
FW: Item 3.3 Mayor's Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 3:22 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Karen Matsueda <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 2:54 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 3.3 Mayor's Budget Message

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Hello, Councilmembers and Mayor.

My name is Karen Matsueda, a resident of District 3, which is represented by Carl Salas, and a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice. As a woman of faith, one of my deepest values is building a community where EVERYONE can thrive.

So, I appreciate many aspects of the Budget Memo – the 5 focus areas based on community input, drive for modernization and efficiency, the right dashboards and data, program accountability, pragmatism and the need to collaborate beyond city lines and make spending trade-offs.

Regarding “Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness,” I applaud your acknowledgement of the critical need to address the underlying systemic issues in order to have a lasting impact and to build a community with public safety for ALL.

But I am distressed by the parts of the proposal that immediately violate those very themes. I stand with those who **insist** that the proposal be modified in good faith to actually and **sustainably** solve the problem:

1. Fund BOTH interim and deeply affordable, accessible permanent housing.
 - Stealing funding from permanent housing to fund temporary shelter ultimately worsens the problem and any hope of solving it.
2. All shelters and safe sleeping sites must meet basic standards of health and human dignity, be safe, livable, comply with [San Jose's Disability Inclusion Equity Pledge](#), and be attractive enough that people will move there voluntarily. No encampment sweeps without a tangible, suitable, and accessible alternative place to go.
3. No arrests of unhoused people who choose not to enter shelters until the Mayor and City Council fully remedied the shelter shortage.
 - These last two points are really about the human right to shelter and dignity. Furthermore, investing scarce resources into arresting people “refusing shelter” is a huge distraction from the other, more impactful strategies. It is astonishing to me that, even though there is already a 93% utilization rate of shelters, you would make chasing this small number of people such a public priority.

I urge you to update the Budget Proposal with these changes, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak up and show up for the community that we all value.

Karen Matsueda

--

"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond."

-Gwendolyn Brooks

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FW: Item 3.3

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 3:23 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Danielle Buscher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 2:40 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 3.3

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[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello

I work in the [REDACTED] and I am asking you not to alter our work from home policy. Our flexible workplace policy has been life changing to our ability to retain employees. Our city is well known for being the lowest paying amongst all the cities in the Bay Area while having some of the highest workloads. It costs us nothing to allow work from home but has the ability to not only retain our current workforce but also encourage future employees to choose to work here over another city. Changing the work from home policy will cause many employees to leave, which may be what this change is hoping to achieve but it will not benefit our city and cause the public to experience longer delays in service which is something we cannot allow. Please listen to us, employees that actually do the work to run this city and serve the public, and allow us to continue our work from home policy as it is now.

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FW: Agenda item 3.3

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 3:23 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Michelle Myjer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 2:27 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda item 3.3

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Hello City Clerk

Please support the city libraries. They are a vital part of San Jose communities. They are a safe place to go where teens can do homework or research important topics. They are a place to grow where youngsters explore the world beyond their home, and a vital part of early education for reading and socializing.

Libraries give adults a place to get Internet access and help with job and housing searching, as well as an outlet to their daily stresses in books, movies, and a comfortable place with heat and a/c.


Please please please support our libraries!

Michelle Myjer
Library user and lover.
San Jose

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FW: Support for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 3:23 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (56 KB)
Support for Mayor's Budget.pdf;

From: Mock Joanne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 3:03 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

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Dear Honorable Councilmember,

Please find attached my request for your support for the Mayor's Budget message.

Regards,
Martin Menne

Emailed by:
Joanne Mock
Executive Assistant
Office & Property Manager
[REDACTED]

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Martin Menne

San Jose, CA 95138

March 17, 2025

Re: Support for Item 3.3 Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Councilmembers,

Please support the Mayor's Budget Message to move forward with a budget centered on fostering economic development, capitalizing on the global sporting events of 2026, supporting small business and tackling the impediments of permitting and code enforcement on our businesses.

The City is facing a budget shortfall of \$46 million, with a sizeable portion of that shortfall coming from our increased interim housing and service needs for the unhoused. I am pleased to see the focus of the Mayor's budget on reducing costs, improving generation of general fund dollars, and prioritizing critical services without creating significant workforce reductions. This is the path of a multi-year strategy that will balance the budget over time while maintaining our most critical essential services remain intact.

These priorities align with the needs of our business community, and I encourage the Council to approve this budget framework while continuing to seek innovative solutions to improve efficiency and maximize resources. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the residents of San Jose.

