
FW: 2025-2026 Budget: Protect Measure E, Reject Criminalization, and Invest in Community-Powered Housing Solutions - 3.7 & 3.8

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 6/9/2025 7:59 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 2 attachments (16 MB)

SBCLT - 2025-2026 Budget Protect Measure E, Reject Criminalization, and Invest in Community-Powered Housing Solutions.pdf; Virginia Ave Resident - 2025-2026 Budget Letter .pdf;

From: Delma Hernandez [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 8, 2025 5:18 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Solivan, Erik <Erik.Solivan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Rivera Rojas, Lorena <Lorena.RiveraRojas@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Hernandez, Kimberly <Kimberly.Hernandez@sanjoseca.gov>; Chapman, Helen <helen.chapman@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Borges, Marlee <Marlee.Borges@sanjoseca.gov>; Privitt, Mara <Mara.Privitt@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Jonathan <Jonathan.Davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Groen, Mary Anne <maryanne.groen@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Edraos, Nichole <Nichole.Edraos@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Fabro, Alex <Alex.Fabro@sanjoseca.gov>; CouncilMeeting <CouncilMeeting@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Josefina Aguilar [REDACTED]; "Laura Díaz Tovar" [REDACTED]; Dina Ree [REDACTED]; Juan Angel Lujano <jlujano408@sanjoseca.gov>; Perry, Sandy <Sandy.Perry@sanjoseca.gov>; lizglez8 [REDACTED]; alyssaserra5 [REDACTED]; tafharifrank [REDACTED]
Subject: 2025-2026 Budget: Protect Measure E, Reject Criminalization, and Invest in Community-Powered Housing Solutions - 3.7 & 3.8

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Sorry for the mix-up—I attached the wrong SBCLT letter. Here's the correct one.

Thanks for your patience.

In community,

Delma Hernández (ella/her)

Support the People's Preservation Fund

Join the movement to build a community-powered fund that preserves affordable housing in the South Bay. Together, we can combat displacement and return power to the people. [\[Donate now and spread the word!\]](#)

----- On Fri, 06 Jun 2025 16:18:25 -0700 **Delma Hernandez** <[REDACTED]> wrote ---

Dear Mayor Mahan, San José City Council Members, and City Clerk,

I hope this message finds you well. On behalf of the South Bay Community Land Trust (SBCLT), we write to express our deep concern about the proposed 2025–2026 City Budget. The severe cuts to permanent affordable housing, continued investment in policies that criminalize unhoused residents, and the redirection of Measure E funds away from long-term solutions pose a direct threat to the stability of San José's most vulnerable communities.

Attached, please find our formal letter outlining these concerns, along with a signed letter from the tenants of the Virginian Apartments—representing every unit in the building. Dated June 3, 2025, the tenants' letter calls on the City to protect Measure E funding. Their message is clear: preservation works. Thanks to your leadership and the \$5 million Measure E allocation in last year's budget, SBCLT was able to move forward with acquiring and protecting the Virginian Apartments—ensuring that 18 longtime East San José families are not displaced after more than 25 years of calling this building home.

We urge you to:

- Reject the "Responsibility to Shelter" policy
- Stop the sweeps that harm and displace our unhoused neighbors
- Fully fund TRUST 24/7, a vital non-police mental health crisis response
- Protect Measure E funds for permanent supportive housing
- Invest in the Rapid Response Network to support and defend our immigrant communities

Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers, we deeply value our partnership with the City and remain committed to working alongside you to build a more just and inclusive San José. The decisions you make in this budget cycle will shape the future of housing in our city. Let's choose a path rooted in dignity, equity, and long-term community care.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

In community,

Josefina Aguila
Executive Director

Laura Díaz Tovar
Operational Co-Director

Delma Hernández (ella/her)
Organizing Co-Director | [South Bay Community Land Trust](#)

Support the People's Preservation Fund

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June 3, 2025

To: Mayor Mahan and San José City Council Members

From: The Tenants of the Virginia Avenue Apartments

Subject: Protect Measure E & Invest in Immigrant Defense in the 2025–2026 Budget

Dear Mayor Mahan and Council Members,

We, the tenants of the Virginia Avenue Apartments, write to express our deep appreciation for your leadership and your vote to secure \$5 million in Measure E funding last year. Your decision made a profound difference—because of your support, 18 multi-generational families in East San José will be able to remain in their homes, permanently protected from displacement.

That historic investment helped South Bay Community Land Trust move forward and officially acquire our building on January 10, 2025. We are now preparing for much-needed rehabilitation efforts and working closely with South Bay CLT to shape a collective ownership model that reflects our vision and values as tenants. This City-backed investment also unlocked critical resources from the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA), Destination: Home, and philanthropic partners. Your commitment set a powerful and replicable example of what's possible when the City prioritizes long-term solutions and supports community-rooted preservation.

But we know the work isn't done.

We are very concerned by this year's proposed budget, which cuts Measure E funding for permanent affordable housing and proposes policies that would criminalize our unhoused neighbors instead of offering real care and support. As tenants directly impacted by the housing crisis, we urge you to continue standing with us—and with our partners in the REAL (Racial Equity in Action and Leadership) Coalition, including URG, LEAC, SIREN, the San José May Day Coalition, AGAPE, and SV-Debug—by taking the following actions in the 2025–2026 City Budget:

Our Community's Demands:

1. Reject the "Responsibility to Shelter" Policy

We urge you to reject this misguided proposal, which punishes our unhoused neighbors for the city's failure to meet affordable housing goals. A recent [*San José Spotlight*](#) article (May 23, 2025) highlighted how this policy lacks a clear pathway to treatment, is unsupported by infrastructure, and has been publicly criticized by Santa Clara County

officials, a former judge, and mental health experts. As tenants, we know these approaches do not work—they cycle people through trauma, not toward housing. What our community needs is care, housing, and real solutions—not criminalization.

2. Stop the Sweeps

Encampment sweeps are ineffective and inhumane. They displace residents from one location to another, tear apart survival networks, and traumatize communities. They waste public resources and fail to end homelessness.

3. Fully Fund TRUST 24/7

Invest in the Trusted Response Urgent Support Team (TRUST), a non-police crisis response that provides compassionate care for people experiencing mental health or substance use crises. TRUST includes staff with lived experience, behavioral health specialists, and social workers. This is a model of care our community deserves.

4. Protect Measure E Funds for Permanent Supportive Housing

Santa Clara County voters supported Measure E to build real, long-term housing solutions. Permanent supportive housing—with services—is what ends homelessness. We need interim housing and shelters, yes—but not at the expense of permanent homes. Do not siphon Measure E funding toward short-term fixes that don't work.

5. Fund the Rapid Response Network and Defend Our Immigrant Communities

As tenants with mixed immigration statuses, we know firsthand the fear and uncertainty many of our neighbors live with. The Rapid Response Network is an essential tool for immigrant defense, and the City must fund it to protect our communities from harm and keep families together.

Permanent housing, preservation, and protection for all—this is what our families and our neighbors deserve. Thank you again for your past support, and we hope you will continue to stand with us and fight for a just and equitable city for all San José residents.

Sincerely,

The Tenants of the Virginia Avenue Apartments

3 de junio de 2025

Para: Alcalde Mahan y miembros del Concejo Municipal de San José

De: Inquilinos de los Apartamentos de la Avenida Virginia

Asunto: Protéjan la Medida E e Inviertan en la Defensa de Inmigrantes en el Presupuesto 2025–2026

Estimado Alcalde Mahan y miembros del Concejo Municipal:

Nosotros, los inquilinos de los Apartamentos de la Avenida Virginia, les escribimos para expresar nuestro profundo agradecimiento por su liderazgo y por su voto para asegurar \$5 millones en fondos de la Medida E el año pasado. Su decisión marcó una gran diferencia: gracias a su apoyo, 18 familias multigeneracionales en el Este de San José podrán permanecer en sus hogares, protegidas permanentemente del desplazamiento.

Esa histórica inversión permitió que South Bay Community Land Trust avanzara y adquiriera oficialmente nuestro edificio el 10 de enero de 2025. Actualmente nos estamos preparando para llevar a cabo las reparaciones urgentes que nuestro hogar necesita y colaboramos estrechamente con South Bay CLT para desarrollar un modelo de propiedad colectiva que refleje nuestra visión y nuestros valores como inquilinos. Esta inversión, respaldada por la Ciudad, también desbloqueó recursos clave de la Autoridad de Financiamiento de Vivienda del Área de la Bahía (BAHFA), Destination: Home y aliados filantrópicos. Su compromiso marcó un ejemplo poderoso y replicable de lo que es posible cuando la Ciudad prioriza soluciones a largo plazo y apoya esfuerzos de preservación arraigados en la comunidad.

