
FW: Accept Code of Conduct but Reject NQOL Unit

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 6/5/2025 10:04 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: perrysandy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 9:57 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Councilmember Peter Ortiz <district5-sanjoseca.gov@shared1.ccsend.com>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; Councilmember George Casey <district10@sjdistrict10.org>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Accept Code of Conduct but Reject NQOL Unit

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Re: City Council Agenda Item 3.4 June 10, 2025

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

As you are probably aware, Unhoused Response Group has disagreed with some of the Mayor's budget proposals around homelessness. In particular, we have spoken in support of using Measure E funds for both permanent and interim housing (not just interim). We have supported the calls of some Councilmembers to increase funds for homelessness prevention, and we have vocally opposed the so-called "Responsibility to Shelter" program.

We support the idea of implementing a Code of Conduct for Encampments as outlined in the May 30 Soliván – Joseph memo, with some conditions. We support the establishment of an Enhanced Engagement Program (EEP) in the Housing Department to make it happen. However, we strongly oppose creation of the Neighborhood Quality of Life (NQOL) unit inside the San Jose Police Department. Not only is the NQOL unit an unnecessary \$2.1 million diversion of police resources, but it will actually hinder and undermine the very Code of Conduct it is supposed to help implement.

First of all, to be enforceable at all, the Code of Conduct has to include the requirements that the City must meet in order to make the process successful. There has to be trash pick up available. There has to be a biowaste removal program (portapotties for example). Finally, in order to be part of a Code of Conduct, at a minimum, any required shelter or services must actually exist and have openings, and not be merely hypothetical as they so frequently are now. And shelter and services have to be suitable for the needs of the individuals involved. One size does not fit all.

Our main objection to the proposed NQOL unit is that most of its proposed mission could actually be carried out more effectively by the EEP acting alone:

- Enforce municipal ordinances and mitigate health-and-safety impacts at large encampments;
- Connect unsheltered individuals with diversion programs such as the Mission Street Recovery Station and other County-operated alternatives;

- Share information with the Housing Department EEP to support connections to stabilizing services; and
- Refer chronic, non-compliant cases to appropriate drug, alcohol, behavioral-health, or CARE Court pathways rather than traditional incarceration whenever feasible.

Every single one of the tasks outlined in the mission could be equally or better carried out by the EEP, with the possible exception of enforcing municipal ordinances (which we assume refers mainly to trespassing, right-of-way violations, and tow-away zones). Even these could probably be better enforced through a voluntary cooperation method rather than relying on coercion. Councilmember Doan informed us he was able to personally intervene to persuade an unhoused person to put out an unsafe campfire.

The policy of extensive information sharing between the EEP and NQOL will actually be counterproductive to the EEP's work of engaging with encampment residents and connecting them with services. Residents will be understandably reluctant to talk openly to EEP workers about their issues if they believe anything they say can and will be communicated to police and used against them in a court of law. The Soliván – Joseph memo explicitly calls for the EEP to “maintain case files” and “share information” with the NQOL unit. If the Code of Conduct is not intended to be a punitive tool, as the memo states, then there should be no need for an NQOL unit to punish people.

This of course does not mean that people committing serious crimes should not be investigated and arrested, but that is what already happens now and does not require establishment of an NQOL unit.

As with earlier versions of Responsibility to Shelter, the Soliván - Joseph memo still fails to identify exactly how minor misdemeanor arrests will actually connect people to social services, housing, or diversion resources – or at least how it could do so any more effectively than the EEP acting alone. Even when taken to jail, minor violators will quickly be cited and released and will not be removed from “encampment conditions” for more than a few hours.

Our concern is that ongoing rent increases and the threatened cuts to HUD housing programs will cause increased homelessness, and San Jose will continue to fall further and further behind in reaching both its interim and permanent housing goals. The danger is that without available shelter, the City will attempt to “end the era of encampments” through repeated arrests for minor violations in the hope that unhoused people will move to other jurisdictions and/or disappear into the prison system. We should not have to repeat this, but it is a truism that homelessness or even encampments cannot be ended without places for unhoused people to go.

