

Question 18

Questionnaire for City Council Candidates 2009 Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN)

Terminology: "the City" refers to the government of the City of Palo Alto.

(Optional) Unasked Question: If there is a question you think we should have asked, ask and answer it.

[A] None

[B] None

[C] Chris Gaither

Do you feel that the Palo Alto Police Department engages in racial profiling, and other profiling which potentially violate other or all protected and non-protected classes? Provide three ways the Palo Alto Police department can improve its community relations, and how "some" of the community perceives its performance. Elaborate where necessary with examples.

[D] Tim Gray : www.vote4Gray.com/

It is true that a "Green Future is a Golden Future" and Environmental Stewardship is close to the top of my list, however our immediate financial future needs our attention. If we don't find the right balance, we will be denied the opportunity to invest in projects that make our City green. Collectively we need to set the priorities, and then doggedly refuse to get side-tracked on items that are not on the list. There is much comment, true or not, that we got side-tracked on "petty" items and nearly got "Railroaded." (Literally.)

[E] None

[F] None

[G] None

[H] None

[I] None

[J] Gail Price

During your campaign, you have referenced a caring community? What do you mean by that?

The City of Palo Alto is more than its buildings, neighborhoods, and roads; it is about people and providing services to the residents and businesses in our community. I believe that creating a caring community requires that the City take a more visible role to promote effective partnerships to improve and coordinate mental health services and well being for our youth and families. Recently the pronounced increases in youth suicides demand that we approach this issue differently. The schools, the City, non-profits and faith-based services and families cannot do this alone. We need to include the youth in these discussions (and not rely solely on adult

experts), use the Youth Master Plan findings and recommendations to increase education and awareness of the range of mental health issues.

A reduction in Community Police Officers at our schools is not a solution. I would like to explore the possibility of using a portion of the transit occupancy tax devoted to increasing partnerships as the economy improves. There are several model programs, which have been used successfully in other communities, which have been used successfully in other communities. This is a community issue.

A caring community should also improve civil discourse that is more respectful and productive. While we have many opinions and firmly held beliefs, a lot of emotional and psychic energy is consumed and distracts us from more meaningful discussion of the complex challenges to create positive results. I am concerned about the “terms of the debates” and the interminable Palo Alto process. I do not necessarily believe that extended debate necessarily results in the most creative solution civil discourse should be more dignified, respectful and productive.

[K] [Greg Scharff](http://ElectGregScharff.com) : ElectGregScharff.com

Public/Private Partnerships. What role do you see Public/Private Partnerships playing in the City’s future? In this age of tight budgets and decreasing revenue, we need to encourage “Public/ Private Partnerships” such as the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo, Palo Alto Art Center, Heritage Park and Lytton Plaza. Palo Alto is very lucky to have a cadre of active citizens willing to give their time and money to improve our city. We need to encourage this generosity and improve our city through “Public Private Partnerships”.

[L] Nancy Shepherd: www.electNancyShepherd.com

Question: Do you think that the partnership between the council and school board is working right now.

Currently there is an atmosphere of open dialogue, which is good. I would like to see Council and the School Board establish a clearer understanding regarding the use of shared fields, recreation programs and mental health issues. When I was PTA Council President I attended Council meetings, kept interested Council members informed of school issues and advocated for Council to support youth activities and maintain a close and integrated relationship. My efforts included hosting sessions with City Council members, the newly hired city manager and fire and police chiefs so that the school leaders and PTA Presidents could have better direct communication in an unstructured setting. I am strongly motivated to maintain a direct communication between the City and School leadership so that youth issues are included as a serious consideration in the scope civic duty.

[M] None

[N] None