Pero sabemos que el trabajo no ha terminado.

Nos preocupa mucho el presupuesto propuesto para este año, que reduce los fondos de la Medida E destinados a viviendas asequibles permanentes y propone políticas que criminalizarían a nuestros vecinos sin hogar en lugar de ofrecerles cuidado y apoyo reales. Como inquilinos directamente afectados por la crisis de vivienda, les pedimos que sigan apoyándonos—y a nuestros aliados en la coalición REAL (Racial Equity in Action and Leadership), incluyendo URG, LEAC, SIREN, la Coalición del Primero de Mayo de San José, AGAPE y SV-Debug—tomando las siguientes acciones en el presupuesto municipal 2025–2026:

Demandas de Nuestra Comunidad:

1. Rechacen la política de "Responsabilidad de Refugio"

Les pedimos rechazar esta propuesta equivocada, que castiga a nuestros vecinos sin hogar por el fracaso de la ciudad en alcanzar sus metas de vivienda asequible. Un artículo reciente de *San José Spotlight* (23 de mayo de 2025) destacó que esta política no tiene un camino claro hacia el tratamiento, carece de infraestructura de apoyo y ha sido públicamente criticada por funcionarios del Condado de Santa Clara, un juez retirado y expertos en salud mental. Como inquilinos, sabemos que estos enfoques no funcionan—solo hacen que las personas pasen por más trauma sin llegar a una vivienda. Lo que nuestra comunidad necesita es cuidado, vivienda y soluciones reales—no criminalización.

2. Detengan los desalojos forzados de campamentos

Los desalojos de campamentos son ineficaces e inhumanos. Solo desplazan a las personas de un lugar a otro, rompen redes de apoyo vitales y traumatizan a nuestras comunidades. Malgastan recursos públicos y no terminan con la falta de vivienda.

3. Financien completamente al equipo TRUST 24/7

Inviertan en el equipo de Respuesta Urgente de Confianza (TRUST), una alternativa sin policía que responde a crisis de salud mental o consumo de sustancias con cuidado compasivo. TRUST incluye personal con experiencia vivida, especialistas en salud conductual y trabajadores sociales. Este es el modelo de cuidado que nuestra comunidad merece.

4. Protejan los fondos de la Medida E para vivienda permanente con servicios

Los votantes del Condado de Santa Clara apoyaron la Medida E para construir soluciones reales y duraderas. La vivienda permanente con servicios es lo que realmente acaba con la falta de vivienda. Necesitamos albergues e instalaciones temporales, sí—pero no a costa de hogares permanentes. No desvíen los fondos de la Medida E hacia soluciones temporales que no funcionan.

5. Financien la Red de Respuesta Rápida y defiendan a nuestras comunidades inmigrantes

Como inquilinos con estatus migratorios mixtos, conocemos de primera mano el miedo y la incertidumbre que muchos de nuestros vecinos viven día a día. La Red de Respuesta Rápida es una herramienta esencial para la defensa de inmigrantes, y la Ciudad debe financiarla para proteger a nuestras comunidades y mantener a las familias unidas.

Vivienda permanente, preservación y protección para todos—eso es lo que nuestras familias y vecinos merecen. Gracias nuevamente por su apoyo anterior, y esperamos que continúen con nosotros en la lucha por una ciudad justa y equitativa para todos los

residentes de San José.

Atentamente,

Los Inquilinos de los Apartamentos de la Avenida Virginia

1718 #1:	<u>Maria Hernandez</u>	Date:	<u>6/05/25</u>
1718 #2:	<u>Mamuela Garcia</u>	Date:	<u>6/6/25</u>
1718 #3:	<u>marcela Botancourt</u>	Date:	<u>6/4/25</u>
1718 #4:	<u>DUPA</u>	Date:	<u>06-03-2025</u>
1718 #5:	<u>JAMIG L.</u>	Date:	<u>06-04-2025</u>
1718 #6:	<u>Ramiro Vidiano</u>	Date:	<u>06-04-25</u>
1724 #1:	<u>Esperanza Rosas</u>	Date:	<u>6-04-25</u>
1724 #2:	<u>Maria Garcia</u>	Date:	<u>6/03/25</u>
1724 #3:	<u>Janeth Bargas</u>	Date:	<u>06/04/2025</u>
1724 #4:	<u>Araceli Martinez</u>	Date:	<u>6/06/2025</u>
1724 #5:	<u>José morro</u>	Date:	<u>6/4/25</u>
1724 #6:	<u>MARCO CANO</u>	Date:	<u>6-4-25</u>
1730 #1:	<u>Lourdes Garcia</u>	Date:	<u>6/05/25</u>
1730 #2:	<u>Guo 6</u>	Date:	<u>6/03/25</u>
1730 #3:	<u>Esmeralda Zavala</u>	Date:	<u>6-04-25</u>
1730 #4:	<u>Estefania Ortiz</u>	Date:	<u>06-04-25</u>
1730 #5:	<u>Manuel RUIZ</u>	Date:	<u>06-04-25</u>
1730 #6:	<u>Edelmira Amador</u>	Date:	<u>6/03/25</u>

June 5, 2025

To: Mayor Matt Mahan and San José City Council

From: Josefina Aguilar, Executive Director, South Bay Community Land Trust & Laura Díaz Tovar, Operational Co Director

Cc: City Clerk

Subject: 2025 2026 Budget: Protect Measure E, Reject Criminalization, and Invest in Community Powered Housing Solutions

Dear Mayor Mahan and Members of the San José City Council,

On behalf of the South Bay Community Land Trust (SBCLT), we write to express grave concern regarding the proposed 2025–2026 City Budget. The deep cuts to permanent affordable housing, continued investment in criminalizing unhoused residents, and the redirection of Measure E funds away from long-term solutions threaten the very stability of San José's most vulnerable communities.

As a nonprofit community land trust incorporated in 2019, SBCLT exists to combat displacement, land speculation, and the deterioration of community life for low and moderate income residents of Santa Clara County. We achieve this by acquiring and permanently removing land from the speculative market, preserving multifamily housing at risk of displacement, and supporting collective and democratic models of ownership, like limited equity cooperatives and resident-controlled housing. SBCLT is the only community land trust operating in San José focused on this mission, and our model is one of the few pathways to housing stability and asset-building that does not result in gentrification or loss of community.

This City's past investments in preservation have worked. Because of your leadership and a \$5 million allocation from Measure E in last year's budget, SBCLT was able to acquire an 18-unit apartment building on Virginia Avenue in East San José—permanently preserving homes for multi generational, working class families, the majority of whom earn under 30% of the Area Median Income. City investment in this project was catalytic: it unlocked private philanthropic funds and drew state and regional interest, demonstrating what is possible when San José leads with equity and long-term vision.

However, this progress is at risk.

SBCLT joins our partners in the REAL (Racial Equity in Action and Leadership) Coalition—including URG, LEAC, SIREN, the San José May Day Coalition, AGAPE, and SV Debug—in calling for the following critical changes to the FY 2025–2026 City Budget:

1. Reject the “Responsibility to Shelter” Policy.

This proposal fails to recognize the real barriers unhoused residents face and instead proposes punitive measures that cycle people through trauma without stable exits to care or housing. Experts, including Santa Clara County officials and mental health professionals, have already called out this approach as harmful and unsupported. What San José needs are systems of care—not systems of punishment.

2. End Encampment Sweeps.

Sweeps destroy survival networks, traumatize already vulnerable people, and waste limited public resources. They are a short-term response to a long-term systemic crisis, and they have not worked.

3. Fully Fund TRUST 24/7.

The Trusted Response Urgent Support Team is a non-police mental health crisis response rooted in care and community expertise. Funding this alternative model is an essential investment in safety, health, and dignity.

4. Protect Measure E for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Voters passed Measure E to create *homes*, not temporary shelters. While interim housing may serve as a transitional step, it cannot replace the need for permanent, service supported affordable housing.

Siphoning Measure E funds toward short-term interventions undermines voter trust and the effectiveness of the City's homelessness strategy.

