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**FW: No cuts to Library Funding**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Fri 4/25/2025 1:16 PM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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

**From:** Amanda Flowers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 25, 2025 12:05 PM  
**To:** District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** No cuts to Library Funding

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Good morning,

I am reaching out after reading an article in San Jose Spotlight about budget cuts to library funding. As an educator, I am strongly opposed to cutting what is the true backbone of community education, child development, job readiness, and one of our largest community hubs. I myself feel strongly about investing in education as studies have shown a direct correlation between literacy rates and crime rates in communities. But moreover Libraries provide the most basic and valuable social services to every member of our community. In a time when loneliness is a endemic we need to ensure that there are free spaces where anyone can walk in the door and be respected.

I hope my representative ensure that this invaluable resource is protected for years to come because a communities strength can be found in its libraries.

Best,  
Amanda Flowers

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**Fw: A Message from Mayor Matt**

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**From** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

**Date** Mon 4/28/2025 9:41 AM

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

**Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas**

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

[rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov)

*\*Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to [rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov) before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting\* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

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

**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 7:45 AM

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

**Subject:** FW: A Message from Mayor Matt

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**From:** Barbara Gallaty <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 27, 2025 2:56 PM

**To:** Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Torres, Omar <Omar.Torres@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Cranford, Sandra <Sandra.Cranford@sanjoseca.gov>; Wilcox, Leland <Leland.Wilcox@sanjoseca.gov>; Solivan, Erik <Erik.Solivan@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; HomelessConcerns <homelessconcerns@sanjoseca.gov>; beautifysj <beautifysj@sanjoseca.gov>; issa@safersj.com; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Hertzberg, Keith <Keith.Hertzberg@sanjoseca.gov>

**Cc:** Randall Vazquez <[REDACTED]> gregorec <[REDACTED]> martabulaich <[REDACTED]> Stanton, Garrett <Garrett.Stanton@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamath, Sudha <Sudha.Kamath@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: A Message from Mayor Matt

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Thanks for the update. I hope like many people you are saving money because this is the beginning of many more cuts coming our way. I hope your prepared.

You now own the homeless situation by giving them a place to live, food and cash and getting nothing in return. And that's going to cost a lot of money.

Especially since the problem was dismissed, and laws were ignored and we tax payers were also ignored, as it grew larger and larger, over the last 4 years.

Now you will be responsible for homeless that were not our problem but came here because they new we would let them pull up a curb and camp there and no one would do anything.

And also some who were sent or pushed here from other places, while they cleaned up their end of the city. You own it!

Most of us predicted cuts from this new government I hope you did also. Because these people are now your responsibility.

And I hope you didn't spend all the tax dollars on tiny homes, and now expect us to pay more because your policies are being cut. Oops.....

Good Luck,  
Barbara Gallaty

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**From:** Mayor Matt Mahan <[mayormatt\\_at\\_sanjosecagov\\_ccsend\\_com\\_gd72bt2ds68efm\\_91br5714@icloud.com](mailto:mayormatt_at_sanjosecagov_ccsend_com_gd72bt2ds68efm_91br5714@icloud.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 27, 2025 1:29 PM

**To:** Hide My Email [REDACTED]

**Subject:** A Message from Mayor Matt



Dear Neighbor,

In our last newsletter, I told you about going up to Sacramento to stand alongside Senator Catherine Blakespear to announce a bold piece of legislation — one that would have made sure every level of government does its fair share to address homelessness.

Less than two weeks later, the bill we championed was gutted.

We asked for something simple: if cities like San José step up to build shelter and interim housing, counties — who have the jurisdiction, the resources, and much larger budgets — should fund 50% of the operating costs. It's only fair, and it's the only way to move from endless process to a real outcome — an end to the era of encampments.

Instead, Sacramento insiders watered the bill down to yet another study. Another layer of analysis while people continue to suffer on the streets, families continue to pay the price, and taxpayers

continue to watch billions spent with too little to show for it.

We need better. We need more leaders like Senator Blakespear who are willing to challenge the status quo. And we need to keep fighting — not just for more investment, but for faster, smarter investment at every level of government. If you'd like to be part of that fight, you can sign up [here](#).

While some in Sacramento were strategizing how to create less change, San Jose was moving forward with more. We celebrated the opening of Via del Oro — our newest interim housing community — and broke ground at Taylor Street, our first safe sleeping site. These projects are more than just beds — they are proof that when we are laser-focused on achievable outcomes (such as providing a safe, dignified bed for every person on our streets), we can deliver real results.

