

**From:** [Michael Fiumara](#)  
**To:** [Melissa Sanchez](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Fiumara](#); [JIMOPPELT@comcast.net](mailto:JIMOPPELT@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Public comment re: Morongo Trail, Palm Springs, CA repaving and Measure J goals and mandates  
**Date:** Thursday, October 3, 2024 12:30:35 AM

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Dear Ms. Sanchez:

I am respectfully submitting the following email for public comment which I have already forwarded to Mayor Bernstein, councilwoman Holstege and City engineer Montalvo. Would you please make sure that my email is noted and placed in the appropriate public comment. If you or any member of the Commission would like for me to make a personal appearance to address my concerns, I would be happy to comply. Thank you very much:

Dear Mayor Bernstein, Councilwoman Holstege, and City Engineer Montalvo:

My name is Michael Fiumara and I purchased my home at [REDACTED] Morongo Trail, Palm Springs, CA almost three years ago this month. Prior to that time I had lived for over 30 years in Santa Rosa, California.

When I moved here, I really loved the neighborhood and the house but the road (Morongo Trail) in front of my home and the adjoining cul de sac looks like something that you might find in Appalachia. The surface of the roadway is in poor condition and it appears that one section of Morongo Trail that is closest to the intersection of Barona consists of a different pavement material and appears to have been laid down more recently than the remainder of the road. This not only detracts from the general aesthetics of the neighborhood but the remainder of the roadway which passes by my house and leads to the intersection of Araby is in much poorer condition.

In the almost 3 years that I have lived here the condition of Morongo Trail has only grown worse. Meanwhile, Mesquite Avenue (in the same neighborhood and which is parallel to Morongo Trail ) had been in much better condition when it was newly repaved a few months ago. Further, it was equipped with all kinds of blue dividers and other unnecessary Accoutrements! It has not been marked as a bike path so I don't know what the intent had been.

I would like to know if Morongo Trail is on the list of roads that will be repaved in the near future? If none of you know the answer would you please consider directing a staff member to confirm if and/or when Morongo Trail is scheduled to next be paved? Furthermore, because Morongo Trail is a straightaway, it would benefit from a robust process to determine if and what can be done to slow down the speeding traffic on the road. I have observed the effective usage of signage and speed bumps as two ways to slow down high speed traffic. High speed traffic further erodes surface pavement but worse creates a safety hazard for those pulling out of their driveways especially where there is a greater housing density due to the Sand Cliff and Coco Cabana condominium complexes located on the opposite side of where I live on Morongo Trail. Further, please note that Morongo Trail does NOT have a speed limit sign for motorists. However, Barona Road heading south immediately after passing Morongo Trail has one 30 MPH speeding sign which does not give notice to those motorists traveling in excess of 60 MPH on Morongo Trail which has a much higher density than Barona Rd which is bordered on the west side by the fenced in Ranch open space.

### **Street paving**

I have been informed that last year, the Measure J Commission approved \$9M of street paving -- up from Palm Spring's typical \$3-6M per year budget. Upon checking the [budget report for September's Measure J meeting](#) it looks like only \$4M has been expended so far. So is it fair to assume the City is not done with the \$9M of paving and Morongo Trail has a chance at finally being properly repaved. Please take the time to look at the roadway/ pavement yourself. I was pretty appalled the first time three years ago after I walked the street for the first time.

I would appreciate it if you would be kind enough to contact me at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to set up a time for us to discuss this issue. I know that there are other neighbors that feel the same way. But as you are well aware, this part of the city has been turned into Airbnb central— this makes neighborhood cohesion a little bit more difficult for obvious reasons. However, I would appreciate an answer which makes sense based on equity, fairness and Measure J goals and mandates. I suspect that unlike Mesquite Avenue no council member or city employee lives on Morongo Trail?

I look forward to hearing from you.  
Thank you.

