

**From:** [Janet Werkman](#)  
**To:** [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Hicks, Alison](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [City Council](#); [Lieber, Sally](#); [Showalter, Pat](#); [Ramirez, Lucas](#)  
**Subject:** Council discussion of Navarro et.al. v. City of Mountain View  
**Date:** Monday, December 6, 2021 8:34:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [December 6 letter to City Council \(1\).pdf](#)

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Mayor Kamei and Council Members:

Attached for your consideration please find a letter from the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning and Mountain View Housing Justice. Thank you.



December 6, 2021

Mayor and Council Members:

On Tuesday, December 7, the Mountain View City Council is scheduled to discuss further the City's response in *Navarro, et. al. v. City of Mountain View*, a lawsuit challenging the City's restrictions on the parking of oversized vehicles, which target people who live in those vehicles. We are writing to offer suggestions for how the City can respond positively to the lawsuit and address at the same time our area's continuing, worsening crisis of homelessness.

The federal magistrate in *Navarro* recently ruled that RV residents could prevail in several of their claims if the City implements parking restrictions so draconian as to leave them with no options for parking legally. In addition to exposing the City to liability, imposing restrictions that effectively banish RV residents would violate the fundamental human right to housing. For these reasons, we urge the City to focus on the need to identify safe and appropriate parking locations for all Mountain View residents living in RVs.

We acknowledge the laudable efforts the City has made to help residents unable to keep pace with the high cost of housing, including those living in vehicles. The City created a highly successful safe parking program that has become a model for other communities. The City also established a transitional housing program, operated by Life Moves, to help people find permanent housing. Both of these programs are currently operating at full capacity. The operator of the safe parking program reported that in November of 2021, all spaces for RVs were occupied and 10 RV households were on a waiting list. Despite the success of the City's safe parking program, the need continues to exceed its capacity.

In July of 2020, Mountain View police counted 191 RVs parked on city streets. After the City did not respond to a request for a count conducted in July of 2021, a group of community volunteers carried out an independent count in November of 2021 and found that the number of apparently inhabited oversized vehicles on public streets had increased to 206. (A map showing locations of vehicles is attached). This increase is consistent with media reports from across the Bay Area, showing more people resorting to living in vehicles. We believe the increase is primarily the result of the economic hardship experienced by many in our community, exacerbated by the pandemic, despite the record-breaking profits of local tech corporations and high salaries of many professional employees. The increase in vehicle dwellers has prompted a number of Bay Area cities, including San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley to establish safe parking programs in the past year. Closer to home, the cities of East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and San Jose have also undertaken safe parking programs.

We suggest the following actions to ease the impact of the new oversized vehicle parking restrictions on vulnerable people and help the City comply with its obligation to respect the legal rights of all residents.