Sincerely,

Martin Menne

Cc: District1@sanjoseca.gov
District2@sanjoseca.gov
District3@sanjoseca.gov
District4@sanjoseca.gov
District5@sanjoseca.gov
District6@sanjoseca.gov
District7@sanjoseca.gov
District8@sanjoseca.gov
District9@sanjoseca.gov
District10@sanjoseca.gov
City.Clerk@sanjoseca.gov

FW: Homeless Concerns

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 3:23 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Sarah Kishler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 3:02 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>
Subject: Homeless Concerns

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Hello,

As I am unable to attend tomorrow's City Council meeting to make public comment about the city's proposal to arrest the homeless after they refuse shelter three times, I would like to make my concerns known in this e-mail.

Last week, I received an e-mail from the Mayor's office with the subject line, "Holding homeless neighbors accountable," which struck me as the wrong approach to helping our vulnerable homeless population. The unhoused are already stigmatized and marginalized and I believe sending out an e-mail with such a subject line unfortunately encourages thinking of the homeless as a problem.

I received a reply from the mayor's office that implied there was a binary choice between using the tool of arresting people who refuse housing or letting them languish on the street, but I do not believe this. There are other ways to address the homeless problem, with counseling, food services, etc., without arresting them.

I also would propose that the city look further into addressing the reasons people might refuse shelter. There are other reasons they might besides being addicted to drugs or having an untreated illness. What if they have had bad, maybe even unsafe, experiences with homeless shelters in the past? There may be trust and trauma-related issues people refuse housing. Reasons people might refused institutionalized housing may be as individual as each unhoused person is an individual themselves.

I ask for my unhoused neighbors to be treated compassionately and not as if they are breaking the law.

Thank you.

Sarah Kishler, San Jose Resident

FW: E-letter: Mayor's Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:09 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Shannon Rooney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:05 PM
To: District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Re: E-letter: Mayor's Budget Message

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Hello -

I would love to hear your stance on ADU's. We live in Willow Glen on decent size lots and in addition to new neighbors coming in and tearing down the houses to build huge out of place houses, they now are adding ADU's to the houses right next to the fence line.

Sadly it is too late for one of the sides of our house (which is located near [REDACTED]) an ADU was added to a recently redone house and the ADU is along the fence line and has windows and a door which look right into our yard. It is not too late to stop the neighbors on the other side of us who want to put in a 1400sq ft 2 story ADU next to our other fence line.

As someone who grew up in the Willow Glen community and is now raising my kids in this community it is extremely unfortunate that these houses are able to get permits for this. It makes having our kids run around outside in the backyard feel more unsafe than ever knowing other people can easily peer into the back and watch them digging or running around in the sprinklers.

Thanks,
Shannon

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FW: Item 3.3 comment

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:10 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Susana F. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 3:51 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 3.3 comment

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Hello!

My name is Susana (she/her), I live in District 6 and am an Engineering Manager at the nonprofit Rewiring America. I'm writing to express my concerns on agenda item 3.3 for tomorrow's city council meeting.

I am deeply concerned about the mayor's call to use affordable housing funds only for temporary housing AND implement a policy of detaining homeless people who "refuse" shelter.

The notion that someone should be detained for "refusing" shelter is deeply flawed and often a difficult choice made on the basis of:

- not wanting to be separated from pets or family
- impossibility of maintaining employment due to shelter conditions
- available shelters do not meet a person's immediate needs, including disability based accommodation needs

I agree with the mayor that tackling the housing crisis will take many different strategies and many different tools; criminalization should not be one of those strategies. I believe the most effective way to reduce homelessness is through more housing! San Jose must invest in:

- deeply affordable housing for low-income and extremely low-income individuals
- expanded shelter capacity
- expanded support services that help individuals stabilize their lives and permanently exit homelessness

In order to invest in these areas, San Jose should work with the county and nonprofits to develop robust, compassionate outreach and programs involving those who have experienced homelessness in the past, health providers, behavioral and housing specialists, and substance abuse counselors. Together we can build a better tomorrow for all of San Jose.

Mayor Mahan's proposal to arrest/jail unhoused people should not be tolerated! When has criminalization ever truly "fixed" an issue? In response to this proposal, I demand the City:

- Not partake in encampment sweeps without tangible, suitable, and accessible alternative places to go
- All shelter and safe sleeping sites must meet basic standards of health and human dignity
- The City must fund BOTH interim and deeply affordable, accessible permanent housing
- No arrests of unhoused people, especially without accountability to provide adequate housing/shelter

Thank you for your time,

Susana Fotu

San Jose, CA 95128

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FW: March Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:11 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Carol Owendro [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 3:30 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: March Budget Message

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Hi,

I am a San Jose homeowner and mother to 3 young children. I'm concerned about the cost of building out our interim shelters that was proposed in the mayor's budget. \$230 million to run the shelters annually and a one time cost of \$225M to build them. As I understand it, we don't really have a funding source for this money, and I worry about this on-going cost falling on our general fund.

