

## ATTACHMENT 3

### Union City General Plan Update

#### Comments on Preliminary Public Review Draft Health and Quality of Life Element

##### General Plan Advisory Committee (February 6, 2019)

##### Parks and Open Space

1. The City should be sure there is parity between both sides of the City regarding the quality of facilities and the maintenance of facilities.
  - Added new policy:*  
**HQL-2.18 Ensure Equitable Facilities.** *The City shall ensure there is parity among neighborhood parks and recreational facilities throughout the city with regards to investment and maintenance.*
2. With regards to maintenance, the Landscape and Lighting District (LLD) parcel tax has not been increased in over 20 years. There is a \$1.5 million LLD fund deficit.
  - Added new implementation program in response to the feedback received:*  
**HQL-2.D Landscape and Lighting District Parcel Tax.** *Evaluate updating the Landscape and Lighting District parcel tax, with a focus on park maintenance.*  
**-Responsibility:** *Public Works Department*  
**-Time Frame:** *FY 22-23*
3. City parks are often lightly used, but sports fields are in demand.
  - Comment will be forwarded to Community and Recreational Services for consideration and evaluation as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.*
4. Marketing of Union City parks should be improved; possibly highlighting specific facilities within the Community and Recreation Services Activity Guide. Neighboring cities are luring away Union City residents because of better communications.
  - This feedback will be provided to Community and Recreation Services staff.*
5. The City needs a pool.
  - Comment will be forwarded to Community and Recreational Services for consideration and evaluation as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.*
6. Many users of Union City facilities are from other cities. Union City should consider partnering with other cities to share facilities.
  - Comment will be forwarded to Community and Recreational Services for consideration and evaluation as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.*

7. Non-residents should pay more for the use of Union City facilities.

- This feedback will be provided to Community and Recreation Services staff.*

8. Consider how other cities fund parks and recreation programs and consider joint ventures with other cities.

- Comment will be forwarded to Community and Recreational Services for consideration and evaluation as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan*

#### Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Programs

9. There is a lack of meeting space in Union City. The City has long desired additional meeting space, such as an auditorium that can be sub-divided with movable walls. An auditorium/meeting space could be used to generate revenue for the City

- Added new policy:  
**HQL-3.13 Meeting Spaces.** The City shall explore options to meet the growing needs for flexible meeting spaces.*

10. Innovation Space identified in HQL-3.9 should be broader and more expansive than just youth. Adult volunteers should be encouraged to support.

- Revised policy in response to feedback:  
**HQL-3.9 Youth Innovation Space.** The City shall explore the feasibility of establishing a drop-in ~~youth~~ innovation and maker space, *supported by volunteers*, that provides an opportunity for ~~youth~~ *residents of the community* to create, collaborate, and explore a wide variety of disciplines including technology, science, and art.*

11. Having an innovation space would attract positive attention to Union City.

- Comment noted.*

12. The City should consider collaborating with churches to use the church auditoriums and meeting rooms.

- Comment noted. The City currently refers community groups to local non-profits and religious organizations that may have meeting rooms available for public use.*

13. "Arts" needs to be an expansive view and not just fine arts, but also poetry and other arts.

- Revised policy to better illustrate what could be included in arts programming:  
**HQL-3.11 Art Programming.** The City shall maintain and strive to expand opportunities to develop art programming and facilities, *including but not limited to the fine arts, visual arts, poetry, and graphic design.**

14. Consider using PEG (public, educational, and governmental) fees that are collected as part of the Comcast franchise agreement for arts and cultural programs.

*This feedback will be provided to Administrative Services Division staff.*

15. Consider other partnerships for the Historic Museum, such as the Washington Township historic organization.

*Comment noted.*

### Social Services

16. Regarding services for the homeless, Caravan is a first step, but the City needs a better solution.

The City partners with Abode Services who provides support services for homeless individuals. The City has also formed an internal working group made up of City staff to address homelessness issues within the City. In addition, the City's Housing Element contains additional policies related to homelessness consistent with State law, which are referenced in the introduction of the Social Services section.

