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**FW: Council Meeting 8/26/2025 Public Comment - Agenda Item 8.2**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Fri 8/22/2025 1:31 PM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (162 KB)

8-26-25 Public Comment - 8.2 - South Bay Labor Council Letter.pdf;

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**From:** Jack McGovern [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2025 1:29 PM  
**To:** Jack McGovern [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Council Meeting 8/26/2025 Public Comment - Agenda Item 8.2

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Mayor Mahan and San Jose City Council members:

Please find attached a letter from the South Bay Labor Council regarding Item 8.2 on Tuesday's council meeting agenda.

Thank you,

Jack McGovern

Jack McGovern (he/him)  
Political Director  
South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council  
[REDACTED]

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Jean Cohen, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Stanley Young  
IFPTE Local 21

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Tony Alexander  
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Paul Fong  
AFT Local 6157

Laurie Mesa  
UFCW Local 5

August 22, 2025

Mayor and Members of the San Jose City Council  
San Jose City Hall, 18th Floor  
200 E. Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Mahan and City Council:

The South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council, representing over 100 unions and 100,000 working families across Santa Clara and San Benito Counties, supports keeping the Sharks in San José. We also believe public investment in arena improvements must deliver good union jobs, worker protections and community benefits while protecting our existing public services.

We are concerned that the staff recommendations do not detail a financing strategy for how the City will meet this agreement and protect its General Fund. The payment schedule and hefty fines within the agreement require a significant investment of taxpayer dollars. The staff recommendations suggest the City will use lease revenue and seek voter approval of a General Obligation Bond and Transient Occupancy Tax to cover these costs, without details on how such measures will cover costs nor credible assessment of the political feasibility of voter approval. Instead, the recommendations suggest a financing plan should come after the agreement is approved. By waiting to develop such a plan, at a time when the City projects deficits, we fear the City may be unnecessarily leaving the General Fund and essential services vulnerable.

Additionally, the agreement begins a process of planning a potential new arena, including assessing an enhanced infrastructure financing district, which would require the City and potentially the County to divert millions of future tax dollars away from public services and vital public infrastructure (such as BART Phase II or Diridon Station) annually to invest in subsidizing a private entity. If the City plans to finance a new arena with tax increment financing, we ask the City and the Sharks to work with union and community stakeholders, building off the example of the collaboration around Downtown West's development agreement, to negotiate a community benefits agreement including good jobs for residents, improvements in community infrastructure and addressing impacts on displacement as part of future arena financing plans.

There are three categories of workers who are primarily impacted by this agreement: service workers at SAP Center and Sharks Ice, the Building and Construction trades, in addition to the City of San Jose workforce and other public agencies. We are not aware of any formal discussions with any of these stakeholders regarding the proposal before you, and respectfully request action on the following areas before approval:

1. City of San Jose Living Wage Policy
  - a. Confirmation from impacted unions that compliance with the recommendation in Section 14 of the 7/1/2025 Agreement does not conflict with collective bargaining agreements.



2. Citywide Project Labor Agreement

- a. Confirmation that the current terms of the Project Labor Agreement apply to new construction and rehabilitation projects at all facilities impacted by this agreement, and a written commitment to negotiate in good faith for all future ancillary and adjacent construction work not currently covered by the Project Labor Agreement.

3. City of San Jose Workforce

- a. A commitment to meet with the city bargaining units prior to polling or planning for any future revenue measure the Administration may explore.
- b. A commitment to meet and confer with the city bargaining units regarding financing policies that directly impact the City's General Fund, such as an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District.
- c. When the Sharks and City of San Jose begin to research the feasibility of constructing a new stadium, impacted bargaining unions and labor stakeholders should be included in the process and include information such as:
  - Fire Department Impact Study before approval (projected call volume, staffing needs, and costs tied to arena operations).
  - Growth in Staffing- aligned with any arena expansion timeline, funded through lease revenue or tax increment financing—not solely from the General Fund.
  - Clear fiscal protections ensuring resources and emergency services citywide are not compromised to subsidize private development.

4. International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 134

- a. Fall Arrest Safety: Require fully funded, engineered fall-arrest systems in all rigging and catwalk areas at SAP Center and Tech CU Arena, with third-party certification, ongoing maintenance, and training for users before the renovated facilities reopen.
- b. Electrical Infrastructure: Mandate upgrades to company power and distribution so all event power meets current NEC code (including labeling, isolation, and inspection protocols) at both facilities to protect crews and performers and avoid unsafe workarounds.
- c. Agreement Equity at Tech CU: Align Tech CU Arena's labor terms with SAP Center by removing the carve-out for non-ticketed and smaller events. Apply equivalent terms across production classifications (rigging, lighting, audio, video, carpentry, utilities, loaders, etc.) so workers aren't undercut by venue or event type.
- d. Corporate AV Standards: Establish 8-hour minimum calls for corporate AV work and require local labor representation across all production areas. Ensure vendors/tenants and in-house operators honor these standards as a condition of using the facilities.