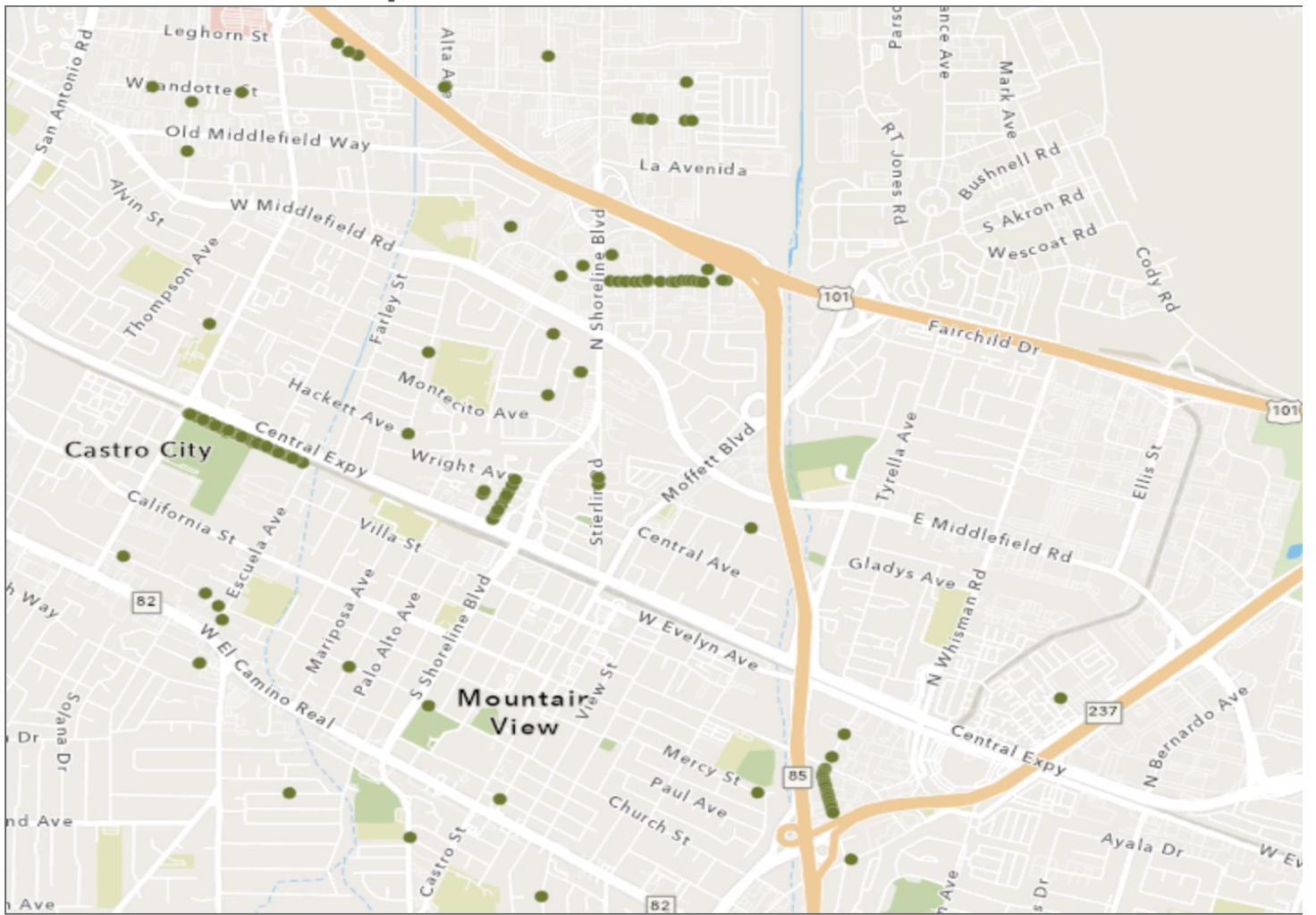
- Publish a map showing where oversized vehicles may park for 72 hours in Mountain View. The City's August 16, 2021 motion to dismiss the *Navarro* complaint states, "These available streets are identified on maps that inform the public where oversized vehicles may legally park." We are aware of no such maps. The City's June 15, 2021 Outreach Notice displays a map that simply shows where "No [Oversized Vehicle] Parking" signs have been or are being installed. Please note that many streets where Oversized Vehicles may park legally normally already have parked cars or have limited space between driveways, so they are not necessarily available.
- Where signs mark the boundary between rights-of-way less than 40 feet and more than 40 feet, add arrows to show which street segment is legally available.
- Remove "No Parking — 2 am to 6 pm" signs from streets wider than 40 feet where there are no identified traffic hazards.
- Expand the safe parking program, beginning with the portion of Shoreline Amphitheatre Lot B currently leased to Life Moves, which appears to be underutilized. Safe parking is safer than other forms of shelter offered to people without permanent housing and provides more independence and dignity.
- Consider the creation of an "RV Park" within Mountain View. The operation of such a facility could be less costly than our current safe parking program, because it could charge rent on a sliding scale and residents would not necessarily need case management. RV Parks normally provide utility hook-ups for hosted vehicles.

Housing analysts acknowledge that it will be years before current efforts to create affordable housing in the region begin to catch up with need. Housing will remain unaffordable for a large number of Mountain View's workers, seniors, people with disabilities, and other residents for the foreseeable future. We are faced with the reality that vehicle dwelling has become an essential alternative for meeting the immediate housing needs of some low-income individuals and families. By identifying ways to support these households and improve their living conditions, we will build a stronger, more inclusive, and more just community.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Bruce England, Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

Edie Keating, Janet Werkman, and Kevin Ma, Mountain View Housing Justice



Locations of Oversized Vehicles (RVs) on Public Streets November 2021

## Gutierrez, Jeannette

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**Subject:** RE: MVCSP comments on Existing Litigation On Narrow Streets to Mountain View City Council

**From:** Mountain View MVCSP <[mvcsp.info@gmail.com](mailto:mvcsp.info@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:20 PM