17. The Union City Family Center has parallel and complementary services to the City's YFS program and the two organizations should better communicate and coordinate services.

*Community and Recreation services staff clarified that the Union City Family Center and the City's YFS program provide different types of support services. However, there is opportunity for collaboration as it relates to different types of educational /recreational programming and the City does communicate and support efforts by the Union City Family Center. A new draft policy was added to acknowledge the potential opportunity for collaboration with local organizations including the Union City Family Center.*

**HQL-4.10 Coordinate Programming with Local Organizations.** *The City shall strive to coordinate programming with local organizations who provide similar support services in Union City.*

18. Fremont Family Services is a good model and the City should consider how it can partner and support UCFS to provide comprehensive social services.

*Added new policy in response to feedback:*  
**HQL-4.11 Explore Development of a Social Service Organization.** *The City shall explore the development of a comprehensive, wrap-around social service organization to serve Union City residents.*

19. Local non-profits, such as Centro de Servicio could benefit from building partnerships with corporations and foundations as funding partners.

- Added new policy in response to feedback:*  
**HQL-4.12 Funding Partners.** *The City shall support non-profit collaborations with the business community and philanthropic organizations to help fund local social services.*

20. HQL-4.6 should state that the City should "... provide and expand..." licensed child care at city facilities. The programs are always full.

- Revised Policy HQL-4.6 to include:*  
*...and expand quality, licensed childcare for pre-school....*

21. Senior ambassador services were discussed.

- Comment noted.*

### Healthcare

22. The City should consider lowering fees and expanding hours at the Mark Green Sports Center to support community health.

- Comment noted and forwarded to Community and Recreation Services staff.*

23. The City should be sure that 2-1-1 is listed on the website to be sure that the public can access healthcare and social services.

- Social services, including 2-1-1, are listed on the City's website, which is one of its channels of communication identified in policy HQL-5.3.*

24. The City should list Union City Family Services on its website.

- Staff will update the City website to add Union City Family Services to the list of Social Service providers.*

### Seniors

25. Seniors are an at-risk population and more senior housing is needed.

- Comment noted. See existing draft Policy HQL-6.3, which addresses senior housing.*

26. Expand policy HQL-6.6 to include not only senior care, but also senior programming.

- Revised policy in response to feedback:*  
**HQL-6.6 Partnerships for Senior Care and Programming.** *The City shall pursue partnerships with local health service providers and organizations to provide care and programming such as health screening, medication monitoring, senior abuse education/prevention, adult day care/support for care givers, and in-home assistance.*

27. Add a policy to identify partnerships with churches as a source of senior programming and housing

*Revised policy in response to feedback:*

*HQL-6.2 Partner to Provide Programs for Seniors. The city shall pursue partnerships with other senior programs, ~~and~~ commissions, and non-profit organizations to expand reach, leverage resources, and provide additional programming for seniors in Union City.*

#### *Building Social Capital Through Citizen Engagement*

28. The term “public” should replace the word “citizen.” The term “citizen” is not inclusive. There may be many residents in Union City that are not citizens, but participate in the public process.

*Updated section to use the word “public” rather than “citizen.”*

29. The City needs to think about new and creative approaches to communicate with its residents, such as an open house at city hall, or coffee with city leaders.

*Added new policy in response to feedback:*

***HQL-7.5 Opportunities to Communicate with City Leaders.** The City shall consider new and creative approaches to communicate with the community and provide more opportunities for the community to engage with city staff, such as “Coffee with City Leaders” or city hall open houses.*

30. City hall open houses could also include social service providers.

*Comment noted.*

31. The City needs to provide more opportunities for members of the public to participate.

*Comment noted. See policy HQL-7.1, Public Participation, which strives to expand opportunities for all members of the public to participate in City governance through use of communication technologies, including the City website, mobile applications, and social media.*

#### *Unity In Diversity*

32. The word “tolerance” implies that we tolerate differences, when residents should be “accepting” differences.

*Revised policy in response to feedback:*

***HQL-8.1 Facilitate a Culture of Inclusion and Compassion.** The City shall support efforts that facilitate a culture of inclusion, compassion, ~~tolerance~~, acceptance, and unity within Union City and shall encourage diversity in City staff and sponsor diversity trainings.*

*Note: Edits also reflect updates in response to other feedback received.*

33. The Sister Cities Committee can do much more than just the Sister City festival. Other Sister City organizations develop arts programs, student exchange programs, and business programs.