What if we tried a housing voucher system instead? If we gave all 6,000 people experiencing homelessness \$3,000 a month in the form of a housing voucher (about the median rent), that would cost \$216 million for a year. **Less than the annual costs of running the shelters (\$230M) and it saves the \$225M construction cost of building more shelters.** We would use San Jose's existing housing stock instead.

We could use the existing shelters we have and have case managers help connect people with housing using the vouchers.

I acknowledge this might not be a good fit for everyone experiencing homelessness, but I'd love to see San Jose try it for a subset of the population, so we could reduce the number of shelters we build and save some of that \$225M building cost.

If the goal is to get people off the streets to improve everyone's quality of life, a voucher system accomplishes that, and for less money. It also gives our neighbors experiencing homelessness more choice over their housing options. If some are reluctant to go into a shelter they will likely be more open to using a housing voucher. **This gets more people off the streets without arresting them**, which I find morally problematic. I hope you'll consider adding housing vouchers to our city's homelessness response.

I also want to emphasize that the reason we have the fourth highest homeless population per capita is because we have some of the highest rents in the country. If we're serious about reducing homelessness in San Jose we need to make significant reforms to our zoning laws to allow a lot more dense, affordable, housing throughout the city. Let's make San Jose affordable again!

Thank you,

Carol Owendro

FW: Support for Item 3.3: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:15 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Jay [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:11 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@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>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support for Item 3.3: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Councilmembers,

Please support the Mayor's Budget Message to move forward with a budget centered on fostering economic development, capitalizing on the global sporting events of 2026, supporting small business and tackling the impediments of permitting and code enforcement on our businesses.

The City is facing a budget shortfall of \$46 million, with a sizeable portion of that shortfall coming from our increased interim housing and service needs for the unhoused. I am pleased to see the focus of the Mayor's budget on reducing costs, improving generation of general fund dollars, and prioritizing critical services without creating significant workforce reductions. This is the path of a multi-year strategy that will balance the budget over time while maintaining our most critical essential services remain intact.

These priorities align with the needs of our business community, and I encourage the Council to approve this budget framework while continuing to seek innovative solutions to improve efficiency and maximize resources. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the residents of San Jose.

Sincerely,

Jaime Orendac, SPHR-CA and SHRM-SCP
San Jose #3
MyOHR, HR Consulting

FW: Public Comment - San Jose City Council Meeting 3/18/2025 - Item #3.3

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:15 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (285 KB)

Public Comment - Item #3.3 - SJ City Council Meeting 2025.03.17.pdf;

From: Josh Selo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 3:56 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Deryk Clark <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Public Comment - San Jose City Council Meeting 3/18/2025 - Item #3.3

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Good afternoon.

Please find public comment for Item #3.3 on the 3/18 San Jose City Council meeting attached to this email.

Best,

Josh Selo (he/him)
Chief Executive Officer
[REDACTED]

[Article: Why I Put Pronouns in My Email Signature](#)

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March 17, 2025

Honorable Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Councilmembers Kamei, Campos, Salas, Cohen, Ortiz, Mulcahy, Doan, Candelas, and Casey
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA. 95113

Re: Agenda Item 3.3, Mayor's March Budget Message

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council Members,


On behalf of the clients, staff, board and volunteers of Bill Wilson Center, one of the nonprofit organizations providing direct services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the City of San Jose, I am writing to express my concerns about the strategy to address homelessness outlined in the Mayor's March Budget Message.

Homelessness is a complex issue stemming from a range of societal challenges, including poverty, lack of affordable housing, domestic violence, lack of access to appropriate health supports, and systemic inequalities. Punitive measures don't tackle these underlying problems; instead they push people further into poverty and marginalization, creating a "jail-to-homelessness" cycle, making it even harder for people with a criminal record to secure housing. While it appears to solve the issue by moving people off of the streets, the proposal adds layers of trauma to individuals already struggling, and wastes taxpayer money on policing, legal fees, and incarceration.

The fact is that most individuals experiencing homelessness want shelter and there are various and valid reasons an individual might "decline" a shelter opportunity. Sometimes people aren't permitted to bring their pets with them, or are placed in a shelter that is far from their support system made up of family or friends. For people with disabilities or those who have specific needs, a site they are connected to may not be accessible. Someone who identifies as LGBTQ+ or female may not feel safe in a congregant setting. Sometimes the shelter location or curfew makes it impossible for a person to get to work. These are all logical reasons for why a person might turn down a shelter opportunity, and under the Mayor's proposal, could be used to justify locking someone up.

Compassion, not punishment, is the ethical and appropriate response to homelessness, especially in the face of the lack of shelter and permanent housing resources available in San Jose. The city has only 2,900 shelter beds for an estimated 5,500 unsheltered residents, with approximately 1,400 households stuck on a shelter waitlist, waiting an average of 32 days before receiving a referral. That equates to a current shelter availability of 1 bed for every 140 people in need. Not only are there simply not enough shelter beds to meet the need, but criminalizing people due to lack of resources is cruel and unjust.