Sincerely,

Unhoused Response Group



FW: Code of Conduct for Encampments - Support

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

Date Mon 6/9/2025 9:25 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (208 KB)
06.06_SJCodeConduct.pdf;

From: Adrian Covert <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:11 AM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Salas, Carl <Carl.Salas@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Leynez Chantres, Alejandra <Alejandra.LeynezChantres@sanjoseca.gov>; Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>; Julian Lake <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Code of Conduct for Encampments - Support

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Greetings Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

Please see the attached letter from the Bay Area Council in support of the Code of Conduct for Encampments ordinance and accompanying budget action. Thank you for considering our views.

Best,

Adrian Covert

Adrian Covert

Senior Vice President, Public Policy

[REDACTED]
The Historic Klamath, Pier 9, The Embarcadero, San Francisco



www.bayareacouncil.org



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June 5, 2025

The Honorable Matt Mahan
Mayor, City of San José
200 E Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Re: Code of Conduct for Encampments (Support)

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, I'm writing to offer our strong support for the staff recommendation to implement the Code of Conduct for Encampments and enabling budget action.

For decades, the state of California and local California jurisdictions have treated unsheltered homelessness as the unfortunate but acceptable cost of respecting the choice of some individuals to remain unsheltered. However, recent research definitively shows that unsheltered homelessness comes with staggering social costs, both to the health and safety of unsheltered individuals and to the broader community of residents, businesses, and public services. Homelessness policy must be centered on saving lives, and that requires bringing people indoors.

The proposed ordinance and budget would amend the Code of Conduct policy to affirm the expectation for the acceptance of shelter or housing offers; launch an enhanced engagement program to offer appropriate shelter and housing placements, track engagement efforts, communicate the code of conduct, coordinate with other city departments; and stand up a Neighborhood Quality of Life Unit in the Policy Department to enforce and mitigate health and safety impacts of large encampments, connect unsheltered individuals with appropriate diversion programs, and refer chronic non-compliant cases to appropriate drug, alcohol, behavioral health, or CARE Court pathway whenever feasible.

Unsheltered homelessness has life and death consequences. A 2022 literature review on unsheltered homelessness and health found that the standardized mortality ratio for an unsheltered homeless individual was nearly three-times higher than their sheltered counterparts; that unsheltered individuals had the greatest risk of developing infectious disease; and that longer durations of unsheltered homelessness were accompanied by increased daily substance use, injection drug use, and dependency. An analysis of homeless deaths occurring across 10 California counties representing 75% of California's homeless population between 2020 and 2022 found that a disproportionate amount of deaths were the result of risk factors elevated by unsheltered conditions, like auto accidents (12 percent) and homicides (eight percent).

These social costs have enormous fiscal impacts as well. Studies estimate that between encampment sweeps, emergency room visits, police interactions, and myriad other interventions, the average unsheltered individual costs society as much as \$60,000 per person per year. With over 4,000 unsheltered individuals in San Jose, that could be as high as \$240 million annually, not counting the negative economic impacts encampments have on business, tourism, tax receipts, and neighborhoods. San José cannot afford to *not* invest in ending the era of encampments.

In short, the proposed Code of Conduct for Encampments is a commonsense approach to bring people indoors, save lives, restore access to public spaces, and serve as a model throughout the state.

Sincerely,



Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council

FW: June 9th City Council: Final Budget Hearing: Support the People's Budget. Items 3.8, 3.11, 3.12

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

Date Mon 6/9/2025 7:56 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Deborah St. Julien <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, June 8, 2025 8:24 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>

Subject: June 9th City Council: Final Budget Hearing: Support the People's Budget. Items 3.8, 3.11, 3.12

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Dear Councilmember Campos, other Councilmembers and Mayor Mahan,

My name is Deborah St. Julien. I have lived at my home in my District 2 in San Jose for 40 years. I am a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Santa Clara County and Co-president of the BOD of my faith community – Urban Sanctuary San Jose. My investment in San Jose is deep and varied. San Jose, and my South San Jose neighborhood is where I raised my kids and grew from a young adult to my older self. I am deeply committed to working for a community that is equitable and safe for all. And my faith is foundational to all I do.

I am writing to ask:

That the Councilmembers and Mayor **to step back from criminalizing our unhoused neighbors**. I know the Mayor has changed the rhetoric of the “Responsibility to Shelter” proposal, but there is still plenty of criminalization with specific language of arresting and booking.