5. Invest in Immigrant Defense.

Supporting the Rapid Response Network can make it even more vital tool for immigrant families facing deportation and ICE activity. As a land trust working closely with mixed-status households, we know how critical this infrastructure is to the safety and cohesion of our neighborhoods.

Stable housing creates stable communities. Preservation, particularly in San José's small-site housing stock (which comprises over 60% of the city's homes), is one of the most effective and immediate strategies to prevent displacement. Acquisition and rehabilitation are not only faster and more cost-effective than new construction—they also preserve cultural and social ties that make our city whole.

Our pipeline continues to grow. In 2023, we acquired a fourplex in the rapidly gentrifying Reed Street neighborhood—now home to formerly unhoused veterans and a board member of our organization. This year, with the Virginia Apartments mentioned above, we stand ready to deepen our impact, but we need consistent, visionary support from the City.

San José has a unique opportunity to scale its preservation infrastructure. South Bay CLT is committed to being the community anchor for CLT led preservation, building a pipeline that other CDCs and neighborhoods can replicate. We urge the City to protect and expand preservation strategies by sustaining and growing allocations to programs like Measure E.

Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers, we value our partnership with the City and remain committed to working collaboratively toward a just, inclusive San José. Today's budget decisions will shape the future of housing in our city. Let's choose strategies rooted in dignity, equity, and long-term care.

In community,

Josefina Aguilar

Executive Director

South Bay Community Land Trust

Laura Díaz Tovar

Operational Co-Director

South Bay Community Land Trust

www.southbayclt.org

www.southbayclt.org

Fw: LWV Recommendation on Measure E

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Fri 6/6/2025 4:24 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (102 KB)

Measure E to City Council 6-6-25 LWVSJSC.pdf;

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Diane McNutt 

Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 4:22 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: LWV Recommendation on Measure E

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The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara is submitting this letter for the June 10 San Jose City Council meeting for agenda items 3.7 and 3.8.

Thank you,

Diane McNutt, President, League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara

lwsjsc.org

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June 6, 2025
lwvsjsc.org

To: City Clerk

Subject: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's June Budget Message.
Items 3.7 & 3.8. June 10 City Council Meeting

The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara strongly urges the City Council to **VOTE NO on the proposal to reallocate Measure E revenue to help fund support services and operations at the city's temporary housing sites.**

The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara was proud to strongly support the passage of Measure E in 2020. It addressed our long-established position regarding housing and the reduction of homelessness, and we believed that the measure was structured in conformance with good government. It provided for flexibility but also safeguarded the will of the voters by requiring a 2/3 vote of Council to amend the allocation of funds.

In that first year only 15% was to go to homeless support programs and shelter construction and operations. In this year's budget, 60% goes to them, reducing the affordable housing portion. In fact, the affordable housing for extremely low income families has gone from 40% of the allocation down to 12%.

This year the proposal for affordable housing funding is for "any remaining funds" after allocating 10% for homelessness prevention and "up to 90%" for homeless support programs. **This is not what San Jose voters supported when they approved Measure E.** It is tempting to use the \$39 million from Measure E to reduce next fiscal year's deficit to \$21 million, but this short term answer will have long-lasting repercussions in our ability to build permanent affordable units and to assure voters that their voting decisions carry weight.

We respectfully ask that the Council make no change to current Council Policy 1-18, Section 22.

Respectfully,




Diane McNutt, President
League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara

FW: Destination: Home Letter re: Measure E & June Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Mon 6/9/2025 1:54 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (95 KB)

DH Ltr re Mayors June Budget Msg and Measure E allocations for FY 25-26.pdf;

From: David Low <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 12:34 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Destination: Home Letter re: Measure E & June Budget Message

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Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers,

Please find attached a letter from Destination: Home CEO Jennifer Loving re the Mayor's June Budget Message and the proposed changes to Measure E spending priorities. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these recommendations and please feel free to reach out to us if you'd like to discuss any of these issues further.

Thank you,
David



DAVID LOW
Sr. Director of Public Policy



A 3180 Newberry Dr, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95118

DestinationHomeSV.org

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P: 408.961.9895 F: 408.559.9515

E: info@destinationhomesv.org

3180 Newberry Dr, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95118

DESTINATIONHOMESV.ORG

June 9, 2025

Mayor & City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Mayor's June Budget Message & Proposed Changes to Measure E Spending Priorities and Percentage Allocations (*Items 3.7 and 3.8 on the June 10th Meeting Agenda*)

Dear Mayor Mahan and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Destination: Home, a public-private partnership dedicated to ending homelessness in Silicon Valley, I write to once again express our concern about the shifting direction the City has charted in response to our region's homelessness crisis.

We simply cannot and will not solve homelessness without addressing the broader housing affordability crisis that is driving homelessness in our community. Our region's outrageous rents continually push more people into homelessness and make it almost impossible for unhoused individuals to exit homelessness into stable housing. And we risk seeing the situation become even more severe as the federal government pulls back on critical safety net programs serving the most vulnerable members of our community and pushes our economy closer to recession.

That's why we remain deeply concerned that the City continues to shift funding away from key affordable housing initiatives - particularly when a mountain of evidence has shown that these are precisely the type of strategies we need to address our homelessness crisis. And while we appreciate the urgency with which the City is working to bring people indoors, a narrow focus on expanding shelter is simply unsustainable and will not produce the long-term results we all want to see.

As a result, we urge the City Council to take the following actions in this year's budget:

1. Adopt the proposal from Councilmembers Campos, Salas and Doan to increase the Measure E allocation for homelessness prevention programs to 15%.

Over the past eight years, our community has developed a robust Homelessness Prevention System that has proven extremely effective at preventing at-risk families from becoming homeless - all at a fraction of the cost, and with far less trauma, than waiting to re-house a family who's already become homeless.

However, the current proposed budget for FY 25-26 includes \$2.3 million less for homelessness prevention than the current fiscal year - which would translate into 600 fewer people receiving this critical assistance next year.

The proposal from Councilmembers Campos, Salas and Doan will allow the Homelessness Prevention System to maintain our current capacity over the next two years, and provide the fiscal stability needed to explore opportunities to expand the program further in the years that follow.

2. Direct staff to immediately begin pursuing options to restore or replace the Measure E funding for affordable housing that has been diverted to other uses.

Measure E represented the City's only significant and sustainable source of funding for affordable housing - and without a strategy for restoring or replacing this funding, we risk seeing the local pipeline of affordable housing projects fall apart.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN SILICON VALLEY

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Expanding affordable housing options in our community is key to not only solving our homelessness crisis, but also helping the tens-of-thousands of rent-burdened residents who are struggling to stay afloat. And we must take action now to advance this top community priority.

In order to solve our severe homelessness crisis, we must invest in proven housing solutions - and we urge the City Council to take an important step towards recommitting to this critically-important goal by approving the two recommendations above.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Loving
CEO

FW: Silicon Valley De-Bug's Public Comment Regarding the Mayor's 2025-2026 Budget, Item 3.7 and 3.8.

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Mon 6/9/2025 3:19 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (145 KB)

SV De-Bug Public Comment Regarding the Mayor's 2025-2026 Budget, Item 3.7 and 3.8. - Responsibility to Shelter Will Lead to Police Violence, Arrests and Incarceration Beyond the Charge Named in the Policy, and Immigration Consequences.pdf;

From: Andrew Bigelow <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 2:25 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Raj Jayadev <[REDACTED]>; Elizabeth Gonzalez <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Silicon Valley De-Bug's Public Comment Regarding the Mayor's 2025-2026 Budget, Item 3.7 and 3.8.

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Hello San Jose City Council,

Attached and below is our public comment regarding the Mayor's 2025-2026 Budget, Item 3.7 and Item 3.8.

Sincerely,
Silicon Valley De-Bug

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701 Lenzen Ave. San José, CA. 95126 • info@siliconvalleydebug.org • 408.971.4965

June 9, 2025

Mayor Mahan and City Councilmembers,

Responsibility to Shelter Will Lead to Police Violence, Arrests and Incarceration Beyond the Charge Named in the Policy, and Immigration Consequences

Based on how policing, prosecution, and incarceration has operated in San Jose and Santa Clara County, this is what we expect to occur if Matt Mahan's proposal to create a new police unit to arrest houseless people is passed. Even with the recent clarification on the policy by the mayor, in any city offered service to people in need in San Jose there should not be any room to call police and further exacerbate their situation by incarceration, let alone losing the trust of those you are trying to serve.

