

# San José Charter Review Commission

## Recommendation Memo Template

*Drafted April 19th, 2021; Revised July 2nd, 2021*

### 1) Proposal Name

<b>Proposal Name:</b>	Alter appointments to San Jose’s Smart City Advisory Board and the Innovation and Technology Advisory Board with the goal of strengthening community input on the effects and consequences of technological change.
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<i>Garrick Percival</i>
<b>Date submitted:</b>	<i>10/29/21</i>

### 3) Proposal Details

<p><b>1) What problem(s) are you trying to address?</b></p> <p><i>Before suggesting a solution, it is important to be clear about the problem you aim to solve.</i></p>	<p>As part of its “Smart City Vision” San Jose has created two advisory boards: the Smart City Advisory Board and the Innovation and Technology Advisory Board. The Smart City Advisory Board “aims to obtain expert input from industry thought-leaders experienced at creating and deploying innovative technology solutions to solve 21<sup>st</sup> problems.” The Innovation and Technology Advisory Board is designed to “tap the rich expertise of our community in shaping the strategic technology direction of the city.”</p> <p>While technological advancement, including advancements in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, carry the promise of bringing innovation and efficiency to city governance, they also stand to intersect with longstanding economic and social issues and challenges. For example, new software and internet-based technologies are likely to reshape the future of work. This includes</p>
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	<p>both the <i>type</i> of work available to city residents but also <i>where</i> future work is done. What this means for the future job growth and opportunities, city tax revenues, economic opportunity, service delivery, individual privacy, and social and economic inequality are important considerations (Goldin &amp; Katz, 2008; Walch, 2019). Technological innovation, including Artificial Intelligence, is likely to affect core city functions including policing and public safety, record keeping, and transportation, among others. Technological change is also likely to alter how residents interact with political leaders and their representatives in the democratic process (Rigano, ND).</p> <p>Technological change synonymous with the Smart City Vision is likely to affect San Jose’s diverse population in very different and unpredictable ways. This is recognized by city leaders. San Jose has already developed a digital inclusion and broadband strategy (see link below). Yet currently, the Smart City and Innovation and Technology Advisory board members are almost universally drawn from technology industries. There is no requirement that the composition of board membership includes community representatives from the city’s different council districts, neighborhood associations, academics, representatives from social service providers or civic organizations who may bring different (overlooked) perspectives regarding the benefits <i>and</i> costs of technological change and what it means for San Jose city governance and community life.</p>
<p><b>2) How has this problem possibly benefited or burdened people, especially BIPOC, low-income, undocumented and immigrant, those</b></p>	<p>Racial and ethnic minorities, residents with lower socioeconomic status, and traditionally underserved neighborhoods are less likely to experience the full benefits of technological advancement. This has been seen most recently with the inequitable expansion of broadband technologies within urban spaces (Fishbane &amp; Tomer, 2020). These same groups are more likely to experience negative consequences from technological change. This has been particularly true in the labor market (Autor, Dorn, and Hanson, 2015; Katz &amp; Murphy, 1992;). Increasing both the number and</p>

<p><b>experiencing houselessness, etc.?</b> <i>Is there data that speaks to the impact of this problem? What does the disaggregated data tell us?</i></p>	<p>diversity of perspectives on these advisory boards will strengthen community representation and elevate the concerns among people and groups who benefit the least or who are harmed the most by technological change. It will improve the chances that new technologies are deployed by the city in a manner consistent with the goals and values of the entire community.</p>
<p><b>3) What change are you proposing?</b> <i>Describe the revision to <a href="#">San José's Charter</a> that you are proposing. Include relevant Charter section numbers.</i></p>	<p>A policy recommendation encouraging the San Jose City Council to expand the size and breadth of membership on the Smart City Advisory Board and the Innovation and Technology Advisory Board. Membership on the Smart City Advisory Board should consider expanding beyond its current 7 members. Similarly, the Innovation and Technology Advisory Board should expand beyond its current "5-8 members." The exact number of appointed members should be determined by the city council after consultation with San Jose's Office of Racial Equity and community, academic experts, and industry stakeholders. Board membership should be focused on expanding the range of perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences of the appointees. New members might include representatives from the city's different council districts, neighborhood associations, academic experts, and/or representatives of nonprofit organizations and civic organizations with extensive experience working with San Jose's diverse population and communities.</p>
<p><b>4) Is this change feasible?</b> <i>Think through the revision you are proposing. Is it legally possible? Is it practical? If there are questions you cannot answer, list them here.</i></p>	<p>Yes. This is a policy recommendation. Decisions about advisory board membership and the selection criteria of board members is within the existing powers of the San Jose City Council.</p>