From the budget: Approval of the staff recommendation will result in the City amending the Code of Conduct for Encampments to **establish an expectation for the acceptance of shelter, housing, or services**. An implementation schedule and explanation of the division of duties between the Housing Department and the Police Department, while identifying processes for collaboration, are also provided.

I support memorandums 3.11 and 3.12 from Councilmember Campos which advise education for the public about the newer enhancements and restrictions and the call for the City to develop a detailed operational plan before implementation of “The Code of Conduct for Encampment.”

The cause of people not being housed is not a small percentage of this population resisting shelter – it is the lack of deeply affordable housing for low-income people. **Budgeting to build deeply affordable housing for low-income people needs to be a priority not arresting unhoused people..**

The other issues I have with Mahan's plan is the lack of coordination with the County.

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/santa-clara-county-critical-of-plan-to-arrest-homeless-people/>

Different County leaders called this plan **misguided** (retired Judge Richard Loftus, who used to sit on the Behavioral Health Court.) He called **it a quick-fix political fantasy**, and noted the lack of treatment beds.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen, Sheriff Bob Jonsen and County Executive James Williams said arresting and releasing people for low-level offenses is **counterproductive** — taking away resources and aggravating the criminal justice system.

“At a time of tremendous budgetary challenges, city policies should not divert limited public safety resources to address what is ultimately a problem caused by the lack of affordable housing in our cities.”

County Public Defender Damon Silver said he’s not familiar with any evidence-based research that shows **arresting and criminalizing homelessness has been successful**. Numerous studies indicate it [makes matters worse](#).

“Half-baked incarceration-based proposals inevitably exacerbate the problem and will likely result in catastrophic outcomes for this vulnerable population,” Damon told San José Spotlight.

Chris Ferry, who was director of mental health treatment in the county jail system for more than two decades, said Mahan’s policy is **ill-conceived**.

“Arresting all these people is just like clearing the encampments,” Ferry told San José Spotlight. “They’re going to be back in whatever amount of time. I don’t see it having a potential for success.”

So there you go: **misguided, quick-fix political fantasy, counterproductive, not evidence-based, half-baked, and ill-conceived**.

Protect Measure E funding for permanent affordable housing and homelessness prevention.

As District Attorney Jeff Rosen, Sheriff Bob Jonsen and County Executive James Williams said the number of unhoused folks in our communities is **“ultimately a problem caused by the lack of affordable housing in our cities.”**

Fund the San Jose-specific TRUST team 24/7. This is a proven program that is saving lives. Teams like this should ultimately be supported as robustly as our police department. The City’s own 911 call analysis said over 50% of responses to 911 call results in situations in which armed officers did not need to respond.

4. \$1.5 million for legal services for our immigrant community. I am a trained Rapid Response Network legal observer and was part of the team responding to an ICE action at 393 Blossom Hill Rd on June 3rd & 4th. We were able to give many detainees the RRN number so they were later able to call for legal assistance. We must support our immigrant neighbors.

The budget is a moral document that reflects the values we hold most important. May we work together to make our city, communities and neighborhoods places all can thrive.

Thank you,
Deborah St. Julien
Resident District 2
Volunteer Organizer, SURJ SCC

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FW: Public Comments: item 3.12 (Code of Conduct for Encampments) of City Council meeting on June 10, 2025

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

Date Mon 6/9/2025 1:53 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (84 KB)

ACLU Santa Clara County Comment, item 3.12, City Council, 06-10-2025.pdf;

From: SCCchapter ACLUNC [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 1:36 PM

To: SCCchapter ACLUNC [REDACTED]; City Clerk <city.clerk@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>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Public Comments: item 3.12 (Code of Conduct for Encampments) of City Council meeting on June 10, 2025

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Dear Mayor Mahan, City Councilmembers, and City Clerk,

I hereby submit the attached letter in pdf format as public comments for agenda item 3.12, "Code of Conduct for Encampments," of the City Council meeting to be held on June 10, 2025.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Victor Sin
Chair (volunteer)
Santa Clara County Chapter of ACLU of Northern California

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200 E. Santa Clara Street,
San José CA 95113

June 9, 2025

Re: Item 3.12, Code of Conduct for Encampments

Dear Mayor Mahan and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California, I submit public comments on agenda item 3.12, Code of Conduct for Encampments, of the San José City Council meeting to be held on June 10, 2025.