The first, and most significant feature of the policy, is not in the specific use of the trespassing charge that the policy says is the arresting action if someone does not comply. Rather, it is in the escalation of police contact in the first place. The policy funds and orders more police interaction with houseless people, and more specifically, those who they claim have the most severe mental health and substance use issues. It is precisely these community members who have experienced the most violence and at times lethal use of force by San Jose police.

A study on [San Jose police use of force conducted by the California Reporting Project](#) and published by the Bay Area New Group, found conclusively that those with mental health needs and intoxication were overwhelmingly the majority of who suffers from police violence. For example, from 2014 to 2021, they found 108 individuals who were seriously injured and killed by San Jose police - 73% of whom had mental health issues or were intoxicated. Of the 25 people killed over the same period, 80% had mental health needs or were intoxicated.

So based on the data, and who the police will be targeting, the Responsibility to Shelter policy will lead to high likelihood of serious, dangerous, and perhaps lethal use of force.

The other likelihood is an expansion of arrests even beyond the scope of "trespassing" - the arrest the policy says will be applied if someone refuses to follow the command to go to the designated place. Police interaction invites a multitude of other arrests - some based on a response to a behavior to the interaction itself. The most common is resisting arrest, and sometimes an elevated "assault on a police officer" even if no assault occurred. Indeed, most of the police use of force incidents are accompanied with arresting the recipient of the violence with these charges. That is why they have been called "cover charges" - meaning arrests to cover or justify the use of force applied. Couple this reality with who the policy is having police approach - those who they say have mental health issues - the scenarios are rife for use of force and cover charges. So an interaction could lead to not only the identified charge of the police - trespassing - but could other charges caused solely by the police interaction itself. The interaction also can lead to arrests based on old warrants, things found on the person, any number of things alleged that can lead to someone being arrested. Based on these realities, despite claims by the mayor, this policy will absolutely lead to expansion of arrests.

And while the Sheriff and the District Attorney have stated that if someone is brought into the jail, they will not be held or charged - that is still based on the limited assumption of the person coming in for that singular charge - not the multitude of charges that an officer can claim, even if charges are dropped later. And with the passage of Proposition 36, if for example, someone is alleged to have an illegal substance on them when confronted by police, they can now be charged with a felony - which means a much higher likelihood of pretrial jail time, and possibly a future prison commitment.

But even if someone is only arrested and brought into the jail to be booked and released on a stand alone trespassing charge (which seems unlikely given that police will be looking for other charges to place on a person) that still creates irreversible harm. That person is now in the system, even if they are not physically held in jail. That record can impact qualification for services, employment, and ironically even housing.

For immigrant community members who may get caught into the criminal court system due to Responsibility to Shelter - the outcomes can ultimately lead to deportation. There is an undeniable ratcheting up of ICE detention and deportation. The most targeted immigrants, as declared by ICE spokespeople themselves, are those who have contact with the criminal court system. Even what may seem like a less significant misdemeanor charge can be a deportable offense down the line.

It is through observing the history of how policing, prosecution, incarceration has worked in San Jose, coupled with the current political context that we can project out the tremendous pain the Responsibility to Shelter policy will result in if passed.

Sincerely on behalf of Silicon Valley De-Bug,
Raj Jayadev

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701 Lenzen Ave. San José, CA. 95126 • info@siliconvalleydebug.org • 408.971.4965

June 9, 2025

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Sincerely on behalf of Silicon Valley De-Bug,
Raj Jayadev

FW: SJ Chamber Support - 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 3.11, & 3.12

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Mon 6/9/2025 4:02 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 4 attachments (1 MB)

SJ Chamber Support of Item 3.12 - Code of Conduct for Encampments.pdf; SJ Chamber Support of Item 3.11 - Amendments to San Jose Municipal Code.pdf; SJ Chamber Support of Item 3.10 - Pay For Performance.pdf; SJ Chamber Support of Item 3.8 - June Budget Message.pdf;

From: Kat Angelov <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 3:56 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Leah Toeniskoette <[REDACTED]>

Subject: SJ Chamber Support - 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 3.11, & 3.12

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Dear Mayor & Council,

Please find attached letters of support for items 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 3.11, and 3.12. We appreciate the opportunity to share our comments for your consideration.

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Kat

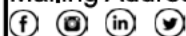


Kat Angelov
Policy Manager
San Jose Chamber of Commerce
[REDACTED]

www.sjchamber.com

101 W. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113

Mailing Address: PO Box 149, San Jose, CA 95103





June 9, 2025

City of San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Support for Item 3.7: Spending Priorities and Percentage Allocation of Measure E Real Property Transfer Taxes and Item 3.8 - June Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Councilmembers,

On behalf of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, **we urge your support for the Mayor's June Budget Message and the proposed allocation of Measure E funds.** The Chamber supports this balanced, focused, and forward-looking budget that takes seriously the City's fiscal constraints while making critical investments in San Jose's long-term economic health.

We are particularly encouraged by the alignment with several key priorities that matter deeply to the business community:

Leveraging 2026 Sporting Events for Long-Term Economic Growth

Next year, San Jose will help host a remarkable lineup of sporting events: Super Bowl LX, the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and six FIFA World Cup games. These aren't just moments of pride—they are catalytic opportunities for long-term economic impact.

We applaud the City's investments in:

- Developing a sports and entertainment district near SAP Center
- Funding a feasibility study for the expansion of the San Jose Convention Center
- Activating downtown with watch parties, live music, and fan experiences in 2026

These are foundational steps toward establishing San Jose as a premier destination for major events. Events bring not only tourism dollars but sustained investment in hotels, restaurants, retail, transportation, and local hiring.

We recommend further coordination between the City's Office of Economic Development and regional tourism and business organizations to create a comprehensive legacy strategy around these events—one that ensures long-term ROI through infrastructure improvements, private investment attraction, and branding San Jose as a world-class host city.



Supporting Small Business and Fixing the Permitting Process

Small businesses are the backbone of San Jose's economy. We strongly support:

- The Manager's Budget Addendum (MBA) #22: Long-Range Planning and PBCE staffing improvements
- Investments in ADA compliance for small businesses
- Efforts to address commercial corridor blight and vacancy

Fixing the permitting process and unlocking stalled real estate potential is a top concern for our members. Long delays and inconsistent standards in PBCE continue to constrain growth. We appreciate that this budget begins to address that challenge.

We applaud the ongoing oversight of PBCE reforms and regular performance reporting to the Council and the public to ensure accountability and improved outcomes.

Embracing the AI Economy and Infrastructure Modernization

San Jose must be at the forefront of the AI-driven economy. We commend the City for:

- Leveraging PG&E funds to support infrastructure modernization for large-load users
- Continuing funding for the AI Innovator Meetup Series

The Chamber believes that San Jose can lead the region in attracting AI firms, but only if we invest in energy, permitting, and real estate readiness now. We would further support the creation of a formal AI and Advanced Industries Strategy that aligns infrastructure, land use, and workforce development to prepare for the next wave of innovation.

Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness with Urgency

Homelessness is a humanitarian crisis—and a significant economic one. Unsafe sidewalks, encampments near businesses, and diminished public confidence affect commercial vitality. We strongly support:

- Allocations of Measure E for Interim Housing Construction and Operations

We also urge the City to maintain or increase investments in prevention, which is critical to reducing future inflow into homelessness. A strategy focused only on shelters misses the full arc of need. Supporting small to large businesses so they can grow, create jobs, and contribute to local economic stability is a vital form of prevention.

This budget message takes meaningful steps toward restoring public confidence, improving the conditions for local businesses, and investing in San Jose's future economy. From sports tourism to AI innovation, small business support to homelessness solutions—this proposal reflects a serious and strategic approach.

We urge adoption of the Mayor's Budget Message and Measure E allocations as proposed. The Chamber stands ready to support implementation and partner on shared economic development goals.



**San Jose
Chamber of Commerce**

Sincerely,



Leah Toeniskoetter
President & CEO
San Jose Chamber of Commerce

FW: REAL Coalition Letter re FY 2025-2026 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, & 3.12 (June 10)

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 6/9/2025 4:25 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (75 KB)

REAL Coalition - City of San José FY 25 - 26 Budget Sign On Letter.pdf;

From: Angel Aliano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 4:24 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Policy Team <[REDACTED]>; Reed, Jim <Jim.Reed@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Yamamoto, KiyomiH <Kiyomi.Yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; Arreola, Kiara <Kiara.Arreola@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Gomez, David A <David.A.Gomez@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: REAL Coalition Letter re FY 2025-2026 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, & 3.12 (June 10)

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and City Council,

Please see the letter from the Race Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Coalition regarding the FY26 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, 3.12 (June 10). We look forward to your discussion on this topic.

