

To: The Honorable Lydia Kou, Mayor, City of Palo Alto
The Honorable Joe Simitian, Supervisor, District 5, Santa Clara County

Dear Mayor Kou and Supervisor Simitian:

We are writing to you today regarding the large number of RVs parked long-term along Park Boulevard between Lambert Avenue and Page Mill Road. We recognize that long-term RV parking is a symptom of a societal problem but believe that it cannot be solved either by ignoring it or by shunting it off onto individual neighborhoods.

We are proud members of Palo Alto's Ventura Neighborhood Association. We are homeowners and renters, young families and retirees, recent arrivals, and long-term residents, and we value the diverse, tight-knit character of our modest neighborhood. Over the years we have come together to address a range of community issues and we are now requesting your assistance on a matter of widespread and growing concern.

Our residents are acutely sensitive to the economic hardship inflicted by the pandemic and the housing shortage and request that the City and County immediately move forward with both temporary and permanent solutions.

Despite signage that expressly prohibits overnight parking by oversize vehicles, some of them have been there for years, and the practice is spilling over onto adjacent side streets. This results in serious issues that need to be addressed, including the following:

- **Public safety:** Pedestrians and cyclists are endangered by very large vehicles. They often obstruct sidewalk space, occupy multiple parking spaces, and obstruct visibility. Our streets were simply not designed to accommodate long-term parking by oversize vehicles.
- **Health and sanitation:** There are no sanitary facilities available to RV dwellers. Trash cannot be collected, and street sweepers are unable to clean the area under permanently parked vehicles.
- **Compliance:** RV dwellers do not receive (or pay for) regular city services, which results in illegal dumping into the street, behind bushes, and into the creek. Drug paraphernalia, gasoline-powered generators, and on-street vehicle repairs poses a threat to public safety and health.
- **Community:** Ventura is a modest neighborhood and most of us have worked very hard to maintain its pleasant, informal, congenial character. The present situation on Park Boulevard undermines the character of our sole pedestrian and bicycle corridor to the California Avenue commercial district.

We have some good ideas about how we might move forward, and we are requesting your assistance in doing so. We would be happy to meet with you, or your staff, at your convenience.

Becky Sanders
Moderator
Ventura Neighborhood Association

Barry Katz
Member
Ventura Neighborhood Association