

**Gutierrez, Jeannette**

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**From:** Gutierrez, Jeannette  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:35 AM  
**To:** Councilmembers; McCarthy, Kimbra; Chopra, Krishan; Ramberg, Audrey Seymour; Wright, Lenka  
**Cc:** Vonderlinden, Silvia  
**Subject:** POLICY - For Saturday's meeting, February 6

**From:** Donna Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:16 AM  
**To:** City.Council <City.Council@mountainview.gov>  
**Subject:** For Saturday's meeting, February 6

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.**

Dear Council Members,

As you prepare for your goal setting/prioritizing meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>, I urge you to consider prioritizing the implementation of the following two significant sustainability solutions in 2021.

The first is banning all gas powered lawn maintenance equipment, especially leaf blowers. This could take the form of developing an incentive program for trading them in for electric ones or combining that with an outright ban. We know from CARB that private homeowners are doing well in this area but the commercial maintenance companies have not made the switch and CARB is not scheduled to ban them till 2028,

The second is banning all plastic, single use take-out packaging which is non-recyclable or compostable. Plates, cutlery, cups, lids, straws, clamshells and other containers significantly impact pollution, health, and cause harm to wildlife. Using the pandemic to postpone implementing this now is an excuse as there are sustainable alternatives available already.

Best regards,  
Donna Davies

**Gutierrez, Jeannette**

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**From:** Silja Paymer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:15 AM  
**To:** City.Council  
**Subject:** Goal Setting

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.**

Dear Council Members,

As you prepare for your goal setting/prioritizing meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>, I urge you to consider prioritizing the implementation of the following two significant sustainability solutions in 2021.

The first is banning all gas powered lawn maintenance equipment, especially leaf blowers. This could take the form of developing an incentive program for trading them in for electric ones or combining that with an outright ban. We know from CARB that private homeowners are doing well in this area but the commercial maintenance companies have not made the switch and CARB is not scheduled to ban them till 2028. Not only that, but there are a lot of people who now recognize this as a priority while they work from home and suffer the noise pollution.

The second is banning all plastic, single use take-out packaging which is non-recyclable or compostable. Plates, cutlery, cups, lids, straws, clamshells and other containers significantly impact pollution, health, and cause harm to wildlife. Using the pandemic to postpone implementing this now is an excuse as there are sustainable alternatives available already.

Best regards,

Silja Paymer  
Mountain View Resident

## Gutierrez, Jeannette

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**From:** Scott Stanford  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:53 PM  
**To:** City.Council  
**Subject:** Prioritize banning gas-powered lawn equipment

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.**

Dear MV Council Members,

As you prepare to set 2021 goals on February 6th, I urge you to consider prioritizing the implementation of a ban on gas-powered lawn equipment (particularly leaf blowers, but also lawn mowers). This could also include developing an incentive program for trading them in for electric models. We know from CARB that private homeowners are doing well in this area but the commercial maintenance companies have not made the switch and CARB is not scheduled to ban them till 2028.

Some not-so-fun facts:

- The California Air Resources Board compared the smog and hydrocarbon emissions of gas-powered garden equipment to a 2018 Toyota Camry: 1 hour of a gas-powered lawn mower is equivalent to driving the Camry 300 miles. 1 hour of a gas-powered leaf blower is equivalent to 1,100 miles. Assuming 60 mph that converts to:
  - 1 hour of lawn mower = 5 hours in a 2016 Camry. So running a **lawn mower is equivalent to 5 Toyota Camrys** at 60 mph.
  - 1 hour of leaf blowing = 18 hours in a 2016 Camry. So running a **leaf blower is equivalent to 18 Toyota Camrys** at 60 mph.
- **90 dB** is typical for a gas leaf blower according to the CDC, above the 85 dB point at which extended exposure can cause hearing damage. This naturally makes them very disturbing in neighborhoods, where they can be heard more than a block away, but also are hazardous to the people using (or near) them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Scott Stanford  
Mountain View Ave.