Thank you,
Ángel Aliano | Policy + Advocacy Associate
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
Web: svcn.org | Twitter: @SVCN
Pronouns: he/him

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute, or copy this e-mail.

June 9, 2025

San José City Council
San José City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113
Sent via electronic mail

Re: City of San José FY 2025-2026 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, & 3.12 (June 10)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Members of the City Council, City Manager Maguire, and Budget Director Shannon: This letter is being submitted by 40 organizations, members of the REAL Coalition and allies, that represent thousands of San Jose residents. Please consider these comments regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Preservation of Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing Funding

The REAL Coalition urges the City Council to allocate 15% of Measure E funds toward cash assistance programs that prevent eviction, housing instability, and homelessness. With the federal government planning to eliminate Section 8 and end emergency housing vouchers in Santa Clara County—putting thousands of families at risk—San José must be prepared to respond proactively. Preventing homelessness through targeted financial assistance is significantly more cost-effective than helping individuals exit homelessness once displaced. We support the memorandum from Councilmembers Campos, Salas, and Doan, relating to Item 3.7, to reallocate Measure E funds with more emphasis on prevention and family homelessness and revert allocation changes after 2 years.

REAL supports a balanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the housing and homelessness crisis—one that includes both shelter solutions and the construction or preservation of permanent housing. We also recommend that the City return to the original Measure E allocation model within two years, allowing

time to evaluate outcomes and assess changes in federal funding before determining future allocations.

We are hopeful that adding a fifth focus area to build more housing will indeed lead to increased investment in housing for people on the lower end and bottom of the income spectrum. As we build market-rate housing we must remain watchful that we're not in turn displacing our lower-income neighbors.

Avoid Criminalization of Homelessness

The REAL Coalition strongly opposes any budget allocation to implement the proposed Neighborhood Quality of Life Unit within the San José Police Department. As outlined in our recent letter to the City, we continue to have serious concerns and unanswered questions about both this unit, the expanded Code of Conduct, and the Enhanced Engagement Program, including the lack of transparency and clarity regarding their scope, purpose, and implementation. Establishing a new police unit that targets unhoused residents risks leading to more arrests and further criminalization of poverty—approaches that have consistently proven harmful, traumatic, and ineffective.

Policing is not a solution to homelessness. Arresting, punishing, and incarcerating our most vulnerable community members will only deepen their hardship and increase long-term costs for the City. This truth was recognized in two separate votes against the plan by the Housing & Community Development Commission. Rather than funding punitive measures, San José should invest in proven strategies that focus on prevention, supportive services, and housing solutions. Consistent with REAL's earlier letter, we urge the Council to reject this proposal and reallocate resources toward approaches that uphold dignity, equity, and lasting impact.

We support the memos from Councilmember Campos to defer this policy and delay some ordinance changes until there is far more clarity on how this work will be operationalized.

Stop Enforcement Against People Living in Vehicles

The REAL Coalition opposes the proposed increase in spending on parking enforcement against people forced to live in their vehicles, particularly as the City simultaneously cuts essential community programming. It is fiscally irresponsible to expand punitive enforcement while failing to invest in supportive resources. The City should not impose additional penalties on individuals living in their vehicles without first providing adequate safe parking options. Penalizing residents for outdated vehicle registration effectively punishes poverty and drives people deeper into crisis and debt.

For many unhoused individuals, a vehicle is a vital lifeline—offering shelter, mobility, and a degree of stability. Stripping people of this lifeline through enforcement actions will only exacerbate hardship and lead to higher public costs associated with street homelessness. A more compassionate and fiscally sound approach is to support residents in maintaining this form of temporary shelter while investing in long-term housing solutions.

Continue Investment in TRUST

REAL supports the outreach and communication strategies outlined in MBA #8 to supplement the County's public awareness campaign for the 988 crisis line. Survey results from 2024 show that approximately 75% of San José residents are unaware of the services available through 988. A targeted public education campaign by the City, designed in collaboration with the County and providers, is critical to increasing awareness and driving greater use of this life-saving resource.

We also commend the recent collaboration between the City and County to implement new protocols that will expand the diversion of appropriate calls from 911 to 988. Continued investment in public education and service infrastructure is essential to realizing the full potential of 988. Additionally, we support the expansion of the TRUST program and appreciate City staff's efforts to identify opioid settlement funds to sustain and grow this vital, non-policing response to

mental health crises in our community.

Community-based Prevention and Intervention of Violence

The REAL Coalition asks that the City Council make a \$80,000 investment in moving forward towards a community-designed interpersonal violence prevention and intervention program, consistent with the Reimagining Public Safety recommendations and Council's previous direction. This community-driven idea was acknowledged and approved two budget cycles ago, and we encourage the Council to keep its promise to the community to move forward with an innovative pilot.

REAL also acknowledges the importance of additional DV and BEST services, which were presented as alternatives by staff, and encourages the City to find resources for these important services. REAL has a longstanding request to the City to significantly deepen its investment in BEST services as alternatives to policing and incarceration.

Expand Immigration Services Funding

The REAL Coalition supports the request from Amigos de Guadalupe, numerous allies and the memo from Councilmember Ortiz for \$1.5 million for immigration services. This is a small investment relative to the \$45 billion being invested by the federal government for mass deportation infrastructure, about ten times what the government had been spending in this area. It is inevitable that the ICE activity we're seeing in Los Angeles will come to San José. The City has a responsibility to protect all residents, and it is not ready for what is about to happen. This funding will provide the services and resources necessary to protect its immigrant residents and the stability of families and our neighborhoods.

Support Investment in Community-Driven Services at MACSA

In solidarity with SOMOS Mayfair, the Sí Se Puede Collective, and other allies, REAL supports the Mayor's direction to use \$500,000 in Community Development

Block Grant funds to facilitate the revitalization of the Mexican American Community Services Youth Center (MACSA). Data from the Latino Health Assessment showed the harsh realities impacting Latino youth and their families, particularly in East San José. Investment in children, youth and our families in disinvested communities should be a priority. MACSA can serve as a multi-hub center for Latino youth, providing cultural services, leadership development, and healing.

Older Adults Health and Wellness Funding

We stand in solidarity with the nine providers and almost 150 organizations and community members who signed the letter in support of restoring the full \$526,434 in funding for the Older Adults Health and Wellness program. These critical services support thousands of San José's older adults—especially those who are low-income, non-English speaking, isolated, and medically vulnerable.

Racial Equity Staffing in City Departments

The REAL Coalition opposes the proposed cuts to racial equity staffing in several departments in the City of San José's FY26 budget. These positions are essential to ensuring that equity is not just a stated value, but a lived practice across city services and decision-making. Slashing these roles undermines years of progress and community trust, particularly among Black, Latine, Asian, and Indigenous communities that continue to face systemic disparities. This move also runs counter to the priorities advanced by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), which emphasizes the need for sustained institutional commitment, infrastructure, and leadership to embed equity into governance. GARE's framework makes clear that cutting dedicated equity roles threatens the long-term structural change necessary for just and inclusive communities. In a moment when racial equity work must be deepened—not diminished—we urge the City to protect and strengthen these vital positions.

Families and Children

REAL also supports the proposal by Councilmember Doan, Campos, Casey, and Mulcahy, relating to Item 3.8, to maintain support for the Family, Friend, and Neighbor Early Education Program and incorporate direction from BD #45.

Support for childcare advances racial equity by reducing barriers to economic opportunity for families of color, who are disproportionately affected by high childcare costs and limited access to quality early education.

Please consider this letter signed by 40 organizations as you decide what action to take on June 9 and 10. You can reach us by emailing IselaR@sacredheartcs.org.

