to put our support for the following priorities: the Santa Clara Vision Zero Plan, Financial Feasibility of Rooftop Solar for Santa Clara Homeowners, Consideration of Traffic Calming Measures on Cabrillo Avenue, and Lifecycle Costs/Benefits of Artificial Surfacing, Including Turf.

### **Support for Vision Zero Plan and Traffic Calming**

We believe that wider traffic lanes and speed reduction measures are important for the safety of residents in Santa Clara and can be implemented through plans such as the Zero Vision Plan. Additionally, while we focus on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists from cars, we should also focus on the safety of residents from the sun. People should have access to shaded areas through tree canopy cover in all parts of Santa Clara when they go on a walk.

### **Support for Rooftop Solar**

We would also like to mention that the city takes into consideration adding more financial feasibility for Rooftop solar. Increasing solar power usage would be more environmentally friendly as well as beneficial to families. Additional funding, specifically for low-income families, is coming from the California Energy Commission at the end of this year. Let's help low-income families take advantage of that funding.

### **Support for Study on Artificial Surfacing**

We would also like to support the study of exploring the costs and benefits of artificial surfacing. We are interested in seeing the results of that study. There are many alternatives to artificial turf such as long-playing natural sports grasses.

### **Consider adding a new priority item “Expansion of Drought-Resistant Native Plants” or add this language to the Vision Zero Plan Description**

Additionally, we’d like to suggest two priorities that the council should consider. Planting more drought-resistant native plants in public spaces around Santa Clara would help raise the biodiversity of our city, make our city more aesthetically pleasing, and give our city more individuality. Expanding greenery in Santa Clara is supported by various comments from the community survey conducted by EMC. As both an environmentally beneficial task and a community beneficial task, the expansion of greenery would be of tremendous benefit to the city of Santa Clara. This initiative can be taken on as a new priority or there is a window of opportunity to include this within the Vision Zero Plan to use tree canopy cover to increase walkability and reduce the heat island effect.

### **Consider adding a new priority item “EV Charging for Existing Multi-family Homes”**

We are also asking for a city initiative focused on adding more EV charging spaces for existing multi-family homes in Santa Clara. The number of electric vehicles would be increased, thereby reducing greenhouse gases from tailpipe emissions. With so many rebates now available for both new and used vehicles, multi-family residents would be encouraged to purchase and use these environmentally friendlier means of transportation.

We appreciate all the work the city council has done in the area of sustainability. However, there is still more work to be done. It is now time to continue confronting the climate crisis head-on by supporting specific sustainable initiatives.

Thank you for listening to our suggestions,  
The Santa Clara Youth Climate Action Team  
Rosie Chen, Co-lead  
Nandana Maheskumar, Co-lead  
Shreeya Khairnar

**From:** [Robert Whitehair](#)  
**To:** [Nandana Maheskumar](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor and Council](#); [Clerk](#); [Manager](#); [shreeya.k.khairnar@gmail.com](mailto:shreeya.k.khairnar@gmail.com); [Rosie Chen](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Letter about Santa Clara City Priorities for 2024  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 11:04:51 AM

---

Some people who received this message don't often get email from robertwhitehair2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Great letter, great collaboration.

Robert Whitehair

A full scale, all hands on deck response to the climate crisis will be successful within 7 generations..

Arrogance is thinking that success will be accomplished in our lifetimes.

But without that full scale response, there won't be a 7th generation.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRu\\_FwmidIU&t=10s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRu_FwmidIU&t=10s)

On Sun, Mar 24, 2024 at 11:01 AM Nandana Maheskumar <[nandanamahesk@gmail.com](mailto:nandanamahesk@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Santa Clara City Council and Mayor,

We are a team of youth from the Santa Clara Youth Climate Action Team. Our team would really appreciate it if you could read through our letter about the upcoming priority session on March 25th. We have attached a pdf of the letter to this email.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,  
Santa Clara Youth Climate Action Team (SCYCAT)