*Michael A. Fiumara*

**Attorney at Law**

**FIUMARA LAW, PC**

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**Testimonials:** [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs3vPUSXK2\\_fxjehRE1VdJSgq4bXD823K](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs3vPUSXK2_fxjehRE1VdJSgq4bXD823K)

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# City of Palm Springs

## Department of Parks & Recreation

401 South Pavilion Way • Palm Springs, California 92262  
Telephone: (760) 322-8272 | [recinfo@palmspringsca.gov](mailto:recinfo@palmspringsca.gov)

26 September 2024

Honorable Chair and Members of the Measure J Oversight Commission  
City of Palm Springs Measure J Oversight Commission  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way,  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Honorable Chair and Members of the Measure J Oversight Commission,

It is my pleasure to forward to you the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding Measure J funding requests for issues related to Palm Springs parks. These recommendations are the outcome of our meeting on 23 September 2024, during which the commissioners reviewed applications and draft applications from seven parties, each of whom was given the opportunity to make a presentation of their project, including any supplemental information, photographs, and images relevant to their request. After each presentation, the commissioners were able to ask applicants questions to make certain that they had a solid understanding of the proposed project. The projects were then ranked by the commissioners based upon the benefit delivered to the community.

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that funds be allocated in the order of the final ranking, which is as follows:

Rank	Project
#1	Palm Springs Stadium Deferred Maintenance Project
#2 (tie)	Baristo Park Improvements Feasibility Study and G-Force Workout Health and Wellness Permanent Space at Ruth Hardy Park
#4	DeMuth Community Center Tile Mural
#5	Creating an Urban Forest at Prescott Preserve
#6	Cerritos Park Energy Efficient LED Light Fixtures
#7	Victoria Park Midcentury Modern Pavilion

You should be aware that these were the parks-related projects proposed as of the date of the agenda posting for the 23 September 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, but additional projects may have been submitted after that time.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendations. We believe that these projects, in order, will improve the quality of our parks and the lives of our residents and visitors.

Respectfully yours,

Signed by:  
  
John Miraglia  
Chair, Palm Springs Parks & Recreation Commission

Copy: Scott Stiles, City Manager  
Teresa Gallavan, Assistant City Manager  
Kris Mooney, Director of Finance  
Members, Palm Springs Park and Recreation Commission

**City of Palm Springs Measure J Oversight Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 17, 2024**  
**5:30 PM at Palm Springs City Hall**

Good evening, Chair Simpkins, Commissioners, City officials and staff, and members of the public.

My name is Jonathan Lorenzo Yorba. I'm the Senior Manager of Grants at The Center. I'm here on behalf of Mike Thompson, our CEO, who asked me to thank you for considering our Measure J Community-Initiated Project titled, "The Center: Solar Shade Structure and Rainbow Bike Racks."

I would like to specifically thank Commissioner Linda Futterer who conducted a site visit to see firsthand what The Center hopes to accomplish with much-needed Measure J grant funding. Commissioner Futterer asked good common-sense questions that strengthened our concept – and resolve.

It's one thing to read a proposal on paper; it's something altogether different to see it in person. Therefore, I would also like to warmly invite other Commissioners to do a site visit to not only see that our proposed project is in line with the City of Palm Springs Strategic Plan and with Measure J funding priorities and goals, but also – and perhaps equally as important – to learn about the services and programs The Center offers to each and every Palm Springs resident and visitor, as everyone is welcome at The Center. In short, we don't exist simply to build shade structures and install bike racks. However, they will be important means to our real purpose: We exist to serve Palm Springs and the broader desert community. As our vision states, "Come join us at The Center, a space where you can belong and be unconditionally you."

Two nights ago, on Tuesday, October 15, I made public comments at the Sustainability Commission meeting and made a formal request that the Commissioners consider submitting a Letter of Support for The Center's proposal. If approved at its upcoming November 19, 2024 meeting, the Letter of Support will be transmitted to the Measure J Oversight Commissioners.

Thank you.

October 17, 2024

Dear Members of the Measure J Commission,

**We, the undersigned Filipino American and Palm Springs community leaders, along with advocates for arts and culture, are writing to express our strong support for the proposed Filipino American mural at Demuth Community Center, led by Bayanihan Desert.** This project represents an unprecedented opportunity to celebrate the rich contributions of Filipino Americans in Palm Springs and the surrounding Coachella Valley.

The mural will serve as a visual testament to the profound influence Filipino Americans have had on the social, cultural, and economic development of our region. From early Manong farm laborers to veterans and hospitality & medical professionals, **Filipino Americans have been integral to the fabric of Palm Springs**, yet their contributions often remain underrepresented. The proposed mural will honor this legacy by bringing these stories to life through public art.