SIGNATORIES:

Vaughn Villaverde
AACI

Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano
AfroUPRIS

Jeremy Barousse
**Amigos de Guadalupe Center for
Justice and Empowerment**

Richard Konda
Asian Law Alliance

Josh Selo
Bill Wilson Center

Jahmal Williams
BLKC

David Low
Destination: Home

Eugene Torres
Family Supportive Housing

Kristopher Scott
Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Kiran P
Half the Sky

Linda Montgomery
Indivisible

Susan Frazer
**Jewish Family Services of Silicon
Valley**

Nathalie Carvajal
Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Darcie Green
Latinas Contra Cancer

Brittany Alvarez
**Latino Education Advancement
Foundation**

Salvador Bustamante
**Latinos United for a New América
(LUNA)**

Alison Brunner
Tristia Bauman
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley

Héctor Sánchez-Flores
National Compadres Network

Colsaria Henderson
**Next Door Solutions to Domestic
Violence**

Rhonda Berry
Our City Forest

Heather Cleary
Peninsula Family Service

Sandy Perry
South Bay Land Trust

Lauren Babb
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte

Jaime Alvarado
REAL Coalition

Poncho Guevara
Sacred Heart Community Service

Michael Dao
SJSU Human Rights Institute

Wisa Uemura
San Jose Taiko

Huy Tran
**Services, Immigrant Rights and
Education Network (SIREN)**

Albert Carlson
SHHAC

Andrew Siegler
SURJ Santa Clara County

Raj Jayadev
Silicon Valley De-Bug

Gabriel Hernandez
¡Si Se Puede! Collective

Susan Pearson
SURJ

Regina Celestin Williams
SV@Home

Carlos Rosario
**The Santa Clara County Black
Lawyers Association**

Martha Beattie
Urban Sanctuary

Shawn Gerth
Veggielution

Sujatha Venkatraman
West Valley Community Services

Adriana Caldera Boroffice
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley

Helen Lund
St Paul's United Methodist Church

FW: Support Pay for Performance & Responsibility to Shelter

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 6/10/2025 7:39 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: robertmickanen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:02 PM
To: Elva Wilson <[REDACTED]>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Ngo, Stephen <Stephen.Ngo@sanjoseca.gov>; Pawar, Rheya <Rheya.Pawar@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: RE: Support Pay for Performance & Responsibility to Shelter

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This is outstanding. We support every value you cover in this email. Thank you. Robert & Sandra

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Elva Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Date: 6/9/25 5:35 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: district7@sanjoseca.gov
Cc: "district1@sanjoseca.gov" <District1@sanjoseca.gov>, district2@sanjoseca.gov, district3@sanjoseca.gov, District4 <district4@sanjoseca.gov>, district5@sanjoseca.gov, district6@sanjoseca.gov, district8@sanjoseca.gov, district9@sanjoseca.gov, Monica Bajwa <district10@sanjoseca.gov>, City of San Jose Mayor's Office <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>, city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov, "Ngo, Stephen" <Stephen.Ngo@sanjoseca.gov>, "Pawar, Rheya" <Rheya.Pawar@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Pay for Performance & Responsibility to Shelter

Dear Councilmember Doan,
It was a pleasure meeting you last Saturday, June 7th at the City of San Jose Neighborhood Forum for Community Leaders.

As mentioned at the forum, my 95 year-old mother resides in your district, D7, in the very low-income, Tropicana Neighborhood near Story and King Roads. This is my family home. I am a proud Overfelt High School graduate.

Thank you for all you have done for Council District 7 residents. It is evident that your actions are guided by what is common sense, what is pragmatic and what is best for the community you serve, not by special interests, donors or by

self-interest.

Pay for Performance:

Because I have respect for your leadership, I write to request that you support Mayor Mahan's Pay for Performance proposal.

Some on the City Council who are most vehemently opposed to Pay for Performance are the same elected representatives who are the most unresponsive and even cavalier about the needs of the community.

It has been exhausting and disheartening when elected representatives have turned a deaf ear to the greatest, basic needs of the general community.

Please do not fall for the rhetoric or over-used, over-manipulated excuses of some council members (much of it is irrelevant or doesn't make sense), for supporting meaningful, performance outcomes that will better serve ***all*** of San Jose, including serving minority, low-income communities, like the Tropicana Neighborhood, which you represent.

Tropicana residents, like many low-income, minority communities want the same thing as the rest of San Jose: less homeless encampments, less blight, less crime, more police/safety. Just because many low-income minorities are working two jobs to survive and don't have the time or the language skills to write to you, doesn't mean they don't care about these very ***same*** basic issues as ***all*** of San Jose.

I respectfully challenge City Council to do a survey of low-income, minority communities. If you ask them what is more important: safety, reducing crimes, reducing blight, reducing homelessness, which are the Council's focus areas, or other "*diverse needs*" mentioned by opponents, such as putting in or enhancing a new library, or an added music program, or a new park, *hands down* the pre-established Council focus areas (crime, safety, blight, homelessness) will be chosen as priorities. These are worthy performance metrics/goals for ***all***, which can be realized with Pay for Performance.

As a 10+ year government SEIU union shop steward, I can attest to the fact that government workers are accustomed to being subjected to measurable performance metrics/outcomes. Government elected officials should be held to the same standards.

Responsibility to Shelter:

Responsibility to Shelter is a compassionate, meaningful step towards getting homeless living in squalor off the street. A Council vote against Responsibility to Shelter, is an oppressive act against a vulnerable people, who clearly do not have the mental capacity to make the right decisions for themselves. *Those on the Council who oppose Responsibility to Shelter, have provided zero substantive proposed alternatives to addressing this crisis.*

Continuing with business as usual on the homeless crisis has proven to be a failure, including delegating so much of the City's responsibilities to non-profits for providing shelter and services to homeless; that has been an expensive, failed experiment. ***Continuing with the status quo here is a classic example of the definition of insanity.***

This is why I strongly urge you to also support Responsibility to Shelter, along with a City-staffed specialized outreach team under the Housing Department's Enhanced Engagement Program (EEP). City government staff working with the new Quality of Life police unit will be more effective, efficient and accountable in solving our homeless crisis.

Elva Wilson
Vice President, Beautify Berryessa Neighborhood Association

Resident, City of San Jose over 65 years
Homeowner, City of San Jose over 35 years
Retired Sr Mgmt Analyst, 35+ yrs service, County of Santa Clara
10+ year SEIU shop steward, County of Santa Clara

FW: Agenda Item 3.7 and 3.8 - Response to Mayor Mahan's "Responsibility to Shelter" Proposal

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 6/10/2025 7:43 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Michele M <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 10:24 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; ADA <ADA@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 3.7 and 3.8 - Response to Mayor Mahan's "Responsibility to Shelter" Proposal

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Dear Mayor Mahan and San José City Council Members,

As a resident of District 3, I am writing to oppose Mayor Mahan's "Responsibility to Shelter" proposal. This plan violates core human rights principles, including those outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Though the United States has not ratified the CRPD, its principles reflect universal standards that should guide our local policies.

Article 12 of the CRPD guarantees equal recognition before the law and the right to legal capacity — in plain terms, this means disabled people have the same right as anyone else to make their own decisions about treatment and where they live, even if others disagree. Article 14 protects people from being locked up or forced into treatment just because they have a disability.

Mandating treatment through mental health courts for people who refuse shelter breaks these rights by targeting people based on disability and forcing them into coercive legal processes.

In San José, disabled people are a large and growing population — 27% nationally, and more than 40% of seniors. These are not edge cases; these are our neighbors. Any policy impacting unhoused residents is a disability rights issue. People of color are also disproportionately affected by disability, making this a racial equity issue as well.

The Mayor continues to miss the human rights violations embedded in this proposal. When a person's autonomy and right to make decisions about their own body and life is stripped away, that is not care — it is control. This approach hides people away to avoid confronting the visible consequences of income inequality — a crisis driven by rising rents and stagnant wages. Rather than confront this reality, many choose to look away.

Forced treatment is not a solution to homelessness. It is a carceral response to poverty, trauma, and disability that punishes people for surviving in the only ways they can. Real care requires trust, dignity, and voluntary support — not coercion backed by the threat of detention.

This approach fundamentally lacks input from the very people it targets. Where are the voices of unhoused San José residents in shaping these policies? Instead, the Mayor's framing minimizes the perspectives of those most affected, portraying those who advocate for community care as defenders of a "failed status quo." This view reduces people with lived experience to obstacles instead of valuing them as essential partners in crafting real solutions.

[The Mayor's recent statement](#) that those who oppose this plan 'cannot in the same breath call themselves compassionate' reveals the fundamental flaw in this approach. True compassion doesn't pit community members against each other or suggest that protecting civil liberties somehow victimizes others. Compassion means recognizing that forced treatment traumatizes vulnerable people while doing nothing to address the housing crisis that created visible homelessness in the first place. The Mayor claims a 'moral obligation to intervene,' but real moral obligation means intervening in the systems that create homelessness — not criminalizing the people those systems have failed."