San José should do what it can to keep the Sharks downtown while also being a good steward of public resources. The City Council should ensure its current and future stadium plans include commitments to good jobs, community benefits and protecting City services before approval. We are looking forward to being partners in the next phase of planning and negotiations.

Sincerely,

Jean Cohen, Executive Officer  
South Bay Labor Council

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**FW: SJDA Letter of Support for Council Item 8.2 Agreement with San Jose Arena Management**

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

**Date** Mon 8/25/2025 7:41 AM

**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (80 KB)

82\_SJDAsupport\_renamanagement.pdf;

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**From:** Gumby Marques [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 23, 2025 9:44 PM

**To:** Gumby Marques [REDACTED]

**Subject:** SJDA Letter of Support for Council Item 8.2 Agreement with San Jose Arena Management

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Greetings!

Please find the following letter of support from the San Jose Downtown Association attached for City Council's August 26 Session Agenda Item 8.2 regarding the agreement with San Jose Arena Management.

The SJDA believes this is a great deal for San Jose and strongly unequivocally supports this agreement.

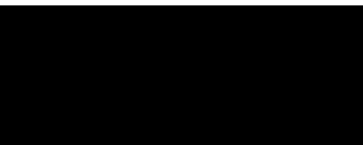
Go Sharks!

Gumby

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Gumby Marques  
Interim CEO  
San Jose Downtown Association



[sjdowntown.com](http://sjdowntown.com)



**San Jose Downtown Association**

28 N. First Street, Suite 1000  
San Jose, CA 95113

[sjdowntown.com](http://sjdowntown.com)  
408.279.1775



Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the San Jose Downtown Association, I am writing to express our strong support for the agreement negotiated between the City of San Jose and San Jose Arena Management, with the goal of upgrading our venerable SAP Center and keeping the Sharks in San Jose.

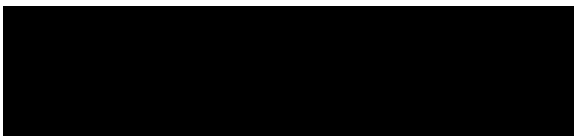
Statistically it has been shown that the Arena has attracted more than 50 million visitors to San Jose since opening, many from out of the area, and has generated 1.25 billion dollars in economic benefits for the city over the last five years. The Arena is more than a hockey arena with at least 150 events a year, and investment is critical to attracting top tier world class talent to San Jose in our mission to make this a true world class destination.

In reviewing with my team of experts on our advocacy committee which represents all manners of Downtown stakeholders including businesses, landlords and residents that the negotiated deal was noted to be remarkable in its language and structure. The Sharks are one of the few major sports organizations to not own their facility, and Hasso's investment of 100 million over the previous 10 years and commitment to invest 100 million more into the arena itself, as well as the surrounding community including the SJDA's Stitching Districts Initiative is remarkable.

Finally, although I firmly believe that comparison is the thief of joy, we would have to look no further than our neighboring cities of San Francisco and Oakland to compare and contrast what the impact is in investing in major venues and sports team will do for a city's profile and economic impact and what the effect of losing a franchise and not investing in the infrastructure can do.

We have been very fortunate to have partners such as the San Jose Sharks proudly representing the City of San Jose and this agreement should be enthusiastically and unanimously supported by our Council on behalf of all our citizens.

Go Sharks!




Alan "Gumby" Marques  
Interim CEO of the San Jose Downtown Association

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**FW: For Council packet**

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**From** Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Mon 8/25/2025 11:45 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (113 KB)  
Council letter 8-25-25.pdf;

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**From:** Nicholas E. Adams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2025 11:34 AM  
**To:** Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** For Council packet

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Toni--

Attached is a letter for inclusion in tomorrow's council packet. Many thanks.

--NA

Nicholas E. Adams  
president & ceo  
NINICO Communications®  
San Jose | Los Angeles  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
executive assistant Stacy Santilena  
[REDACTED]

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August 25, 2025

Mayor and San Jose City Council  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, California 95113

Dear Mayor Mahan and Members of the City Council,

As San Jose prepares to consider the future of SAP Center, I want to express my strong support for the City's joint investment in this vital civic and economic asset.

The SAP Center is more than a hockey arena. It is a City-owned facility that has welcomed over 50 million visitors in the past 33 years, hosting more than 150 events annually and generating an estimated \$1.25 billion in economic benefits for San Jose over just the past five years. It serves as a global showcase for our community, drawing millions of visitors while allowing our own residents to experience world-class sports, concerts, and arts events right here at home.