Via del Oro was built in less than one year on privately-owned land, at a lower cost than past interim housing sites, and will be more affordable to operate than any site we've opened yet. Already, over 70 people have moved in with access to case management and supportive services. Meanwhile, Taylor Street will open this summer, offering 56 placements with basic necessities like security, sanitation, and access to case management, with a focus on quickly moving people into longer-term solutions.



Together with other new sites that opened this year like Branham Lane and Berryessa Safe Parking, these projects are moving us toward our bold goal of opening 1,000 new safe, dignified placements by the end of 2025 — giving real alternatives to our unhoused neighbors and real relief to neighborhoods across the city.

But getting people indoors is only part of the solution. We're also committed to reclaiming our public spaces for community use. At Columbus Park, once a hub for youth sports and families, unmanaged encampments and rising 911 calls have made it unsafe for everyone. That's why we're moving forward with a plan to decommission the encampment and break ground on a revitalized park — with new soccer fields, a playground, shaded paseos, and courts for pickleball, futsal, and basketball. By late 2027, Columbus Park will once again be a place for San José families to gather, play, and take pride in their city.





This work — opening shelter, reclaiming parks, restoring safety and dignity — is happening because San José has chosen action over excuses. But let's be clear: we can't solve this crisis alone. In fact, we've just about reached our limit. We cannot continue to build out a shelter system that will get us to functional zero without the support of other levels of government. We need the County to invest in mental health and addiction services. We need the State to create a framework that requires every city, big or small, to do their part.

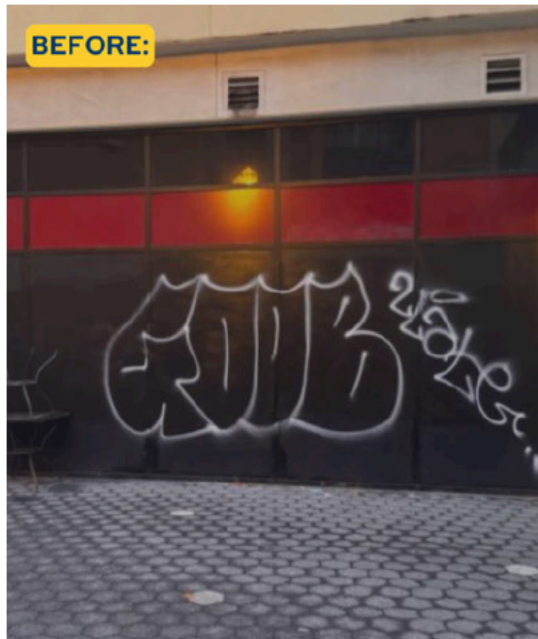
That's exactly why Senator Blakespear and I pushed for SB 16 — to create a real, statewide model of shared responsibility. The insiders' failure to even consider this bill as drafted means the burden continues to fall unfairly on a handful of cities willing to act, while others sit on the sidelines. That's not leadership. That's not sustainable. And it's not fair to the people still suffering on our streets — or the taxpayers who are paying the price for political inaction.

San José is doing its part. It's time Sacramento demands every city and county does theirs too.

Sincerely,

Mayor Matt

# Graffiti Be Gone



Over the past several months, residents and small business owners have reported a troubling vandalism spree — some gang-related, some the work of repeat graffiti offenders. Thanks to incredible detective work by the San José Police Department and strong collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, two suspects are now in custody and facing serious charges.

One individual is believed to be responsible for over 70 separate acts of vandalism — damaging businesses, public spaces, and private property across our downtown. But this suspect didn't just target San Jose. Earlier this week, I was driving to speak at an event in San Francisco and saw the same moniker defacing the side of a building. The bad actors we hold accountable don't just harm San Jose — they harm our entire region. And we are doing our part to end their crime sprees for our residents and for our neighboring cities.

Another suspect, linked to at least 19 gang-motivated incidents, was found carrying both spray paint and a concealed firearm when arrested. Let's be clear: this isn't just graffiti — it's illegal, dangerous, and corrosive to our community.