This plan does not address the root causes of homelessness — it avoids accountability for failed housing policies, decades of disinvestment in voluntary mental health care, and the ongoing criminalization of poverty. Even the City's "affordable" housing options are out of reach for many disabled residents: SSI provides income at just 25% of the Area Median Income (AMI), while most housing developed under Low Income Housing Tax Credit programs requires tenants to afford rents at 50% AMI or higher. This affordability gap structurally excludes people with disabilities from housing, yet the Mayor's response is to criminalize their survival instead of addressing systemic barriers.

As a disabled resident myself, I've experienced how even accessible housing is limited and unevenly distributed. Structural scarcity forces marginalized communities into competition with one another — a failure of systems, not individuals.

I urge the Mayor and City Councilmembers to abandon this rights-violating approach. I understand that many residents are distressed by the visible suffering of our unhoused neighbors — who are themselves deeply traumatized by the conditions they're forced to endure. But displacement, forced treatment, and institutionalization are not solutions. If we truly care about our community, we must value the dignity and autonomy of all residents — housed and unhoused — and hold systems, not just individuals, accountable.

Instead of relying on enforcement and coercion, the City should listen to the many community groups, advocates, and impacted residents who have long been offering solutions grounded in care, dignity, and human rights. Effective approaches already exist — the City must be willing to invest in them and be led by those with lived experience.

While there are many deeply concerning issues in the Mayor's proposed budget, this is the one I had capacity to respond to — and I hope it receives the attention and reconsideration it deserves even at this late stage in the budget process.

San José can lead on homelessness — but only through approaches that center human rights, not strip them away.

Sincerely,
Michele Mashburn
Resident, San José District 3
Founder, All Things Disability Equity

Michele Mashburn
[All Things Disability Equity](#)



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FW: Proposed Budget - support stable housing, don't spend money arresting homeless

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 6/10/2025 9:10 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: pegelwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 9:01 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; David Cohen Councilmember San José District 4 <district4-sanjoseca.gov> [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed Budget - support stable housing, don't spend money arresting homeless

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Dear Councilmember Cohen: As a district 4 resident, I would like to encourage you to allocate the full amount of Measure E funds to long-term stable affordable housing, and not temporary shelters. I have a friend in a shelter and the conditions she describes are not ideal - she has to go out of the building to use the bathroom - in the middle of the night!

I also oppose the use of city funds to cite people for living outdoors if they refuse shelter in an inappropriate situation for them.

I also support the bolstering of legal services for immigrants to \$1.5 million.

Sincerely,
Peggy Elwell

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FW: Additional Comments and Questions

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 6/10/2025 11:10 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: E A [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 11:04 AM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Additional Comments and Questions

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Dear Mayor City Council

I attended and participated in the public hearing yesterday/night with regards to the budget that will be voted on today.

I'd like to emphasize that not all unhoused people are violent. In fact, there have been 3 instances in which I've been unfortunately physically assaulted by folks who were stably housed. That unhoused folks and engaging in activities for the purpose of survival.

Not all folks who are unhoused are experiencing health issues such as addiction or mental illness. Question, how many beds or facilities for these issues does SCC have? What is the vacancy? Is it easy for folks to walk in and get the support that they need? Is there a current waiting list?

How many Domestic Violence shelters/housing opportunities exist for men fleeing DV? For women fleeing DV? (in both City and County)

How many shelters and housing for folks within the LGBTQIA+ exist both City and County?

How many shelters and housing specific for youth exist?

How many shelters and housing for Veterans?

How many shelters and housing for Seniors exist?

There are approximately 1400 people on the waiting list for the Here 4 You Hotline and counting. The majority of unhoused folks desperately want some form of housing. I am deeply disturbed by the fact that a hundred people were forcibly swept and not provided any resources including a number I've memorized the Here4You Hotline (408)-385-2400. That is the very least that could have been done. Is this not a part of a code of engagement that the City is supposed to follow? Hold yourselves accountable to being solutions for this crisis. How would you feel if you were swept with no place to go, not even a number to call for help?

As a Christian, I believe strongly that we are all God's children. And that what you do to the least of us you do to God because we are all reflected in his image and God loves all of his children.

For decades HUD has not invested sufficiently in this community and across the nation.

For decades, the City of San Jose has failed to meet its Housing Element and RHNA goals for low and very low income housing.

So much money goes to the police budget do not allocate another \$2.1 million to them. Instead invest in virtually anything else:

We need money for homelessness prevention in the form of rental assistance, we need money to fund TRUST 24/7, we need money for deeply affordable housing, we need money to hire more folks to work in code enforcement, we need more money to repair and upkeep our parks, and the animal shelters need more money to run the TNR program for the kittens.

Does it make sense year after year to provide the police so much of our budget? Can for once we put housing first? That would make a tremendous difference in our homelessness crisis.

Black and Latinx folks that are disproportionately represented in the unhoused population do not feel safe around the police.

Fund trained social workers that are experts in trauma informed care and harm reduction to do outreach within the Housing Departments EEP

Additionally all current encampments should be provide with trash can, trash removal, and bio waste removal, and water and fire extinguishers

We cannot say that all fires by Guadalupe river trail as shown on the slide deck were started by folks who are unhoused. However, they might be the first on the scene to help prevent if from spreading. Additionally, the City should do it's part in cutting and removing tall dry grass and bushes. There are people all throughout this community who have sent in requests for areas to be cleared, it is the responsibility of the city to do so. Are there not common areas with repeated problems that are not identified and monitored and maintained closely? We could use more money from the police budget for that!

Let's focus on measures and initiatives that indeed keep our community safe for everyone, not a select few.

Thank you!

--



Thank You!

Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano

she/her/ella/GRRLL!

Artist/Creative

RECS: Expand TRUST in SJ!/INVEST IN COMMUNITY

Political Ambassador, Afro UPRIS/Black Political Representation Needed in SCC!

Choir, Member of Urban Sanctuary

Housing Justice Advocate

Downtown Resident of District 3: St. James/Julian Neighborhood

Values: Honesty, Kindness, Compassion, Courage, Justice

"be a light
that doesn't cast shadows
on anyone

have a smile
that shines
for everyone

and create a happiness
that can be taken by
no one"

~ellen everett

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FW: REAL Coalition Letter re FY 2025-2026 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, & 3.12 (June 10)

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 6/10/2025 4:02 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (181 KB)

REAL Coalition - City of San José FY 25 - 26 Budget Sign On Letter Corrected.pdf;

From: Angel Aliano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 3:54 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Policy Team <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: REAL Coalition Letter re FY 2025-2026 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, & 3.12 (June 10)

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Dear Toni,

Sending a final corrected version of the REAL coalition budget letter for the record.

Best,

Ángel Aliano | Policy + Advocacy Associate

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Web: svcn.org | Twitter: [@SVCN](https://twitter.com/SVCN)

Pronouns: he/him

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From: Angel Aliano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 10:14 AM
To: mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov <mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <district2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <district4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <district5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <district7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; George Casey <district10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Policy Team <[REDACTED]>; Reed, Jim <jim.reed@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <joseph.fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; kiyomi.yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov <kiyomi.yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; Arreola, Kiara

<kiara.arreola@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <lam.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <brisa.moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <jonathan.fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <teddy.adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; david.a.gomez@sanjoseca.gov <david.a.gomez@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Re: REAL Coalition Letter re FY 2025-2026 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, & 3.12 (June 10)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and City Council,

Please see an updated version of the prior letter with 11 new signatures.

Best,

Ángel Aliano | Policy + Advocacy Associate

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Web: svcn.org | Twitter: @SVCN

Pronouns: he/him

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute, or copy this e-mail.

From: Angel Aliano

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 4:23 PM

To: mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov <mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <district2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <district4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <district5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <district7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; George Casey <district10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Policy Team [REDACTED] Reed, Jim <jim.reed@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <joseph.fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; kiyomi.yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov <kiyomi.yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; Arreola, Kiara <kiara.arreola@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <lam.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <brisa.moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <jonathan.fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <teddy.adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; david.a.gomez@sanjoseca.gov <david.a.gomez@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: REAL Coalition Letter re FY 2025-2026 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, & 3.12 (June 10)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and City Council,

Please see the letter from the Race Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Coalition regarding the FY26 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, 3.12 (June 10). We look forward to your discussion on this topic.