The City of San Jose needs to work with the county and nonprofit organizations to develop a more robust, compassionate, and effective solution that includes both increasing the availability of shelter beds and building deeply affordable housing for low-income and extremely low-income individuals. Bill Wilson Center is committed to working with the City of San Jose, partner organizations, and city residents to prevent and end homelessness. But we stand united against a plan that aims to use the justice system to end this crisis. We simply cannot arrest our way out of homelessness.


Josh Selo
Chief Executive Officer

FW: HAC Letter Regarding San Jose Budget

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

Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:34 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (268 KB)

2025 San José Budget Comment Letter.pdf;

From: Corey Smith <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:31 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Devora Davis <devora.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Mindy <mindy.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 1 <HCDC1@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 2 <HCDC2@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 3 <HCDC3@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 4 <HCDC4@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 5 <HCDC5@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 6 <HCDC6@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 7 <HCDC7@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 8 <HCDC8@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 9 <HCDC9@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission 10 <HCDC10@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission CW <HCDCCW@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission ML <HCDCML@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing and Community Development Commission MR <HCDCMR@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing Community Development Commissioner Lived Experience <HCDCLE@sanjoseca.gov>; Housing Community Development Commissioner Lived Experience ALT <HCDCLEALT@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: HAC Letter Regarding San Jose Budget

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Hi there,

Please see the attached letter from the Housing Action Coalition regarding the proposed budget.

Respectfully,

Corey Smith

Executive Director, Housing Action Coalition

--

Corey Smith 陈锐 | Pronouns: He/Him

Executive Director | Housing Action Coalition

555 Montgomery Street, Suite 720, San Francisco, CA 94111



Web: housingactioncoalition.org

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To opt out of all HAC emails, respond to this email with "unsubscribe all".

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555 Montgomery Street
Suite 720
San Francisco, CA 94111
info@housingactioncoalition.org
housingactioncoalition.org

March 17, 2025

Dear Honorable Mayor Mahan, Members of the City Council, City Staff,

We are writing to you regarding the draft 2025-2026 Budget. We appreciate all of the hard work that Council, staff, and stakeholders have put into creating this budget package. The Housing Action Coalition is a state-wide organization that supports the construction of new homes for residents at all income levels.

While housing is key to San José and California's economic recovery, we're thankful that the city is taking a comprehensive approach to the solutions. Helping facilitate more housing production across the city, and in the Downtown, by paying attention to the economics around housing conversions is a way to ensure we're maximizing the benefit from these underutilized soft sites or offices. Reforming rules around the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to protect the environment and make it easier to build in our urban core will lead to more housing and a lower per-capita carbon footprint for residents.

We also understand that we live in an environment where we don't have the needed resources to fund an adequate social safety net. We need more interim housing, permanent supportive housing, low-and middle income affordable housing, and market rate housing. Rather than choosing between areas of great need, we remain focused on efforts to expand the funding available for all types of housing. This includes Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) and other funding sources that need to be expanded.

Last, we know there is a conversation about distribution of funds and how to help our unhoused residents off the street. Being housing insecure is not and should never be a crime. We must focus on funding shelter options that are attractive to all residents by providing safe, clean places to sleep with personal belongings.

We hope with continued stakeholder engagement we continue to make progress on meeting our City's housing goals.

Sincerely,



Corey Smith, *Executive Director*

FW: Letter from 49 Organizations re Item 3.3, Mayor's March Budget Message

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

Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:34 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (131 KB)

Letter from 49 Orgs re Item 3.3, Mayor's March Budget Message.pdf;

From: Angel Aliano [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:23 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>; Reed, Jim <Jim.Reed@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Arreola, Kiara <Kiara.Arreola@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Roth, Chris <Chris.Roth@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Reed, Jim <Jim.Reed@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Arreola, Kiara <Kiara.Arreola@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Roth, Chris <Chris.Roth@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Kyra Kazantzis [REDACTED] Kylie Clark [REDACTED]; Shannon Zhang [REDACTED] Gianella Ordonez [REDACTED] City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Letter from 49 Organizations re Item 3.3, Mayor's March Budget Message

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Members of the City Council, City Manager Maguire, and Budget Director Shannon:

Please see a letter from 49 organizations regarding Item 3.3, the Mayor's March Budget Message. We look forward to your discussion on this item.