We take the sanctity of our shared spaces seriously. Graffiti may seem minor to some, but when it becomes constant — and when it's driven by gang activity — it erodes public safety, community pride, and stacks up costs against our small business owners who are often operating on thin profit

margins. But these arrests are about more than property damage — they're about reclaiming our neighborhoods.

I want to thank Chief Paul Joseph, the Gang Investigations Unit, Captain Miri and our Central Division Patrol Officers, and the DA's Office for their exceptional effort. I also want to thank the residents who submitted tips through our 3-1-1 system — your eyes and voices make a difference.

# Blue City Blues

There has been a lot of talk about the governance failures plaguing big cities in many parts of the nation. While this discussion often turns partisan and contentious, I'm more interested in figuring out what works—what are the policies and programs that will deliver the outcomes we want?

So it was a pleasure to join the Blue City Blues podcast last week to reflect on why many big cities are failing at the basics and how we might take a different path forward. Hosts Sandeep and David asked some great questions and shared their perspective from Seattle while I did my best to articulate how we are tackling problems in San Jose. I hope you'll give it a listen and let me know what you think!





# What's in the Budget?

Over the past few weeks, I've visited Districts 5, 7, 8, and 10 to talk about what's in the budget. I've heard great questions, received important feedback, and learned more about your top priorities through these town halls.




Between now and June, I'll be visiting every single district to give you as many opportunities as possible to have your voice heard. You can find the full list and RSVP right [here](#).




# News of Note

*The New York Times*

**SAN JOSE CONSIDERS ARRESTING  
HOMELESS PEOPLE WHO REFUSE HOUSING**

**NBC**  **BAY AREA**

**SAN JOSE UNVEILS INTERIM HOUSING  
PROJECT ON PRIVATE LAND**

**NBC**  **BAY AREA**

**SAN JOSE COLUMBUS PARK REVITALIZATION  
PLAN WOULD SHUT DOWN UNHOUSED  
ENCAMPMENT**

# Upcoming Events

## **Basking Ridge Park Beautification & Tree Planting**

Saturday, May 10th at 8:30 AM

619-643 Chelsea Crossing

Join your neighbors and Team Mahan for a park beautification at Basking Ridge on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 8:30 AM. Plant trees, paint benches, pick up litter, and work with us to create a cleaner, safer San Jose! [RSVP here](#).

## **Education Day! San Jose Giants vs. Lake Elsinore Storm**

Tuesday, May 9th at 11am

Excite Ballpark

The San Jose Giants' Education Day is a unique day for local schools to enjoy an educational and fun baseball-themed field trip. Tickets include educational learning stations, baseball-themed activities and a baseball game at Excite Ballpark! [Buy tickets here](#).

## **San Jose State of the City**

Saturday, May 17th at 10am

Arena Green East, 340 West Saint John Street San Jose, CA 95110

Show your civic pride alongside your neighbors at our annual event focused on service and celebration! After a short formal program with performances and a speech by Mayor Mahan, we'll paint art projects, plant trees and beautify the area before coming back together for a picnic with music, games and activities. Don't miss out – tickets are running low! [RSVP here](#).

## **San Jose Jazz Summer Fest**

Friday, August 8th to Sunday, August 10th

Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park, 1 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113

San José — you showed up for Fisher a couple weeks ago, but the party isn't over! San Jose Jazz Summer Fest is back this August, with headliners like Mavis Staples and Common coming to visit Silicon Valley's Downtown. Get your tickets [here](#)!

# Community Corner



Often, when someone is deep in the throes of an addiction or mental health crisis, they can't make a rational decision about their own well-being — but they are making a choice we can't allow: to live and far too frequently die on our streets even when we offer shelter. Without accountability for coming indoors, recovery is rare. Thanks to Ellison Barber from NBC for having me on. This conversation is hard but necessary if we hope to end the era of encampments in California because the status quo has clearly failed our most vulnerable.





Happy Easter from the Mahan Family!

### An Easter Surprise



This Easter, I met San José's Lady Mayor! She was found scared and alone in the City Hall parking garage. Just before Easter, she returned — healthy, loved, and surrounded by the people who helped save her. As shelters overflow and impulse Easter adoptions rise, Lady Mayor reminds us: fostering saves lives. Thank you to SaveABunny for all you do!