Thank you,

Ángel Aliano | Policy + Advocacy Associate

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Web: svcn.org | Twitter: @SVCN

Pronouns: he/him

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June 9, 2025

San José City Council
San José City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113
Sent via electronic mail

Re: City of San José FY 2025-2026 Budget (June 9) and Items 3.7, 3.8, 3.11, & 3.12 (June 10)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Members of the City Council, City Manager Maguire, and Budget Director Shannon: This letter is being submitted by 52 organizations, members of the REAL Coalition and allies, that represent thousands of San Jose residents. Please consider these comments regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Preservation of Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing Funding

The REAL Coalition urges the City Council to allocate 15% of Measure E funds toward cash assistance programs that prevent eviction, housing instability, and homelessness. With the federal government planning to eliminate Section 8 and end emergency housing vouchers in Santa Clara County—putting thousands of families at risk—San José must be prepared to respond proactively. Preventing homelessness through targeted financial assistance is significantly more cost-effective than helping individuals exit homelessness once displaced. We support the memorandum from Councilmembers Campos, Salas, and Doan, relating to Item 3.7, to reallocate Measure E funds with more emphasis on prevention and family homelessness and revert allocation changes after 2 years.

REAL supports a balanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the housing and homelessness crisis—one that includes both shelter solutions and the construction or preservation of permanent housing. We also recommend that the City return to the original Measure E allocation model within two years, allowing time to evaluate outcomes and assess changes in federal funding before determining future allocations.

We are hopeful that adding a fifth focus area to build more housing will indeed lead to increased investment in housing for people on the lower end and bottom

of the income spectrum. As we build market-rate housing we must remain watchful that we're not in turn displacing our lower-income neighbors.

Avoid Criminalization of Homelessness

The REAL Coalition strongly opposes any budget allocation to implement the proposed Neighborhood Quality of Life Unit within the San José Police Department. As outlined in our recent letter to the City, we continue to have serious concerns and unanswered questions about both this unit, the expanded Code of Conduct, and the Enhanced Engagement Program, including the lack of transparency and clarity regarding their scope, purpose, and implementation. Establishing a new police unit that targets unhoused residents risks leading to more arrests and further criminalization of poverty—approaches that have consistently proven harmful, traumatic, and ineffective.

Policing is not a solution to homelessness. Arresting, punishing, and incarcerating our most vulnerable community members will only deepen their hardship and increase long-term costs for the City. This truth was recognized in two separate votes against the plan by the Housing & Community Development Commission. Rather than funding punitive measures, San José should invest in proven strategies that focus on prevention, supportive services, and housing solutions. Consistent with REAL's earlier letter, we urge the Council to reject this proposal and reallocate resources toward approaches that uphold dignity, equity, and lasting impact.

We support the memos from Councilmember Campos to defer this policy and delay some ordinance changes until there is far more clarity on how this work will be operationalized.

Stop Enforcement Against People Living in Vehicles

The REAL Coalition opposes the proposed increase in spending on parking enforcement against people forced to live in their vehicles, particularly as the City simultaneously cuts essential community programming. It is fiscally irresponsible to expand punitive enforcement while failing to invest in supportive resources. The City should not impose additional penalties on individuals living in their vehicles without first providing adequate safe parking options. Penalizing

residents for outdated vehicle registration effectively punishes poverty and drives people deeper into crisis and debt.

For many unhoused individuals, a vehicle is a vital lifeline—offering shelter, mobility, and a degree of stability. Stripping people of this lifeline through enforcement actions will only exacerbate hardship and lead to higher public costs associated with street homelessness. A more compassionate and fiscally sound approach is to support residents in maintaining this form of temporary shelter while investing in long-term housing solutions.

Continue Investment in TRUST

REAL supports the outreach and communication strategies outlined in MBA #8 to supplement the County’s public awareness campaign for the 988 crisis line. Survey results from 2024 show that approximately 75% of San José residents are unaware of the services available through 988. A targeted public education campaign by the City, designed in collaboration with the County and providers, is critical to increasing awareness and driving greater use of this life-saving resource.

We also commend the recent collaboration between the City and County to implement new protocols that will expand the diversion of appropriate calls from 911 to 988. Continued investment in public education and service infrastructure is essential to realizing the full potential of 988. Additionally, we support the expansion of the TRUST program and appreciate City staff’s efforts to identify opioid settlement funds to sustain and grow this vital, non-policing response to mental health crises in our community.

Community-based Prevention and Intervention of Violence

The REAL Coalition asks that the City Council make a \$80,000 investment in moving forward towards a community-designed interpersonal violence prevention and intervention program, consistent with the Reimagining Public Safety recommendations and Council’s previous direction. This community-driven idea was acknowledged and approved two budget cycles ago, and we encourage the Council to keep its promise to the community to move forward with an innovative pilot.

REAL also acknowledges the importance of additional DV and BEST services, which were presented as alternatives by staff, and encourages the City to find resources for these important services. REAL has a longstanding request to the City to significantly deepen its investment in BEST services as alternatives to policing and incarceration.

Expand Immigration Services Funding

The REAL Coalition supports the request from Amigos de Guadalupe, numerous allies and the memo from Councilmember Ortiz for \$1.5 million for immigration services. This is a small investment relative to the \$45 billion being invested by the federal government for mass deportation infrastructure, about ten times what the government had been spending in this area. It is inevitable that the ICE activity we're seeing in Los Angeles will come to San José. The City has a responsibility to protect all residents, and it is not ready for what is about to happen. This funding will provide the services and resources necessary to protect its immigrant residents and the stability of families and our neighborhoods.

Support Investment in Community-Driven Services at MACSA

In solidarity with SOMOS Mayfair, the Sí Se Puede Collective, and other allies, REAL supports the Mayor's direction to use \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to facilitate the revitalization of the Mexican American Community Services Youth Center (MACSA). Data from the Latino Health Assessment showed the harsh realities impacting Latino youth and their families, particularly in East San José. Investment in children, youth and our families in disinvested communities should be a priority. MACSA can serve as a multi-hub center for Latino youth, providing cultural services, leadership development, and healing.

Older Adults Health and Wellness Funding

We stand in solidarity with the nine providers and almost 150 organizations and community members who signed the letter in support of restoring the full \$526,434 in funding for the Older Adults Health and Wellness program. These critical services support thousands of San José's older adults—especially those who are low-income, non-English speaking, isolated, and medically vulnerable.

Racial Equity Staffing in City Departments

The REAL Coalition opposes the proposed cuts to racial equity staffing in several departments in the City of San José's FY26 budget. These positions are essential to ensuring that equity is not just a stated value, but a lived practice across city services and decision-making. Slashing these roles undermines years of progress and community trust, particularly among Black, Latine, Asian, and Indigenous communities that continue to face systemic disparities. This move also runs counter to the priorities advanced by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), which emphasizes the need for sustained institutional commitment, infrastructure, and leadership to embed equity into governance. GARE's framework makes clear that cutting dedicated equity roles threatens the long-term structural change necessary for just and inclusive communities. In a moment when racial equity work must be deepened—not diminished—we urge the City to protect and strengthen these vital positions.

Families and Children

REAL also supports the proposal by Councilmember Doan, Campos, Casey, and Mulcahy, relating to Item 3.8, to maintain support for the Family, Friend, and Neighbor Early Education Program and incorporate direction from BD #45. Support for childcare advances racial equity by reducing barriers to economic opportunity for families of color, who are disproportionately affected by high childcare costs and limited access to quality early education.

Please consider this letter signed by 52 organizations as you decide what action to take on June 9 and 10. You can reach us by emailing IselaR@sacredheartcs.org.

SIGNATORIES:

Vaughn Villaverde

AACI

Lavere Foster

**African American Community Service
Agency**

Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano

AfroUPRIS

Jeremy Barousse

**Amigos de Guadalupe Center for
Justice and Empowerment**

Richard Konda

Asian Law Alliance

Josh Selo

Bill Wilson Center

Jahmal Williams

BLKC

Don Taylor

**Catholic Charities of Santa Clara
County**

David Low

Destination: Home

Eugene Torres

Family Supportive Housing

Kristopher Scott

Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Veronica Goei

Grail Family Services

Kiran P

Half the Sky

Linda Montgomery

Indivisible

Susan Frazer

**Jewish Family Services of Silicon
Valley**

Eunice Chun

**Korean American Community
Services**

Nathalie Carvajal

Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Darcie Green

Latinas Contra Cancer

Brittany Alvarez

**Latino Education Advancement
Foundation**

Salvador Bustamante

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