Thank you,

Ángel Aliano | Policy + Advocacy Associate

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Web: svcn.org | Twitter: @SVCN

Pronouns: he/him/his

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March 17, 2025

Mayor & City Council, et. al
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San José, CA 95113
Sent via electronic mail

Re: Item 3.3, Mayor's Budget Message, March 18, 2025

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Members of the City Council, City Manager Maguire, and Budget Director Shannon:

This letter is being submitted by 49 organizations, representing many thousands of community members, constituents, clients, participants, and neighborhood leaders. Please consider our comments regarding the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Message.

The Mayor's budget plan creates a debt that he plans to pay with fool's gold. In doing so, the message disregards our community's need for affordable housing, criminalizes homelessness, and circumvents the will of the voters by drastically shifting Measure E funds from their original intent.

Affordable Housing

The Mayor's March Budget Message ignores the dire need for affordable housing in San José – one of the community's top priorities. Fifty-one percent of households in the City are rent burdened, and these numbers are higher for Black and Latinx community members. Were these individuals not rent burdened, they would have an average additional \$8,500 per household to spend on other needs and contribute to the local economy. This income-to-rent ratio leaves individuals one missed paycheck, car payment, or health emergency away from homelessness.

Affordable housing is essential for a community to thrive – it improves health outcomes, allows individuals to live where they work, improves children's education, stimulates the economy, and provides a stronger, more diverse

community. Furthermore, we know that a lack of affordable housing is the primary factor driving our homelessness crisis. The absence of commitment to and investment in affordable housing demonstrated in this budget message should be very concerning to everyone in San José.

Measure E

On that note, the permanent shift of Measure E funding is particularly distressing. Measure E is our most significant source of affordable housing funding, and diverting funds only sets us further behind a need we are already failing to address. We cannot afford to undermine the City's only reliable source for funding new affordable housing by throwing band-aids at gaping wounds. While we need a balance of permanent housing, temporary shelters, and prevention, this does not change the fact that temporary measures are not permanent solutions. We lack affordable housing, and the only true solution is to invest in it. San José's voters already chose to invest in these solutions when they passed Measure E, and to divert these funds is to once again subvert their will.

None of this is to say that we do not need investments in prevention and temporary shelter, particularly for vulnerable community members. However, it is unconscionable to shift the vast majority of these funds without any concrete plans for keeping the pipeline flowing now and how we will reinvest in this priority in future budgets. The continued, misleading rhetoric about the costs of building affordable housing doesn't instill confidence that the City intends to return to this priority.

Utilities and Workforce Housing

We are also concerned that the budget message proposes additional policies that will exacerbate our housing affordability challenge. The direction to create guidelines allowing property owners to charge utilities proportionally on master-metered properties cites concerns regarding conservation and costs for property owners, with no regard to cost for tenants. This is a policy that would have direct negative impacts on already struggling renters. For those who are rent burdened, even a small addition to monthly costs can tip the scale too far and send them into homelessness. These are the individuals we should be prioritizing – not corporations or landlords – and they comprise more than 50% of the City's

households.

The Mayor's budget message has no plan to address the housing needs of San José's residents earning less than 60% of the area median income, unless they are currently homeless and living unsheltered. San José has more than 140,000 households – almost 420,000 people and 43% of San Jose's residents – with low, very low, or extremely low incomes. These are people our communities, and our economy, depend on. These are our teachers, our childcare workers, our grandparents living on a fixed income, our medical assistants, and people working in grocery and retail stores and many small businesses. A family of four would need to work at least 3 full-time minimum wage jobs to reach 60% of the area median income and qualify for the kind of housing the Mayor suggests should be our focus. How was the decision made to walk away from these families and individuals?

Criminalization of Homelessness

This budget message proposes punishing our unhoused neighbors for rejecting shelter conditions that the policy's creators would be unwilling to live in themselves. This cavalier criminalization proposal, coupled with diversion of funds from permanent housing that is safe, accessible, and affordable, is deeply troubling and ironic. There are numerous well-known and compelling reasons why some people may refuse temporary shelter, especially congregate shelter.

Homelessness is – and always has been and will be – a housing problem. No matter how one frames it politically, in the end, it will always come down to supply and demand. If there are not enough units for people to live in, there will be people living outside. It is despicable to arrest those who are the victims of our inability, or, in this case, unwillingness, to solve our housing crisis. It is even more inhumane to create a policing regime based on extremely slender evidence of the magnitude of refusals of shelter and at a time when there are nowhere close to the number of temporary units for people to move into.

It is well-established that arresting, incarcerating, and cycling unhoused people through jails and courts costs significantly more than providing housing. Incarceration worsens barriers to housing and employment, making it less likely that people will eventually make it into a home. It also increases trauma and

instability, disrupting social safety nets, connections to services, and healthcare. Arresting people experiencing homelessness disproportionately negatively affects Black and Brown communities and people with disabilities, who are overrepresented in the homeless population. For all these reasons, the proposal is inhumane and wrong.

