

Sunnyvale City Council Summary - Tuesday, February 25, 2025

The Sunnyvale City Council meeting was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, and began at 7:00 PM. The meeting included both in-person and online (Zoom) participation.

The following council members were present at the meeting:

- * Mayor Klein
- * Vice Mayor Sell
- * Council Member Cisneros
- * Council Member Mellinger
- * Council Member Srinivasan
- * Council Member Chang
- * Council Member Lay

I. Update on the Multifamily Dwelling Bulky Item Program:

- The city lacks a bulky item program for multifamily dwellings, leading to illegal dumping.
- A successful 86-item pilot program demonstrated the program's feasibility.
- Proposed program: two annual pickups per unit (<250 units); weekly for larger complexes. \$640,000 budget, planned launch: January 2026 (pending software).
- Council concerns: defining "multifamily dwelling," permanent drop-off locations, cost allocation, prohibited items, and communication with property managers.
- Outreach plan includes multilingual fact sheets, social media, and direct tenant outreach.
- An honor system will track requests; program evaluation will involve data analysis and surveys.

II. Program Rollout and Communication:

- Separate trucks for single-family and multifamily dwellings; the same team will handle illegal dumping.
- Council questioned the 250-unit threshold for weekly pickup and potential for program abuse.

- Emphasis on clear communication about costs and strategies to address high tenant turnover.

Social media promotion was suggested.

III. Program Logistics and Comparisons:

- Council debated the definition of "multifamily dwelling" and requested a comparison of illegal dumping rates in neighboring cities.

IV. Code of Ethics Review and Public Comment:

- The council reviewed sections of the city's code of ethics, focusing on consequences for infractions.
- Vice Mayor Sell proposed wording changes, suggesting "may" instead of "shall."
- Public comment advocated for stronger consequences for intentional and repeated violations.
- The council tabled immediate changes to allow for community input and staff review; adopted a motion to revisit in a year (7-0).

V. Relocation Assistance Requirements for Sunnyvale Municipal Code Chapter 19.71:

- Current code provides 2 months' assistance; a proposed change increases this to 3 months.
- Low survey response rates from landlords (14/650) and tenants (24); outreach meetings had zero attendees.
- The Housing and Human Services Commission recommended a 3-month increase with an exception for owners of 7 or fewer units.
- Staff recommended maintaining the 2-month period due to low response rates and potential administrative burden; concerns about enforcement were raised. Data from Project Sentinel showed 19 eviction inquiries since July 1st, with 4 being single-family homes and all at-fault. A motion to increase relocation assistance to 3 months passed 5-2.

VI. Appointment to the Board of Library Trustees:

- One vacancy exists on the Board; council interviewed applicants on February 3rd.
- A paper ballot voting process was used; at least 4 affirmative votes are required for appointment.

- Council members Mellinger and Lay disclosed private conversations with applicants.
- David Liu was appointed with 6 affirmative votes. A second vacancy will arise in June.
- Council members discussed candidates' strengths and weaknesses, focusing on experience, community involvement, and diverse perspectives.

VII. VTA and SVRIA Appointments & Meeting Schedule Changes:

- Council Member Mellinger resigned from the VTA Policy Advisory Committee alternate position due to scheduling conflicts. The committee's meeting date changed to the second Thursday of the month.
- Sunnyvale's alternate director position for the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA) needs filling.
- Council Member Mellinger was appointed as VTA alternate; Council Member Srinivasan volunteered for the SVRIA alternate position.
- Council members discussed scheduling conflicts and availability for both positions. The appointments passed 7-0.

VIII. Homelessness in Sunnyvale:

- Residents shared personal stories and advocated for more resources to address homelessness.
- Concerns were raised about displacement of a homeless community and limited shelter options.
- Proposed solutions included tiny homes, improved service coordination, a larger shelter, and affordable housing.

IX. Intergovernmental Committee Updates & Social Media Outreach:

- Council Member Mellinger reported on the Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) meeting, including the honoring of Melody Tovar.
- Council members discussed updates from the League of California Cities.
- Council members discussed improving social media outreach, considering a Reddit account, and improving communication with council members to facilitate sharing of posts.

- The city opened additional hotel rooms for shelter due to planned abatement near the library.

X. Other Discussions:

- Council members discussed the need for a clearer definition of "multifamily dwelling."
- Concerns were expressed about the low response rate to surveys concerning the relocation assistance.
- Further discussion centered on the need for better data collection methods to accurately assess no-fault evictions leading to tenant displacement.
- Councilmember Mellinger proposed revisiting the policy regarding parking on Fair Oaks Avenue; the motion to agendize this passed 7-0.