*Comment noted.*

34. More outreach is needed. While Union City is diverse, there are racial tensions.

*Comment noted for the Human Relations Commission to address.*

#### Environmental Justice

35. The terms “environmental justice” and “disadvantaged communities” should be changed as the language used reflects negatively on the neighborhoods/census tracts that are identified. Residents would react strongly to being identified as “disadvantaged.” Perhaps the word “impacted” better reflects the intent.

*Response: In consultation with the City Attorney’s office, staff will explore using different language, specifically for “environmental justice” and “disadvantaged community,” while still meeting the requirements of SB 1000. Any changes will be reflected in the final draft.*

#### **Planning Commission (February 7, 2018)**

##### Introduction

36. Add policy to encourage people to utilize City’s existing bicycle infrastructure

*The Introduction to the HQL Element references the Mobility Element and the role of bicycling and walking in improving public health.*

37. Pg 2, 2nd para., 1st line – should “build environment” be “built environment”?

*Update will be reflected in final draft.*

##### Parks and Open Space

38. Pg. 10, Policy HQL-2.16 – please change the title to “Collaborate to Expand Access to Regional Parks” to better reflect the policy’s intent to expand access to the parks, not to expand the parks themselves.

*Update will be reflected in final draft.*

39. There is a need for a cricket field in Union City.

*Comment will be forwarded to Community and Recreational Services for consideration and evaluation as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.*

##### Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Programs

40. Pg. 14, Implementation Program HQL-3.A – the activity guide is issued more than once a year. I believe it is issued three times a year: Winter/Spring, Summer, and Fall. Please refer to the City’s website.

- Time frame for Implementation Program HQL-3.A, Community and Recreation Services Activity Guide, shall be updated to reflect current distribution schedule.*

### Healthcare

41. Add policy to address the need for preventive education to address smoking, obesity, diabetes, and drug use.

- New policy added in response to feedback:*  
**HQL-5.5 Healthcare Education.** The City shall support efforts by local health care providers to provide education and outreach on health topics that impact residents including, but not limited to, smoking, obesity, diabetes, and drug use.

### Environmental Justice Analysis

42. Need to update maps in Environmental Justice Analysis to be more legible.

- The maps in the Environmental Justice Analysis will be updated to be more legible.*

43. Attachment 2, pg. 4-103, Table 4-14 – please clarify the column headers titled “% of Regional Population” and “Concentration Threshold” in terms of what they represent. Do the percentages in both columns reflect a comparison between Union City residents and the Bay Area? I do not understand the significance of this table or how it should be used. Also, how were some of the listed factors determined to be disadvantages? I think more explanations are needed to clarify the purpose and contents of this table.

- The table was intended to provide background information on how Communities of Concern (CoC) are determined by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission since one of the communities analyzed in the Environmental Justice Analysis is a CoC.*

*The "% of Regional Population" column shows the percentage of the regional Bay Area population that identify with the factors listed. For example, 9 percent of the regional population are persons with disability. The "Concentration Threshold" column indicates the threshold at which a census tract would be considered disadvantaged as it relates to the specific factor. Census tracts that have a concentration of both minority and low-income residents, or that have a concentration of low-income residents and any three or more of the six remaining factors, are considered CoCs.*

*The term "Union City 2018" at the top of the table should not have been included and staff will remove from the final draft to avoid confusion.*

44. Attachment 2, pg. 4-106, Table 4-15 note at bottom of page – the note says “Union City does not rely on groundwater....” According to the Alameda County Water District’s 2017 annual report, Union City is served with blended water which is a combination of purchased San Francisco water and local groundwater. Please correct the note in Table 4-15 and on subsequent pages where the same or similar statement appears.