<p><b>5) Who might benefit from or be burdened by this change?</b> <i>Is there data that speaks to the potential impact of this change? What are the potential unintended consequences of this change?</i></p>	<p>All San Jose residents who are directly or indirectly affected by technological change. Minimal costs would be imposed on the City Council; councilmembers would need to spend time researching and consulting on this issue.</p>
<p><b>6) What are the arguments against this proposal?</b> <i>Summarize the arguments you expect or data you have found in opposition to this recommendation.</i></p>	<p>Issues surrounding technology and technological change can be technical and complex. A significant degree of expertise is needed to knowledgably engage on technology-related issues. Discussion and policy recommendations should be reserved for people—representatives from the technology sector—with a deep familiarity of the industry and how new technologies are developed and deployed.</p>
<p><b>7) Must this be a Charter revision?</b> <i>Can this problem be addressed without changing the charter (e.g., Council action, cultural change)? If not, should this be a policy recommendation to be included in the Commission’s report?</i></p>	<p>No.</p>

**8) Are there other examples of this change?**

*If you have found other examples of this change, please share them and any outcomes that have been observed.*

In the regional area, the cities of San Ramon and Petaluma have an Innovation and Technology Advisory committees that include members of the community who are independent of the technology industry. The City of Oakland has developed a Privacy Advisory Commission to provide advice on the city's purchase of surveillance equipment and data storage.

**3) Proposal Research & Citations**

List below the results of any research conducted to inform this memo.

**List of citations**

*All data must be cited so that Commissioners who are not part of the Subcommittee in question may locate the source of information as needed.*

Autor, D.H. Dorn, D, & Hanson, G.H. 2015. "Untangling Trade and Technology: Evidence from Local Labor Markets." *The Economic Journal*, 125: 621-646.

Goldin, C, and Katz, L. 2008. *The Race Between Education and Technology. The Evolution of U.S. Educational Wage Differentials, 1890-2005*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Lara Fishbane & Aide Tomer. 2020. "Neighborhood Broadband Data Makes it Clear: We Need An Agenda to Fight Digital Poverty." *Brookings Institution*.

Chrisopher Rigano (N.D.) "Using Artificial Intelligence To Address Criminal Justice Needs." *National Institute of Justice*.

Kathleen Walch. 2019. "The Growth of A.I. Adoption in Law Enforcement." *Forbes.com*

**Any speakers who presented to the subcommittee must be listed.**

Dr. Lawrence Quill, Professor of Political Thought, San Jose State University.

<p><i>Include name, title, affiliations, etc., along with a brief summary of the information presented by them.</i></p>	
<p><b>Relevant Links</b>  <i>Provide links or locations of the information in this research as much as possible, otherwise provide attachments.</i></p>	<p> <a href="https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/office-of-the-city-manager/civic-innovation/digital-inclusion-and-broadband-strategy">https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/office-of-the-city-manager/civic-innovation/digital-inclusion-and-broadband-strategy</a>   <a href="https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/252038.pdf">https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/252038.pdf</a>   <a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/cognitiveworld/2019/07/26/the-growth-of-ai-adoption-in-law-enforcement/?sh=c459802435dd">https://www.forbes.com/sites/cognitiveworld/2019/07/26/the-growth-of-ai-adoption-in-law-enforcement/?sh=c459802435dd</a>   <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/02/05/neighborhood-broadband-data-makes-it-clear-we-need-an-agenda-to-fight-digital-poverty/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/02/05/neighborhood-broadband-data-makes-it-clear-we-need-an-agenda-to-fight-digital-poverty/</a> </p>