We understand the city is facing a critical situation with homelessness, and that there are challenging decisions to be made to support the wellbeing of the city's residents. We are staunchly opposed to proposals to arrest and jail unhoused people. People who are unsheltered cannot avoid living outdoors when there is insufficient access to dignified interim or long-term housing. These proposals only criminalize unhoused San José residents, traumatize poor people in our community, and do not make the city safer.

This is both a racial justice and disability justice issue. Black people in Santa Clara County represent 2.7% of the population, but 19% of those who are unhoused¹. A significant portion of San José's unhoused population reports having disabilities. According to data from the 2023 Homeless Census, 20% of respondents reported having a physical disability, 25% reported chronic health issues, and 34% reported psychiatric or emotional conditions².

We appeal to City Council to act on these issues:

1. Rebuke the Responsibility to Shelter Policy. We oppose criminalizing people who have survived the city's failure to build adequate low-income affordable housing. The vast majority of unhoused folks want housing, and sheltering those who are currently waiting to be placed needs to be a priority.

2. Stop the Sweeps. It is ineffective to displace people from one area to the next, and this further exacerbates the problem, traumatizes people, and tears communities and networks of survival apart. It does not end homelessness and is a tremendous waste of the city's taxpayer dollars.

¹ SJSU Human Rights Institute, *Silicon Valley Pain Index*, available at: https://www.sjsu.edu/hri/docs/2024%20SVPI_Final.pdf.

² City of San José, *2023 Homeless Census*, available at: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/housing/resource-library/homeless-reports/homeless-reports-executive-summary>.

3. Fund Trusted Response Urgent Support Team (TRUST). TRUST provides invaluable, non-police responses to residents in mental health crisis, and was born from the experiences of San José families who lost loved ones to police violence. These families, who understand first-hand the lethal risks of police responding to people in mental health crisis, organized through Silicon Valley De-Bug to advocate for a non-police crisis response. The result of their advocacy, TRUST, is a crucial component of the City's emergency response system because it diverts emergency calls that are more appropriately handled by peer support workers and crisis intervention specialists away from police—a federally-recognized core principle of emergency behavioral health care³. However, TRUST remains underfunded and understaffed. To achieve the benefits of having a community-driven, peer-staffed response team, San José must expand the TRUST program to meet the City's service needs.

4. Protect Measure E Funding for Permanent Supportive Housing. Providing people with housing and a team of support is what ends homelessness. We need shelters, interim housing, and housing that adequately matches people's needs, but especially permanent supportive housing so that people can have a forever home in this city. This is something that people of San José voted in favor of and must be honored and taken seriously as a solution. Measure E funding must not be siphoned off for short-term fixes.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to these critical issues.

Respectfully,

Victor Sin

Santa Clara County Volunteer Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California

³ Department of Justice and Department of Health & Human Services, *Guidance for Emergency Responses to People with Behavioral Health or Other Disabilities* (May 2023), at p. 5, https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-05/Sec.%2014%28a%29%20-%20DOJ%20and%20HHS%20Guidance%20on%20Emergency%20Responses%20to%20Individuals%20with%20Behavioral%20Health%20or%20Other%20Disabilities_FINAL.pdf.

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

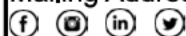


Kat Angelov
Policy Manager
San Jose Chamber of Commerce
[REDACTED]

www.sjchamber.com

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

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





**San Jose
Chamber of Commerce**

June 9, 2025

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

Re: Support for Item 3.12 - Code of Conduct for Encampments

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Councilmembers,

On behalf of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, we write in support of the proposed *Code of Conduct for Encampments*.

San Jose's homelessness crisis is both a moral challenge and an economic one—particularly for our small businesses. When public spaces become default shelters, businesses face increased safety concerns, reduced foot traffic, and a decline in customer activity. These conditions are unsustainable for businesses already struggling with economic uncertainty and undermine public confidence in the City's ability to maintain safe, clean, and accessible neighborhoods.