- The statements regarding Union City’s reliance on groundwater should have been deleted based on previous feedback from staff and will be deleted in the final draft.*

45. Attachment 2, pg. 4-111 – the title of the next section appears at the bottom of this page. Please move the title “Drinking Water Contaminants” to the top of page 4-112.

*Update will be reflected in final draft.*

46. Attachment 2, Figures 4-36 through 4-55 – please clarify the use of percentiles. Do the areas with higher percentiles reflect higher levels of pollutants, etc. than areas with lower percentiles?

*Yes, higher percentile scores indicate higher levels of the indicator, implying a greater degree of burden on the population in that census tract.*

## **Public Comments**

### **Derrick Richardson**

#### **Healthy Food Access**

47. Great that we are seeking to provide healthy options in school vending machines, what about menu choices in school cafeterias? Can the city influence this?

*The City does not have influence on the food options offered in New Haven Unified School District facilities. The subject of healthy food options in schools was discussed at the Youth Commission workshop. Feedback was provided by student that all food served in New Haven Unified School District cafeterias has to meet certain nutritional standards, which they equated as being healthy. The students provided feedback that they would like better-tasting, healthy options offered in school cafeterias and provided an example of when Jamba Juice drinks were available at Logan High School. Staff is planning on forwarding the feedback from the Youth Commission to New Haven Unified School District administrative staff.*

48. In close proximity to James Logan, there is a Burger King, McDonald’s, Taco Bell, Round Table, and Mountain Mike’s Pizza. How can the city increase healthy dining options near our schools as we continue to expand the number of businesses we have?

*Under the City’s current land use framework, increasing healthy dining options within the area around Logan High School would have to rely on education and outreach to shopping center property owners and managers. The issue of healthy food choices around Logan High School was also discussed with the Youth Commission. They provided feedback that having lower cost food options, such as fast food dining establishments, provided options for students who often don’t have much money. They also provided feedback that fast food dining establishments offer healthier options on their menus. Lastly, the Youth Commission commented that late at night, after school activities end, the fast food establishments are often the only options available.*

49. What outreach and education efforts can the city undertake to engage residents on the benefits of healthy food choices to stem the obesity epidemic plaguing low income communities? This is something that HRC could possibly take up.



- *Revised policy:*  
**HQL-1.3 Support Alameda County Efforts.** *The City shall support Alameda County efforts and public health programs ~~to~~ that improve access to healthy foods, ~~and~~ address food inequities, and provide food education to help residents make healthier food choices.*

#### Parks and Open Space

50. Union City has 35 parks that take up 58% of our land (higher percentage than neighboring cities). Our residents are asking for more parks – how will we address the housing crisis if we don't encroach upon existing park land? How can we increase the attractiveness and utilization of existing park land?

- *Comment noted. General Plan Policy HQL-2.13 focuses on increasing the use of underutilized parks by renovating or replacing outdated facilities and equipment with new facilities and/or equipment that are safe, attractive, and more responsive to the diverse needs of existing and future residents.*

#### Social Services

51. How is the city's effort around social services being coordinated with UC Family Center's "collaborative" model? How is the city seeking to optimize services and provide a "wrap-around" experience for those availing themselves of our service offerings?

- *See discussion under Items #17 and #18.*

#### Social Capital and Citizen Engagement

52. The language in the plan seems biased toward encouraging citizen engagement with government -- what can government do in the other direction to reach into the community and understand citizen concerns/challenges as a means of shaping and informing policy? How can government take a meaningful sample or snapshot of community sentiment at regular intervals to keep a pulse on what the community wants and needs?

- *The City routinely reaches out to residents and the business community to get feedback on a variety of issues. The form of outreach and avenues for feedback is dependent upon the topic being discussed. The City also works through its Commissions and Committees to better understand the issues the community is facing and to identify solutions. Draft policy HQL-7.5, Opportunities to Communicate with City Leaders, also provide additional opportunities for community engagement through non-traditional means, such as "Coffee with City Leaders" or City hall open houses. In addition, the following new policy was added:*

**HQL-7.6 Community Engagement.** *The City shall routinely assess its outreach strategies for engaging its residents and businesses with an emphasis on improving outreach to groups that have historically not been engaged and shall provide opportunities for meaningful feedback.*

53. How can we be creative in encouraging citizens to “get off the sidelines” and learn about how local government works? How can we supercharge visibility and attractiveness of commissions and volunteer opportunities?