**With the input of community members** and the artistic direction of Palm Springs native James Adam Labuen Garcia, Bayanihan Desert's vision for this mural exemplifies the collaborative spirit of "**bayanihan**." The choice of Demuth Park, home to a thriving Filipino enclave since World War II, as the mural's site is symbolic of the area's deep historical significance for Filipino Americans. **The ceramic tile medium chosen for the mural ensures its longevity**, requiring minimal maintenance while offering a lasting and vivid tribute for decades to come.

In addition to honoring Filipino American history, **this project aligns with Measure J's goals of enhancing public spaces and enriching quality of life.** Beyond beautifying the Demuth Community Center, the mural will serve as a bridge, connecting different cultural communities through shared history, dialogue, and understanding. It is more than just art—it is a powerful statement of inclusion, representation, and cultural pride. For future generations of Filipino Americans in Palm Springs, this mural will be a lasting reminder of their vital role in the City's story. By approving funding for this project, **Measure J has the opportunity to reaffirm Palm Springs' commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our public spaces.**

We urge the Measure J Commission to support this important project, which will transform the Demuth Community Center into a cultural landmark that reflects the vibrant diversity of Palm Springs. **We believe this mural will be a source of pride not only for the Filipino American community but for the entire City.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Signatories:

Bayanihan Desert  
National Alliance of Filipino Americans Coachella Valley  
Filipino American National Historical Society Orange County and Inland Empire Chapter

Pilipino Global Outreach  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
Asian Pacific American Public Affairs  
Palm Springs Filipino Basketball League  
AJ Filipino Market  
VARRACO COFFEE + ROASTERS  
Manny Dela Rosa, NBC Palm Springs, Indio  
Kate Castle, Palm Springs  
Mark Talkington, Palm Springs  
Isabel Chapman, National Alliance of Filipino Americans Chair, Indian Wells  
Adam Lerner, Palm Springs  
Deiter Crawford, Palm Springs  
Ann Sheffer, Palm Springs  
Jenny Gil, Desert X Executive Director, Palm Springs  
Michael Green, Palm Springs  
Marconi Calindas, Visual Artist - Galleria Marconi PS, Palm Springs  
Nicholas Snow, PromoHomo.TV©, Palm Springs  
Terance Nanez, National Alliance of Filipino Americans President, Desert Hot Springs  
Shann Carr, Arts Grant Selection Advisor: The L-Fund, Palm Springs  
Gerald Clarke, Artist, Palm Springs  
Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio City Council  
Janel Hunt, Palm Springs  
Luisa Heredia, La Quinta  
Karena Heredia, La Quinta  
Joe Virata, Filipino National Historic Society, Riverside  
A. Velasco, Palm Springs  
Joe Salas, Democratic National Committee, San Bernardino  
Judecie Valdez, Cathedral City  
Anyse Smith, Palm Desert  
Max Finneran, Education Producer, Desert X, Palm Springs  
Paul Ortega, Palm Springs  
Mariah Sison, Palm Springs  
Melissa Dollman, Deserted Films Co-founder/CFO, Palm Springs  
Charles Drabkin, Palm Springs  
Andrew Murphy, California Democratic Party AAPI Caucus, Los Angeles  
Steve & Carol Nash, Palm Springs  
Brooke Hodges, Former PSAM Director and Curator, Palm Springs  
Everette Solomon, Palm Springs  
Daniell Cornell, Palm Springs  
Liz Armstrong, Curator | Writer | Museum Consultant, Palm Springs  
Sidney Williams, Palm Springs  
Karen Borja, Indio  
David Weiner, Palm Springs  
Alina Iftode, Palm Springs



Megan Goehring, Palm Springs  
Erin Manalo-Pedro, Filipino American National Historical Society OC-IE, Upland  
Melissa Hempel, Palm Springs  
Stephen Sullivan, Palm Springs  
Leilanie Tolentino, Las Vegas  
Thomas Yanni, Former Public Arts Commissioner/Vice Chair, Palm Springs  
Jonathon Merchain, Palm Springs  
Mary Teisan, Palm Springs  
Rey Gerada, National Alliance of Filipino Americans Treasurer, Cathedral City  
Elwin Agtang, Cathedral City  
Tony Rago, Palm Springs  
Nina Cara, Cathedral City  
Allan Ahorro, Registered Nurse, Palm Springs  
Jeff Coloma, Palm Springs  
Loreta Nelson, Cathedral City  
Katherine Hatch, Palm Springs  
Amanda Balmages, Palm Springs