**[Visit our Website!](#)**



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**FW: Please vote NO on Item 3.3 on May 13**

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

**Date** Thu 5/8/2025 9:06 AM

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

 1 attachment (111 KB)

LWVSJSC Real Estate Transfer Tax Letter.pdf;

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**From:** Diane McNutt - [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:22 PM

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

**Cc:** Salas, Carl <Carl.Salas@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Diane McNutt [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Please vote NO on Item 3.3 on May 13

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We ask that you vote NO on item 3.3 concerning the usage of Measure E Real Property Transfer Tax Revenues. See our attached letter which explains our position.

Thank you for your service to the residents of San Jose.

Diane McNutt, President, League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara  
[lwvsjsc.org](http://lwvsjsc.org)

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P.O. Box 5374  
San Jose, CA 95150  
May 8, 2025

To: Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley and Councilmembers Kamei, Campos, Salas, Cohen, Ortiz, Mulcahy, Doan, Candelas and Casey

cc: City Clerk

**RE: Agenda Item 3.3** – Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets and the 2025-2026 Proposed Fees & Charges for the City of San Jose including a Revision of the Percentage Allocations of Measure E Real Property Transfer Tax Revenues

The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara wrote previously to oppose the recommendation in the Mayor's March Budget to reallocate Measure E Real Property Transfer Tax revenues. The League now urges you to **VOTE NO** on the Administration's proposed change in Council Policy 1-18, Section 22 allowing most of Measure E revenues to be spent on temporary homelessness sheltering and support. The League asks you to direct the City Manager to **conduct a full cost-benefit analysis where the long-term taxpayer costs are shown.**

### **Impact on Housing Element**

In a letter dated June 18, 2023, the League supported forwarding the Housing Element to HCD for compliance review. San Jose, after multiple revisions, now has a state-certified, 8-year housing plan to build some 60,000 homes. The Housing Element requires building at all levels of affordability. However, the Administration recommends removing specific percentage allocations for the development of new affordable housing by area median income.

The League is concerned that the use of all Real Property Transfer Tax revenue for only temporary, interim housing could lead to de-certification and subject the City to potential liability. The following seem most in jeopardy: P-2, P-3, P-18, P-21, R-2, R-13 and N-5. R-13, Soft Story Retrofit had a grant plus matching funds from Measure E. With 1.7 individuals becoming homeless for everyone (1) that is housed, a Preservation NOFA seems badly needed along with P-2 which would provide Permanent Supportive Housing for our most vulnerable.

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

The manipulation of funds in Measure E in the current budget, and the suggested policy changes do not appear to have the basis of a full analysis including the long-term costs and benefits of the requested changes for taxpayers. There is no data on whether the shift of Measure E funds over the last couple of years has yielded the purported benefits in the short term. The Budget Office notes that in a few years the impact on the Operating Budget will reach \$92 million. Reaching functional zero results in annual operating costs of \$234 million

by the Housing Department's own estimate. There appears to be no long-term plan to sustain the fiscal impacts of a shelter-first approach rather than investing in more aspects in the continuum of care. There is no discussion of the lost opportunity costs of shovel ready projects that leverage the City's contribution. While it may cost close to \$1 million per door to construct affordable housing, the impact on the Operating Budget funding city services is far less. Currently it is \$200,000 plus.

### **Criminalization of Homelessness**

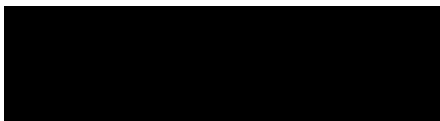
The League of Women Voters California has a Homelessness Action Policy that prohibits policies, practices, regulations and laws that criminalize, penalize, or permit the harassment of people experiencing homelessness. The League expresses extreme concern regarding policies currently under consideration that may lead to costly, ineffective incarceration of individuals experiencing homelessness.

### **Good Governance**

The League worked very hard to pass Measure E in 2020. We were fully aware of the meaning of a General Purpose tax. It was stated clearly in the ballot measure which also listed a number of uses for any revenues generated.

Guardrails were created well before the vote by the creation of Council Policy 1-18, Section 22. Such an extreme change in adopted council policy should not be relegated to the budget appropriation process. Lack of faith and confidence in governmental institutions has reached a crisis level. To keep faith with those that voted on Measure E, the **League recommends that you postpone a permanent decision on Section 22 until a robust community engagement process can be conducted where stakeholders and the general public are granted more than one or two minutes to comment.**

Respectfully,



Diane McNutt, President  
League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara  
president@lwvsjsc.org