**To:** Kamei, Ellen <[Ellen.Kamei@mountainview.gov](mailto:Ellen.Kamei@mountainview.gov)>; Ramirez, Lucas <[Lucas.Ramirez@mountainview.gov](mailto:Lucas.Ramirez@mountainview.gov)>; Abe-Koga, Margaret <[Margaret.abe-koga@mountainview.gov](mailto:Margaret.abe-koga@mountainview.gov)>; Matichak, Lisa <[Lisa.Matichak@mountainview.gov](mailto:Lisa.Matichak@mountainview.gov)>; Showalter, Pat <[Pat.Showalter@mountainview.gov](mailto:Pat.Showalter@mountainview.gov)>; Sally Lieber [REDACTED]; Lieber, Sally <[Sally.Lieber@mountainview.gov](mailto:Sally.Lieber@mountainview.gov)>; Hicks, Alison <[Alison.Hicks@mountainview.gov](mailto:Alison.Hicks@mountainview.gov)>

**Cc:** Mountain View MVCSP <[mvcsp.info@gmail.com](mailto:mvcsp.info@gmail.com)>; McCarthy, Kimbra <[Kimbra.McCarthy@mountainview.gov](mailto:Kimbra.McCarthy@mountainview.gov)>; Chopra, Krishan <[Krishan.Chopra@mountainview.gov](mailto:Krishan.Chopra@mountainview.gov)>; Glaser, Heather <[Heather.Glaser@mountainview.gov](mailto:Heather.Glaser@mountainview.gov)>

**Subject:** MVCSP comments on Existing Litigation On Narrow Streets to Mountain View City Council

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(formal letter attached)

Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning  
c/o Aaron Grossman  
817 Montgomery Street  
Mountain View, CA 94041

December 7, 2021

City of Mountain View City Council  
City Hall, 500 Castro Street  
PO Box 7540  
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: Item 2.4 Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Government Code §54956.9(d)(1));  
Name of case: Celerina Navarro, Janet Stevens, Armando Covarrubias, Evelyn Estrada, Gabriel Rangel Jaime, Alma Aldaco, and all others similarly situated v. City of Mountain View, United States District Court, Northern District of California, San Jose Division, Case No. 5:21-cv-05381-NC

Dear Mayor Kamei and City Council members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) appreciates the opportunity to respond to item 2.4 on the ongoing litigation regarding Government Code §54956.9(d)(1). MVCSP has followed the issues around the parking ordinance and vehicle residents, and even formed a community-driven task force to find safe parking options. We have had the privilege of meeting many vehicle residents and community organizations that support them. While this litigation continues, and after, we urge Council to take proactive actions that support the vehicle residents who are impacted by §54956.9(d)(1).

Note that we cosigned the letter from Mountain View Housing Justice, but we would also like to provide our own recommendations here.

- Expand the safe parking program. This program has proven effective, efficient, and supportive of residents, and has allowed many a dignified, safe place to live while waiting for more permanent housing solutions. Safe parking residents have told us many stories about the dangers of living on the streets without safe parking, and have shared the power of community found in safe parking lots, where families protect and help each other as they work through challenging situations such as health issues, job loss, and housing loss. A stable community is highly valuable in helping people through housing transitions. Safe parking lots work, and we hope to see the program expanded, and in some locations, made permanent. Read the stories of some safe parking residents written by the Human Relations Commission, which I chair, at this link. Many success stories are highlighted, and the power of safe parking is clear. <https://mountainview.gov/SafeParkingStories>
- Publish a map showing where oversized vehicles may park for 72 hours in Mountain View, and not just the map showing where vehicles cannot park. Make this map available to police, community, and others who might assist vehicle residents in their search for a place to park. This helps remove friction from the process of relocating people from narrower streets.
- Remove “No Parking — 2 am to 6 pm” signs from streets wider than 40 feet where there are no identified traffic hazards.
- Consider the total amount of parking actually needed for vehicle residents. We know it would be around 200 spots to help those living in areas where parking will not be allowed. That's definitely more than double the current capacity and probably more likely triple.

Mountain View has done a commendable job creating housing, including identifying unique solutions for the unhoused, and should be applauded for that. In the short to medium term, however, many people still live in their vehicles, and the pandemic has only added to structural inequalities that make many of our residents, especially our most vulnerable, including seniors and renters, susceptible to losing access to permanent housing.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
IdaRose Sylvester  
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

Cc:  
Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager  
Krishan Chopra, City Attorney  
Heather Glaser, City Clerk

**About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning**

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!  
For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.  
To contact us, send email to [mvcsp.info@gmail.com](mailto:mvcsp.info@gmail.com).



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December 7, 2021

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