**Gutierrez, Jeannette**

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**From:** Lisa McLain  
**Sent:** Friday, February 5, 2021 6:49 AM  
**To:** Kamei, Ellen; Ramirez, Lucas; Hicks, Alison; Matichak, Lisa; Abe-Koga, Margaret; Showalter, Pat; Lieber, Sally  
**Cc:** City.Council; McCarthy, Kimbra  
**Subject:** Re: Feb. 6th – Council Retreat, Agenda Item # 4.2 Strategic Planning  
**Attachments:** Letter to Council re staff reports 2.5.21 Final.pdf

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Mayor Kamei and Members of the City Council,

The League of Women Voters Los Altos Mountain View would like to comment on agenda item 4.2, please see attached .pdf or plain text below.

Sincerely,

Lisa McLain, President  
League of Women Voters Los Altos Mountain View  
[president@lwvlamv.org](mailto:president@lwvlamv.org) |  
[lwvlamv.org](http://lwvlamv.org) | [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca) | [easyvoterguide.org](http://easyvoterguide.org)  
*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

Included Text \_\_\_\_\_

The LWV strongly encourages participation in governmental decision-making. A key component for the public to be able to contribute comments to the Mountain View Council, as well as other advisory bodies such as the Environmental Planning Commission, Rental Housing Committee, etc., is availability of staff reports with adequate notice.

We commend Mountain View's recent commitment to publish agendas and staff reports earlier than they have been published in the past, especially since we know the staff reports are often very extensive and staff are very busy. However, there has already been some slippage in meeting these deadlines, so we urge Council to make this a priority. We also hope that once the agendas and staff reports are published, emails will be sent rapidly thereafter to those who have asked to receive these on a regular basis.

We also understand that the City is committed to updating the Future Agenda Items more consistently than in past years. Knowing what items are to be discussed well in advance of the Council meetings is helpful for civic engagement. Perhaps these could also be shown for EPC and other advisory body agenda items. Another step in promoting community engagement would be to publish the actual agendas earlier, without the staff reports if they are not yet completed.



February 4, 2021

Mayor Kamei and Members of the City Council  
City of Mountain View  
500 Castro Street  
Mountain View, CA 94041

Re: Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – Council Retreat, Agenda Item # 4.2 Strategic Planning

The LWV strongly encourages participation in governmental decision-making. A key component for the public to be able to contribute comments to the Mountain View Council, as well as other advisory bodies such as the Environmental Planning Commission, Rental Housing Committee, etc., is availability of staff reports with adequate notice.

We commend Mountain View's recent commitment to publish agendas and staff reports earlier than they have been published in the past, especially since we know the staff reports are often very extensive and staff are very busy. However, there has already been some slippage in meeting these deadlines, so we urge Council to make this a priority. We also hope that once the agendas and staff reports are published, emails will be sent rapidly thereafter to those who have asked to receive these on a regular basis.

We also understand that the City is committed to updating the Future Agenda Items more consistently than in past years. Knowing what items are to be discussed well in advance of the Council meetings is helpful for civic engagement. Perhaps these could also be shown for EPC and other advisory body agenda items. Another step in promoting community engagement would be to publish the actual agendas earlier, without the staff reports if they are not yet completed.

Many nearby cities including Palo Alto, Los Altos, and San Jose, publish their staff reports approximately a week before the scheduled meeting times. This larger window of time makes it easier for individuals, and especially organizations, to prepare questions of staff and to have dialog with Councilmembers and Commission members, rather than just providing comments. Some Councilmembers have stated that such conversations may be more helpful than letters expressing a point of view. The ability to ask clarifying questions of staff and/or Councilmembers before composing a letter with an opinion would lead to more informed public comments. We appreciate the pressures that staff is under to produce reports for council consideration and that last minute changes can result in their delay, making it harder for the public to provide informed comments. Assuming that the City meets the targeted deadlines recently adopted, we suggest that after six months, or some other reasonable timeframe, consideration be given to making reports available even a day earlier.

We believe that public participation is critical in a representative democracy and think that these changes will encourage better understanding and a more informed and engaged citizenry.

Lisa McLain, president  
League of Women Voters Los Altos Mountain View  
[president@lwvlamv.org](mailto:president@lwvlamv.org) | (650) 429-8382  
[lwvlamv.org](http://lwvlamv.org) | [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca) | [easyvoterguide.org](http://easyvoterguide.org)  
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Cc: Kimbra McCarthy