The Alternative

We are asking that you reject these short-sighted proposals and instead take evidence-based and meaningful steps to address our housing affordability crisis. This means maintaining affordable housing investments by preserving some level of investment in Measure E, refusing to criminalize our unhoused community members, and firmly rejecting zombie policies such as RUBS that would exacerbate our housing affordability challenge.

We who have signed this letter know – through our experience providing services, protecting our community, and collaborating with the City Council – that the solutions outlined in this budget message are smoke and mirrors that will not lead to substantial improvements in the lives of San José's residents. We envision and believe in a thriving community, where everybody has a home, people live near their jobs, and individuals have money to invest in the economy because their rent is a reasonable portion of their income. We ask that you also believe in this vision for San José and hope you will work with us to achieve it.

We appreciate the memorandum from Councilmembers Candelas and Cohen and agree that weighty policy items such as RUBS should, at minimum, go through regular policy development channels that include community engagement, staff level research, and mapping of historic Council decisions; they should also be subjected to priority-setting/red-green-light recommendations by staff at Rules. And, as always, we agree that the City and County should improve collaboration and together deepen investment, in a coordinated fashion, in the solutions that actually work and don't further harm traumatized people.

Lastly, we support the letters from Destination: Home and SV@Home.

Please consider this letter signed by 49 organizations as you decide what action to take on March 18. You can reach us by emailing KylieC@svcn.org.

SIGNATORIES

Milan Balinton
**African American Community Service
Agency**

Almaz Negash
African Diaspora Network

Sheri Burns
**Aging Services Collaborative of Santa
Clara County**

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

Vaughn Villaverde
**Asian Americans for Community
Involvement (AACI)**

Richard Konda
Asian Law Alliance

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg
**Behavioral Health Contractors'
Association (BHCA)**

Josh Selo
Bill Wilson Center

Jahmal Williams
Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet

Shelley Swan
Carry the Vision

Dolores Alvarado
Community Health Partnership

Erin O'Brien
Community Solutions

Alexander Senegal
Joe Mora
Jocelyn Arenas
Destination: Home / LEABsv

David Low
Destination: Home

Eugene Torres
Family Supportive Housing

Kristopher Scott
Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Isela Reyes
Green Bean Collective Silicon Valley

Gail Osmer
Hands 4Helping

Wesley Saver
HealthRIGHT 360

Kiana Simmons
HERO Tent

Gia Pham
Housing Choices

Teresa Gomez
Indian Health Center Of Santa Clara Valley

Nathalie Carvajal
Latina Coalition

Darcie Green
Latinas Contra Cancer

Alison Brunner
Tristia Bauman
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley

Angelica Cortez
LEAD Filipino

Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez
MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana

David Mineta
Momentum for Health

Héctor Sánchez-Flores
National Compadres Network

Lori Katcher
Neighborhood Hands

Eva M Terrazas
Pacific Clinics

Maria Daane
Parents Helping Parents

Heather Cleary
Peninsula Family Service

Carole Conn
Project Sentinel

Poncho Guevara
Sacred Heart Community Service

Michael Dao
San José State University Human Rights Institute

Wisa Uemura
San Jose Taiko

Esther Young
School of Arts and Culture at MHP

David Padilla
SEIU 521

Andrew Siegler
Showing Up for Racial Justice Santa Clara County

Gabriel Hernandez
¡Sí Se Puede! Collective

Kyra Kazantzis
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Raj Jayadev
Silicon Valley De-Bug

Sheri Burns
**Silicon Valley Independent Living
Center**

Victor Vasquez
SOMOS Mayfair

Sandy Perry
South Bay Community Land Trust

Yvonne Maxwell
Ujima

Sujatha Venkatraman
Cassandra Magana
West Valley Community Services

Adriana Caldera
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley

FW: Opposition to 'Return to Work' Request

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:53 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Lindsey Gelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:43 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Opposition to 'Return to Work' Request

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Good afternoon,

I would like to address the 'Return to Work' statement included in the, as presented in the Mayor's [memo](#) to Councilmembers on March 12th. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the mayor's request for City leadership to consider increasing in-person work requirements to four days per week under the City's Flexible Workplace Policy. I understand that public-facing roles like police officers and code enforcement officers require in-person work to carry out their job duties, however, I urge that the City Manager and other appointees consider all the affected personnel that would be subject to this policy change given each Director has the discretion to carry-out a return to office four days a week. While I don't expect any company to accommodate the personal needs of their employees, I do not believe that increasing in-person work requirements by one day will lead to greater government efficiency or accountability. Additionally, I am concerned that the City is not adequately prepared for the potential consequences of this change, despite the stated intent to enhance workplace performance. I encourage the City Manager and appointees to carefully evaluate whether this adjustment will truly yield the intended benefits before moving forward with implementation.