The Sharks Sports & Entertainment ownership, led by Hasso Plattner, has already invested more than \$100 million into SAP Center over the past decade and has committed to invest at least another \$100 million in the years ahead. This continued investment demonstrates not only private commitment but also partnership with the City to ensure the arena remains a world-class destination.

The San Jose Chamber of Commerce, where I proudly served as Chair in 2024, has worked closely with the Sharks organization, civic leaders, and stakeholders to ensure that San Jose continues to lead in entertainment sports as an industry. Last year, the Chamber helped bring decision makers to Los Angeles during its annual Study Mission, where exposure to LA Live highlighted the transformative power of these kinds of venues. That experience has helped shape the opportunity before us today.

I respectfully urge the Council to vote in favor of this joint investment. Together, we can ensure that SAP Center remains a cornerstone of our city's identity, a driver of economic activity, and a source of pride for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Adams  
President & CEO

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**FW: SJ Chamber Support for Council Items 2.19, 8.1 and 8.2**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 8/26/2025 8:35 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 3 attachments (847 KB)

SJ Chamber - Sharks Support Letter 082225.pdf; SJ Chamber - 2026 Major Sports Events 082225.pdf; SJ Chamber - SUPPORT 2.19 - Increased Penalties on Blighted Properties.pdf;

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**From:** Leah Toeniskoetter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2025 8:32 AM  
**To:** Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: SJ Chamber Support for Council Items 2.19, 8.1 and 8.2

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Good morning, Toni -  
Forwarding to ensure they were received yesterday.  
Thanks so much,  
Leah

Leah Toeniskoetter

President & CEO

San Jose Chamber of Commerce

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**From:** Kat Angelov [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2025 3:01 PM  
**To:** [mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov) <[mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov)>; District1 <[district1@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district1@sanjoseca.gov)>; District2 <[district2@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district2@sanjoseca.gov)>; District3 <[district3@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district3@sanjoseca.gov)>; [District4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District4@sanjoseca.gov) <[district4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district4@sanjoseca.gov)>; District5 <[district5@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district5@sanjoseca.gov)>; [District6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District6@sanjoseca.gov) <[district6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district6@sanjoseca.gov)>; [District7@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District7@sanjoseca.gov) <[district7@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district7@sanjoseca.gov)>; District8 <[district8@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district8@sanjoseca.gov)>; District9 <[district9@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district9@sanjoseca.gov)>; George Casey <[District10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District10@sanjoseca.gov)> <[District10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District10@sanjoseca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Leah Toeniskoetter [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SJ Chamber Support for Council Items 2.19, 8.1 and 8.2



Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and Honorable Councilmembers Campos, Candelas, Casey, Cohen, Doan, Kamei, Mulcahy, Ortiz, and Tordillos,

On behalf of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce I'd like to express our support for the following items at Council tomorrow:

- 2.19: Amendment of the San José Municipal Code to Increase the Maximum Administrative Penalties.
- 8.1: 2026 Major Sports Events Update
- 8.2: Support for Long-term Agreements with the Sharks Sports & Entertainment

Comment letters are attached for your consideration. Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Kat



**Kat Angelov**

Policy Manager

San Jose Chamber of Commerce



Office: [101 W. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113](#)

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

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**San Jose  
Chamber of Commerce**

August 25, 2025

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

**RE: Item 8.2: Support for Long-term Agreements with the Sharks Sports & Entertainment**

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Councilmembers,

On behalf of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in strong support for the long-term agreement between the City of San Jose and Sharks Sports & Entertainment which will ensure the team remains in San Jose for the next 25 years.

This package of agreements represents a generational investment in San Jose's sports and entertainment future. Extending the Sharks' presence in San Jose through 2051, committing to \$425 million in essential SAP Center renovations, and beginning the planning process for a future downtown Arena District all align squarely with the Chamber's strategic focus on the sports and entertainment economy as a driver of growth, identity, and community vitality.

SAP Center is a critical part of our local tourism economy, with more than 50 million visitors over the 33 years since it opened. Additionally, SAP Center is more than a hockey arena, hosting roughly 150 events, generating \$235 million annually in visitor spending, supporting more than 2,700 jobs, and contributing roughly \$4 million each year in local tax revenues. These benefits ripple through our downtown restaurants, hotels, arts community and small businesses. The commitments included are both timely and essential to elevating San Jose's position as a premier destination for world-class events.

Looking ahead, the commitment to both modernizing the SAP Center and exploring a future Arena District positions San Jose to capture an even larger share of the growing national market for major sporting events, concerts, and cultural gatherings. This is exactly the kind of catalytic investment that ensures San Jose competes with peer cities and that our businesses—from startups to neighborhood storefronts—benefit from a stronger visitor and entertainment economy.

The Chamber urges your approval of the recommended agreements. Thank you for your leadership and vision in prioritizing this transformative step for our city.

Sincerely,

Leah Toeniskoetter  
President & CEO  
San Jose Chamber of Commerce