

Fw: public comment for Rules committee item G.2

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 9/22/2021 10:09 AM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov> 1 attachments (177 KB)

Letter to Rules Committee re Item G2 September 22 2021.pdf;

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:37 AM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** public comment for Rules committee item G.2You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Attached please find public comment from the Behavioral Health Contractors' Association on the 9/22 Rules Committee Agenda Item G.2. Please direct to all Councilmembers on the Rules Committee.

Thanks,
Elisa

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg
Pronouns: she, her, hers
Executive Director



e-mail: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address:
[REDACTED]

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**Behavioral Health Contractors' Association
of Santa Clara County**



Phone: [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

September 21, 2021
Councilmember Jones, Chair
Councilmember Peralez, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Arenas
Councilmember Cohen
Councilmember Davis
City of San Jose Rules and Open Government Committee
via e-mail

Member Agencies

- ACI
- Abode Services
- Advent Group Ministries
- Alum Rock Counseling Center
- Bill Wilson Center
- Caminar
- Catholic Charities
- Children's Health Council
- Community Solutions
- Fred Finch Youth Center
- Gardner Family Care Corporation
- HealthRight 360
- HealthTrust
- Home First
- Hope Services
- Horizon Services
- Indian Health Center
- Kidango
- LifeMoves
- Mekong Community Center
- Mental Health Advocacy Project
- Mental Health Systems
- Momentum for Mental Health
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Parisi House on the Hill
- PATH
- Pathway Society
- Peninsula Healthcare Connection
- Rebekah Children's Services
- Seneca Kinship Center
- Ujima Adult & Family Services
- Uplift Family Services

Dear Councilmembers:

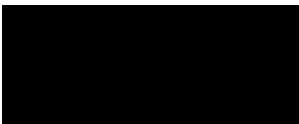
I write on behalf of the Behavioral Health Contractors' Association (BHCA), a Santa Clara County-wide network of community-based, non-profit organizations providing essential mental health and substance use prevention, treatment, recovery, and supportive transitional housing services to children, adolescents and adults, under contract with Santa Clara County's Behavioral Health Services Department.

We support the recommendations in Item G.2 to proactively evaluate workplace safety and culture, integrate the County Trauma Response with City of San Jose emergency response infrastructure, and analyze City of San Jose firearm policies and data available on causes of firearm related deaths and injuries, including suicides. A review of all policies related to firearms and mental health, substance abuse and IPV/IPH will allow for considering updates based on current best practices. The BHCA supports discussion from a range of stakeholders and experts to determine additional approaches to preventing firearm violence.

We are pleased to see that the memo addresses the social and cultural factors of stigma that creates barriers to individuals from seeking help. We appreciate the memo specifies that we need to work together toward dispelling that stigma and that it is being considered as part of this approach. The outcome of any efforts will be severely diminished if they concurrently increase stigma that is so prevalent in our society.

BHCA members are ready to participate in discussions and share our experiences.

Sincerely,



Elisa Koff-Ginsborg
Executive Director

Fw: 9/22/21 ROCG Item 21-749 Comments

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 9/22/2021 10:56 AM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

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I applaud Mayor Liccardo, Council Member Peralez, and others that have proposed measures to improve the safety of residents and visitors. My disappointment stems from the absence of information gathering and assessment - and apparent lack of urgency.

Mayor Liccardo's memo seeks "best ideas", but no process or mechanism has been initiated to gather and assess them. I have many evidenced-based ones, but no means to have them objectively considered.

After the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting, Mayor Liccardo proposed the formation of a group of subject matter experts to do this. I was recommended by the Mayor's staff person assigned to the matter. The committee proposal was subsequently dropped without explanation.

After the Donner Lofts shooting, I attended two (2) community meetings convened by Council Member Peralez. Due to danger, then SJPD Chief Garcia stated it was necessary to send three (3) officers on every service call to Donner Lofts versus the typical single officer. Ideas were solicited and captured that presumably would result in improvements. It's unclear what improvements have actually materialized.

Last week I met with members of CM Peralez staff on this matter. While there is disagreement about

some recommendations, there is strong support for others. Staff advised me that if approved, then we're unlikely to see any beneficial results until sometime in 2022 due to city staff workload and work plan commitments.

If accurate, this seems absurd. There appears to be little to no means to assess direct and opportunity costs to guide or redirect efforts. In effect, "Are we doing the right thing? The right way? How do we know?". I urge the ROGC to:

1. Condition any consideration of this item and Mayor's Liccardo's proposal on the formation of an advisory committee.
2. Treat public safety as an urgency matter. Have the advisory committee address 'low hanging fruit' measures that can be implemented quickly and inexpensively within FY 21/22 in addition to FY 22/23 and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know how I may help.

Best,

-dave truslow

M: 

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Fw: 9/22/21 ROCG Item 21-749 Public Comment (Letter from the Public)

Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 9/22/2021 1:30 PM

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San Jose, CA 95113

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From: SMNA SJ [REDACTED] >**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 1:07 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** 9/22/21 ROCG Item 21-749 Public Comment (Letter from the Public)

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To the San Jose Rules and "Open" Government Committee,

I am concerned with the posting and noticing of this meeting, especially this memo. Instead of the standard 10 days of posting per the sunshine rules, this was posted less than 48 hours prior to this public meeting. Does the Brown act or San Jose sunshine apply to all public meetings? If so, why aren't they being followed?

I am concerned with lack of public outreach within our community prior to important direction being proposed and voted upon. It feels as if COVID has acted as a mask for our city government to become nontransparent and closed with its residents.

As for Peralez's memo, I applaud the councilmember for addressing the mental health aspect of violence in our community. Maybe he should add to his memo that the City should create a taskforce intent on holding the County responsible to its obligations, specifically in addressing mental health.

I seek clarification on memo item 5. Which looks into "a future program that trains mental health professionals to conduct evaluations for firearm permitting." What exactly does this mean? Does Councilmember Peralez believe the city of San Jose should start a permitting requirement for the exercise of the rights protected by the Second Amendment?

I support law enforcement officers and family members of a person believed to be a danger to themselves or others to petition the court to prohibit that person from possessing firearms. Revoking someone's rights are the responsibility of the court. What does this memo suggest or direct in terms of expanding these existing red flag laws? Is this a duplicate of Mayor Liccardo's co-authored memo from 6/16/2021, Item 2. Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO)?

Lastly, Councilmember Peralez writes that he has "strongly supported...a measure requiring gun insurance." This is in reference to the aforementioned 6/16/2021 memorandum by Mayor Liccardo which places the barrier of an insurance mandate (financial fee) as a restriction to the free exercise of a right and is therefore unconstitutional.

Nothing in that memorandum will prevent gun violence in San Jose and many of the proposals are unconstitutional. There is a great website I came across which details this out:

<https://www.svpaf.org/sjguncontrol>

Thank you,
Jonathan Fleming

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