Over the past few years, spearheaded by COVID, flexible work arrangements have proven to be effective in maintaining productivity while also providing employees with the flexibility necessary to achieve work-life balance. Many City employees have transitioned seamlessly to hybrid or remote work while continuing to provide high-quality services to the community. Additionally, challenges related to efficiency and accountability may be more closely linked to resource allocation and technology infrastructure rather than workforce location. Addressing these underlying factors through strategic improvements may be a more effective approach than implementing a more restrictive workplace policy. If the City's Flexible Workplace Policy is amended to require four days in-person work, that could negatively impact employee morale, retention, and recruitment, particularly at a time when workforce stability is critical.

Additionally, the logistical and financial implications of this policy change—including office space constraints, increased commuting burdens, and potential service disruptions—should be carefully evaluated before making any substantial modifications. Maintaining a truly flexible workplace policy that prioritizes both operational effectiveness and workforce needs would better serve the City and its employees. I appreciate your consideration of this perspective and encourage further discussion with your employees before moving forward with any changes.

Regards,

Lindsey Gelman



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FW: March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 - comments

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:53 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kara Hawkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:41 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 - comments

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Councilmembers,

I am writing to express concern regarding the March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Memorandum from Mayor Mahan. I am a City employee who has worked in the [REDACTED] for seven years and I take personal offense to the proposed recommendations outlined in the Mayor's memo. The most pressing concern is the "VIII Government Efficiency and Accountability" section.

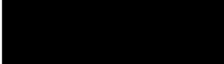
First of all, the memo places significant importance on the needs of the community. To me it reads like the Mayor has forgotten that city staff are also part of the San Jose community and that we deserve the same respect as any other individual/developer/etc. It seems that the wellbeing of staff is seen as a nuisance to the Mayor, and that we should be thankful for our jobs instead of the other way around. We provide a service to our community because we care about them and we care about the City. We are not cogs in a machine whose sole purpose is to generate revenue for the Mayor and his financial/political backers.

The recommendation for staff to be back in the office four days a week in order to "strengthen teamwork, communications, efficiency, and accountability" does not seem to be based on any real data or source. It seems like a statement made by someone based on emotion and personal feelings, which again, appears it has absolutely nothing to do with the budget deficit. I think it would be advantageous if the Mayor could provide sources for this statement and maybe shed a little, or literally any, light on how this helps the budget problem. If you need City staff to be back in the office to artificially prop up the downtown economy, maybe we should be questioning why developers'/business owners' lack of ability to do their job is somehow a burden for staff to bear.

I was hired to do my job as outlined in my job classification and job description. "Artificially stimulating the downtown economy with my paycheck" is not listed in that job description. I worked here when we were in the office five days a week, I worked here in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic when we were expected to work on personal laptops and navigate how to continue to provide for our community and customers, and I've worked here in the following months and years in the hybrid capacity. I take pride in my job and I find it offensive that the Mayor's memo seems to imply that our communication and accountability must be lacking working in the office three days a week, and that four days a week will surely solve that problem. San Jose notoriously has one of the lowest pays in the entire Bay Area for my classification despite easily having the most demanding work loads, and one of the only advantages since the pandemic has been flexibility to work from home. I do not know a single coworker that slacks off on their work from home days or isn't "accountable" or a "team player", however, I know an abundance of coworkers who are able to focus better, work harder,

and provide better service to our community because the stress of commutes/office distractions is not present. To try and pretend that the push for a return to office is based on staff's lack of teamwork, communication and efficiency is a pathetic excuse at the obvious, which is that we are expected to spend our hard-earner paychecks (which aren't very much) propping up our failed downtown economy and giving management an outdated and false sense of control.

I hope that Councilmembers can think critically about what is being proposed in this memo and that they remember staff are part of the San Jose community as well. Being required to come into the office an extra day a week for jobs that are easily done remote does nothing for staff's wellbeing nor the City's services, and most importantly- nothing for the budget deficit.

Respectfully,
Kara Hawkins, 

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FW: SHHAC Letter regarding 3-18 City Council hearing

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 4:53 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (24 KB)

SHHAC Budget and Housing Hearing Letter 3-18-2025.docx;

From: albert carlson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:36 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: SHHAC Letter regarding 3-18 City Council hearing

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Please see the attached letter from Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee (SHHAC) as you consider the upcoming budget decisions.

Albert Carson
On behalf of Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee (SHHAC)

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March 17, 2025

Mayor Matt Mahan and Councilmembers
18th Floor, San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

The City of San Jose's homeless crisis is, at its root, a housing crisis, and any plan that fails to address this is doomed to failure. Mayor Matt Mahan's budget proposal is forcing the city to solve a budget shortfall of his own making and after the fact. The current budget spent tens of millions of dollars on sweeps and other punitive programs without a plan accounting for how these expenses would impact the rest of the city's housing programs or other critical city services. As a result of this lack of planning, the city is faced with a significant budget shortfall that threatens erosion of public services and the continued understaffing of key programs.

