

# Sunnyvale City Council Meeting Summary: January 14, 2025

The Sunnyvale City Council meeting took place on January 14, 2025<sup>1</sup>.... There were actually multiple sessions<sup>1</sup>:

A special council meeting closed session at 5:30 PM<sup>1</sup>.

A special order of the day meeting at 6:33 PM<sup>2</sup>. The regular council meeting at 7:01 PM<sup>3</sup>.

The meeting location and online meeting details were available on the Council agenda<sup>1</sup>....

The attendees included.:

**Mayor Klein**<sup>1</sup>...

**Vice Mayor Cell**<sup>1</sup>...

**Councilmembers:**

**Mellinger**<sup>1</sup>...

**Srinivasan**<sup>1</sup>...

**Chang**<sup>1</sup>...

**Lay**<sup>1</sup>...

**Councilmember Cisneros was absent with an excused absence**

## II. Key Themes & Discussions

**Student Innovation and Technology:** The meeting opened with a series of brief presentations from students showcasing innovative projects using technology and machine learning. These ranged from:

**Solar Panel Efficiency:** Using machine learning to detect dust on PV panels for cleaning.

**Pedestrian Safety:** Developing wearable tech to reduce fatalities at crosswalks.

**Marine Conservation:** Identifying fin whales using deep neural networks.

**Healthcare Technology:** Creating non-invasive wearables for diabetic neuropathy and a personal assistant for the blind.

**Alternative Energy:** Exploring electricity generation through rain and advanced diabetic management solutions.

**Advanced Computing:** Researching laptop thermal performance and generating superconductors.

**Sustainable Agriculture:** Using drones, deep learning, and thermal imaging for artificial pollination.

**Assistive Technology:** Designing a writing tool for carpal tunnel and arthritis patients using 3D printing.

**Exploration:** An undefined project titled "Into the Unknown. A Magpro Journey."

**Planetary Science:** Investigating what gives an icy planet its color. These projects reflect a focus on technology, sustainability, and addressing community needs.

**Recognition of Outgoing Vice Mayor:** Council Member Murali Srinivasan was recognized for his service as Vice Mayor in 2024.

**Commendations:** He received a certificate of commendation from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, and praise from former and current elected officials.

**Achievements:** Speakers highlighted Srinivasan's dedication, community involvement, regional representation and focus on AI and technology initiatives at the National League of Cities and also emphasized his work with students.

**Srinivasan's Remarks:** Srinivasan thanked the council, residents, and his family, stating that his year was one of the best of his life. He emphasized his work with students using AI for good and representing Sunnyvale on various AI panels. He also mentioned his participation in NASA's Moffett Quarterly Meetings.

**Time Management:** Srinivasan noted that he had successfully kept meetings on time, and provided guidance to the incoming Vice Mayor, referencing the Mayor's methods: "your job is very easy...all the steps are laid out, so you just follow the steps."

**Swearing-In of New Vice Mayor:** Council Member Linda Sell was sworn in as the new Vice Mayor for 2025.

**Ceremony:** Her son, Harrison Sell, administered the oath of office.

**Sell's Remarks:** Sell thanked her colleagues for their trust, and noted her long-term volunteer work in the community and highlighted past accomplishments, particularly focused on the community and environment.

**Praise and Congratulations:** She received praise and congratulations from supervisors, former and current elected officials, and community members. Supervisor Lee stated, "you are the mayor of the vices of the city".

**Public Comment and Community Engagement:** Numerous public comments were made.

**Outgoing and Incoming Vice Mayors:** Public commenters commended Srinivasan on his term and congratulated Sell on her appointment.

**Diversity:** A commenter noted that a majority of the council was now women and Asian, which reflects the city's cultural shift.

**Call for Action and Concerns:** Community members spoke about bike lanes, particularly the need to complete the bike lanes on Homestead Avenue and the need to purchase a skinny street sweeper, pedestrian safety on Fair Oaks, and expressed concern over a council members remark from a previous meeting.

**Focus on Climate:** Concerns about climate change were frequently mentioned in the public comment section.

#### **Council Business and Procedure**

**Rules of Order:** The meeting followed a formal procedure.

**Public Comment:** Rules for submitting public comments were outlined, with time limits strictly enforced.

**Closed Session Report:** The closed session report on labor negotiations indicated "nothing to report."

**Consent Calendar:** The council approved the consent calendar, with one item (1F) pulled for discussion.

**City Values:** There was discussion and eventual approval of a revised statement of city values, including a minor correction.

**Study Issues and Budget Proposals:** The council discussed the annual study issue process and proposed budget items.

**Study Issue Review:** Staff presented the status of 31 continuing study issues, noting that most of the study issues were in the Community Development and Public Works departments.

**Strategic Alignment:** Staff explained the alignment of study issues with strategic priorities.

**Backlog:** A concern was expressed about the number of active study issues, specifically mentioning the backlog at community development and public works and there was also discussion about how the internal service departments contribute support.

**Tracking "Just Do It" Items:** A request was made to create a tracking mechanism for initiatives deemed "just do it," which are not fully developed study issues.

**Policy Planning:** Council members wanted assurances about how policies created outside the study issue process would be tracked.

**Budget Proposals:** There was discussion about funding bike lanes on Homestead Avenue, purchasing a street sweeper for bike lanes, and other proposals.

**Staffing and Vacancies:** Questions were asked about the staffing at City Departments.

**New Study Issue Proposals:** The council considered 2 new study issue proposals from Vice Mayor Sell regarding climate resilience, with one being declined as redundant.

### **Board and Commission Application Questions**

**Revisions:** The Council agreed to update and add more detailed questions to the application materials for the Boards and Commissions and remove the demographic questions, while tasking staff to check with the equity manager regarding refining the age and income questions. The questions will include links to relevant city documents to encourage familiarity with policy.

**Intergovernmental Assignments:** Councilmembers reported on activities from intergovernmental committee assignments, including updates on the Silicon Valley Clean Energy and VTA Board.

### **Other Discussion**

**Public Safety Anniversary:** The city manager noted that 2025 will be the 75th anniversary of the Public Safety model.

**Pasadena Fires:** The city manager shared information about the impact of the Los Angeles fires on city employees in Pasadena, and provided well wishes for city staff affected and the Sunnyvale staff who were providing support.

### **III. Key Quotes**

*Murali Srinivasan on his year as Vice Mayor:* "This is year 2024 was one of the best years of my life is an understatement."

*Murali Srinivasan to incoming Vice Mayor:* "your job is very easy...all the steps are laid out, so you just follow the steps."

*Otto Lee on Linda Sell:* "you are the mayor of the vices of the city"

*Linda Sell on the community:* "I just feel lucky and blessed to be here with all of you"