We appreciate that this proposal seeks to balance compassion and accountability—ensuring shelter and services are offered to our unhoused neighbors, while also establishing clear expectations for behavior in public spaces. This dual approach reflects a thoughtful path forward that respects the dignity of every resident while supporting the health of our broader community.

We recognize that the City faces difficult budget choices, and that not every need in our homelessness response—affordable housing, interim shelters, and prevention—can be fully funded. However, the proposed Code of Conduct represents a practical and humane step that can be implemented now. It creates a more structured pathway for unhoused individuals to access services, while helping restore public spaces vital to San Jose's economic and civic life.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

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

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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 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

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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.

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AACI

Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano
AfroUPRIS

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**Amigos de Guadalupe Center for
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Richard Konda
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Eugene Torres
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Kristopher Scott
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Kiran P
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Sandy Perry
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Lauren Babb
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Jaime Alvarado
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West Valley Community Services

Adriana Caldera Boroffice
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley

Helen Lund
St Paul's United Methodist Church

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)

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

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](https://twitter.com/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](https://twitter.com/SVCN)

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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.

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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

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Destination: Home

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National Compadres Network

Colsaria Henderson
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence

Rhonda Berry
Our City Forest

Eva M Terrazas
Pacific Clinics

Jon Pedigo
PACT

Heather Cleary
Peninsula Family Service

Sandy Perry
South Bay Land Trust

Lauren Babb
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte

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Sujatha Venkatraman

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Adriana Caldera Boroffice

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Helen Lund

St Paul's United Methodist Church

FW: 3.11 and 3.12 6/10/25

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 6/10/2025 1:35 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Gia Pham <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:18 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: 3.11 and 3.12 6/10/25

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Dear San Jose Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Gia Pham, and I am with Housing Choices, a nonprofit organization that advocates for inclusive, affordable housing for people with developmental disabilities. I'm also a member of the Race Equity Action Leadership Coalition.

I support the memo from Councilmember Campos to defer approval of the Code of Conduct until a clear and detailed operational plan is developed, as outlined in the memo. Right now, far too many questions remain unanswered for the Council to responsibly move forward.

For example:

- How will the City ensure people with developmental disabilities—who may not understand the laws around homelessness and encampments being enforced—are not unfairly targeted?
- What specialized training will officers in the Neighborhood Quality of Life Unit receive when engaging with individuals with developmental disabilities who are more sensitive to danger and authority?
- Do we have the capacity in shelter, services, and housing to actually support those being displaced? What's the next step so there's a long term step plan?

The people we serve are often at risk of homelessness due to fixed incomes, a lack of affordable housing, hard to contact and stay in contact when receiving services, and heightened sensitivity to danger, change, and confusion. Rather than introducing punitive language or enforcement mechanisms, we urge the Council to adopt a services-first, housing-centered approach with kindness, collaboration, and patience.

Every year, San José participates in National Night Out with the disability community—a demonstration of trust-building between law enforcement and people with disabilities. That trust is at risk if this plan includes enforcement without safeguards. Criminalizing homelessness—especially for those with developmental disabilities—only makes it harder for people to access help, housing, and employment. Why destroy a trust with a community you spent long cultivating?

We've seen how fear of police contact leads many people with disabilities to avoid outreach altogether. Some have been repeatedly displaced or denied shelter because their disability was misunderstood or misinterpreted as noncompliance - or even if the shelter is not accessible.

Our ask is clear:

- Remove all arrest and criminalization language from this proposal.
- Include a clause requiring that enforcement is a last resort, particularly for individuals with disabilities.
- Prioritize trained community support officers, service providers, and outreach teams, not police, as the first point of contact.

What people experiencing homelessness need is consistent, trauma-informed support—not punishment. We urge the Council to revise the proposal so it reflects a long-term strategy that centers on housing, services, and community-based solutions.

Thank you.

Warm Regards,
Gia Pham

Gia Pham
Communication Coordinator
gia@housingchoices.org

Sobrato Center for Nonprofit
3460 W Bayshore Road, Suite 205
Palo Alto, CA 94303
www.housingchoices.org



Opening new doors for people with developmental disabilities



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