The Mayor's proposed shift in housing strategy, prioritizing temporary shelter solutions and criminalization of homelessness, is at best a half-strategy and at worst reflects the prioritization of cynical politics over good policy. The city deserves better. San Jose needs a comprehensive approach to ensure a sustainable and effective strategy that focuses on the city's root causes of homelessness.

In response, SHHAC provides the following recommendations to the San Jose City Council:

- Adopt a no layoff policy to protect jobs and critical public services.
- Reject the Mayor's housing proposals and increase in penalties for unhoused individuals.
- Conduct a truly comprehensive planning process that engages with stakeholders.
- Prioritize permanent supportive housing by opposing any permanent shift of Measure E funds to build temporary shelters.
- Invest in and expand preventive programs, including expanding tenants' legal rights, rental subsidies, and outreach programs.
- Explore a full range of funding sources for housing.

Develop a Comprehensive Plan to Address the City's Housing Crisis

The mayor is proposing a poorly planned budget and housing strategy that fails to address the root causes of the city's housing and homeless crisis. The proposed shift in housing strategy, prioritizing temporary shelter solutions and resurrecting past vagrancy-type laws that are discriminatory and cruel, provides no real solutions. Furthermore, the Mayor has articulated a goal of reaching "functional zero" homelessness. Achieving this goal is estimated to require over \$250 million in one-time capital expenditure and anticipates annual operating costs of almost a quarter billion dollars to maintain the shelter program. All this with no plan for sustainable short, medium, or long-term funding.

Any meaningful plan must reflect the local context when evaluating homelessness solutions. The region is characterized by a limited supply of housing affordable for working families, which drives up demand and prices. This is greatly exacerbated by Silicon Valley's unique economy, dominated by the region's high-tech industries. These industries are characterized by a significant bifurcation in the labor market, with a concentration of high-wage earners in the technology sector alongside a substantial proportion of low-wage jobs in service and other industries. This disparity results in a situation where those at the top of the wage scale further drive rental and housing prices to astronomical levels. At the same time, a large segment of the workforce earns wages insufficient to afford housing or are highly rent-burdened, putting them at substantial risk of becoming unhoused. Currently, almost two people become unhoused for every one that manages to become housed.

While the urgency of addressing unsheltered homelessness is undeniable, diverting Measure E funds away from the construction of permanent affordable housing fails to recognize the local housing and labor market dynamics. As a result, adopting the mayor's proposal will not lead to real long-term solutions but simply leave individuals in temporary shelters with no permanent housing options, thus creating a "bridge to nowhere."

Recommendations

In summary, the City Council should reject the Mayor's poorly developed plan that seeks to remedy a budget shortfall and address the housing/homeless crisis by prioritizing temporary shelters and reenactment of outdated vagrancy laws that criminalizes the poor. These strategies will only perpetuate the cycle of homelessness.

A comprehensive plan to address our housing and homeless crisis is desperately needed and should be centered on permanent supportive housing and preventive services that have demonstrated their effectiveness in providing lasting solutions and preventing homelessness: rental subsidies, legal support for tenants, and outreach services.

SHHAC strongly urges the city council to adopt the following components as part of the budget and housing strategy:

- Adopt a no layoff policy to protect jobs and critical public services.

- Reject the Mayor's housing proposals and the increase in penalties for unhoused individuals.
- Conduct a truly comprehensive planning process that engages with stakeholders: Adopt the principles of the Cohen/Candelas memo by implementing a comprehensive, inclusive, and data-driven planning strategy with clear metrics for success and regular public reporting. Foster ongoing dialogue and collaboration with affordable housing advocates, service providers, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness to ensure the development of the most effective and equitable solutions.
- Prioritize permanent supportive housing by opposing any permanent shift of Measure E funds to build temporary shelters. Maintain a significant portion of Measure E funding for the development of permanent affordable housing, recognizing its critical role in providing long-term stability and addressing the region's core issue of housing affordability.
- Invest in, and expand, preventive and cost-effective methods for preventing homelessness and rehousing individuals including tenants' legal rights, rental subsidies, and outreach programs.
- Explore a full range of funding sources for housing. Direct city staff to develop a comprehensive inventory of potential funding sources for both temporary and permanent housing solutions. The analysis should include utilizing some of the City's reserves on a short-term basis as well as the potential to sponsor a funding measure on the 2026 election. The results of this analysis should be presented at the budget hearings.

Sincerely,

Albert Carlson

On behalf of Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee (SHHAC)