- The City is also interested in ways to increase citizen participation in civic activities. An example of this is the City revamping the “Citizen Bootcamp” to make it more inviting and accessible. This comment will be forwarded onto the City Manager’s Office for further consideration.*

### Unity in Diversity

54. We shouldn’t use the word “tolerant” as it implies putting up with something. We should embrace diversity and celebrate it as a strength and an advantage.

- See discussion under Item #32.*

55. One of the best ways for the city to "walk the talk" is to have leadership that reflects the diversity we tout. How do the city's staffing and promotional policies reflect our vision for diversity? City Council is an excellent example of race and gender diversity. It would send a very strong message to the community if this also manifested in leadership on the staff side.

- The City values the diversity of the community and its leadership. The following policy was revised to address the feedback received:*

***Policy HQL-8.1: Facilitate a Culture of Inclusion and Compassion.*** *The City shall support efforts that facilitate a culture of inclusion, compassion, ~~tolerance~~ acceptance, and unity within Union City and shall encourage diversity in City staff and sponsor diversity trainings.*

56. While Union City has great racial & ethnic diversity by way of statistics we have a chronic, latent problem with racial unity. There is a good deal of polarization and isolation among races and ethnicities within the city despite our unusually high ratio of people of color. Its easy to say this is not a problem because it is not obvious. It lurks beneath the surface of everyday interactions, but its there and it is baked into the city's fabric. As a person of color, I experience frequent micro-aggressions within the community as I interact with other people. We see racial tensions boil over at regular intervals at James Logan, and this is merely a symptom of a deeper set of issues that go back decades. The city needs to find ways to address this problem at its roots. It will be painful, but fundamental to strengthening our capacity to grow and to deal with traumatic events (mass shooting, earthquake, etc). If we avoid this, or pretend it doesn't exist, it will just fester and get worse.

- Comment noted. Policy HQL 8.1, Facilitate a Culture of Inclusion and Compassion, demonstrates the City’s commitment to addressing racism within the community.*

57. A surprising number of residents are harshly critical of our Compassionate City policy. Some of this stems from racist attitudes. Misinformation and lack of understanding of the facts also pose problems. HRC did a good job of developing this policy, recommending to Council, and rolling it out in 2016, but we have badly dropped the ball with regard to consistent community engagement and communication of the key tenets of the resolution.

□ *Comment noted for the Human Relations Commission to address.*

58. We need to remember that equal treatment often does not do the job. We need policies and philosophies that have the concept of equity woven into them. We need to find ways to meet residents where they are as a means of combating systemic and institutionalized bias that disproportionately intersect with certain groups and demographics.

□ *Comment noted. Policy HQL-7.6, Community Engagement, was added to address this feedback and the feedback discussed in item #52.*

### Environmental Justice

59. The EJ language seems passive in that it prescribes "informing" vulnerable communities about impending hazards, but puts the burden on them to respond to the threat. What is the city doing to ensure industrial pollution generated by businesses do not unduly burden communities of concern? How do we proactively protect these communities that often feel they do not have the agency or sociopolitical capital to advocate for themselves?

□ *Through the City's development review process, applications for new development are reviewed and conditioned to ensure that they comply with all applicable Federal, State and local requirements that seek to minimize potential environmental impacts (e.g. air quality impacts, water quality impacts, etc.) on surrounding neighborhoods including vulnerable communities. The City also routinely works with businesses to minimize environmental impacts from existing operations. In addition, Policy HQL-9.2, Communicate Potential Impacts from Commercial and Industrial Developments, directs the City to ensure low-income and minority populations understand the potential for adverse pollution, noise, odor, vibrations, lighting, and glare when new commercial and industrial developments are proposed adjacent to residential neighborhoods.*