

Letter Concerning Item 3.7 for June 14, 2022 City Council Meeting

Claire Kennedy <[REDACTED]>

Fri 6/10/2022 10:59 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> City Clerk

Cc: Reed, Jim <[REDACTED]> Gomez, David <[REDACTED]> Sandoval, Vanessa
<[REDACTED]> Ramos, Christina M <[REDACTED]> Brown, Stacey
<[REDACTED]> Groen, Mary Anne <[REDACTED]> Arreola, Kiara
<[REDACTED]> Kaspar, Nick <[REDACTED]> McGarrity, Patrick
<[REDACTED]> Hughes, Scott <[REDACTED]> Quevedo, Matthew
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Nick Kuwada <[REDACTED]> Kyra Kazantzis
<[REDACTED]> Alan Gouig <[REDACTED]>

📎 1 attachments (133 KB)

Letter to CSJ re Charter Equity Proposals FY23 2022.06.07 .pdf;

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Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

Please see attached a letter prepared by the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits, in consultation with the Racial Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Coalition regarding the Charter Commission Equity Proposals. We look forward to your discussion around this and other related items.

Please note, the attached letter is a resend in light of **Item 3.7, Proposed Ballot Measure on City Charter Amendment for the November 8, 2022 General Election** being deferred to next Tuesday's June 14 meeting.

Warmest regards,

Claire Kennedy, MPA | Policy + Advocacy Fellow

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

[REDACTED] Web: svcn.org | Twitter: [@SVCN](https://twitter.com/SVCN)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

It's Membership Renewal Time!

June 7, 2022

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

Re: Item 3.5, REAL coalition member support for Charter Commission Equity Proposals

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council:

This letter was prepared by the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits, in consultation with the Race Equity Action Leadership (REAL) coalition.

REAL Coalition

The REAL community of nonprofit leaders and allies has been meeting since June 2020 to use our positional power to advocate for a more racially-just and equitable society; to establish a peer network of leaders committed to fighting white supremacy and systemic racism in ourselves and our institutions; and to hold each other accountable to the promises we made in the Nonprofit Racial Equity Pledge. The REAL coalition is broadly representative of the nonprofit community including human and community services, behavioral health and health, arts and culture, domestic violence, older adults, food distribution, education, environmental, farming, legal, disability rights, LGTBQ rights, ethnic, immigrant rights, housing and homelessness, criminal justice reform, urban planning, and intermediary organizations, and others. Over 125 organizations have participated in the REAL coalition.

Please consider this letter signed by 42 nonprofit and ally members of the REAL coalition in your deliberations regarding the equity proposals from the San José Charter Commission. We ask Council to vote yes to place on the November 2022 ballot a charter amendment that would:

- Require that the City have a commission to govern ethics and municipal elections and campaigns;

- Allow San José residents who are not qualified electors and/or U.S. citizens to serve on the City’s Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, and Salary Setting Commission;
- Update Charter language to be gender neutral; and
- Require the City Council to adopt a statement of values around social equity, as well as creating standards and assessment processes for equity, with the language proposed by Councilmembers Jimenez, Cohen, and Foley.

These Charter amendments will add to the emerging culture of racial equity within the City of San José and ensure that the entire community understands the equity values that our City holds.

Best regards,

Kyra Kazantzis
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Vaughn Villaverde
AACI

Almaz Negash
African Diaspora Network

Maritza Maldonado
Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment

Richard Konda
Asian Law Alliance

Sparky Harlan
Bill Wilson Center

Carmen Brammer
Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet

Gregory Kepferle
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Pete Settelmayer
Downtown College Prep

Shawn Gerth
EduCare Silicon Valley

Gisela Bushey
Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen

Reymundo Espinoza
Gardner Health Services

Veronica Goei
Grail Family Services

Susan Frazer
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

Mayra Pelagio
Latinos United for a New America (LUNA)

Quency Phillips
Lighthouse Building Back Better

Gloria Baxter
Lighthouse of Hope Counseling Center

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

Walter Wilson
Minority Business Consortium

David Mineta
Momentum for Health

Ellina Yin
Only in San José

Eva M. Terrazas
Pacific Clinics

Heather Cleary
Peninsula Family Services

Lauren Babb
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte

Nathan Svoboda
Project MORE

Carole Conn
Project Sentinel

Kathy Cordova
Recovery Cafe San José

Poncho Guevara
Sacred Heart Community Service

Dorsey Moore
San José Conservation Corps & Charter School

Brendan Rawson
San José Jazz

Carlos Rosario
Santa Clara County Black Lawyers Association

William Armaline
SJSU Human Rights Institute (HRI)

Victor Vasquez
SOMOS Mayfair

Marie Bernard
Sunnyvale Community Services

Regina Celestin Williams
SV@Home

Yvonne Maxwell
Ujima Adult and Family Services

Cayce Hill
Veggielution

Kylie Clark
West Valley Community Services

Jeffrey Buchanan
Working Partnerships USA

Adriana Caldera Boroffice
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley

Comment for Council Meeting item 3.7

Greg Holsen <[REDACTED]>

Tue 6/14/2022 1:30 PM

To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

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It is unbelievable to me that the city would even consider allowing non-citizens to serve on key commissions. The Planning Commission weighs in heavily on all land-use issues. The Salary Setting Commission recommends salary rates for the Councilmembers and Mayor. Why not just have individuals from Newark, New Jersey serve on our committees. The mayor of San Jose does not value the talent, passion or support of the residents of San Jose as is evident in designing the logo of San Jose in Colorado (because as we all know San Jose is some backwater city with no design ability - they don't even have the worlds largest design tech company headquartered in San Jose { Adobe} which could have done this with local talent). No, apparently we have to stock our commissions with people who have illegally entered our country and are not citizens because just like logo design talent, this city shows its resentment for its own residents to fill critical roles in determining key aspects of San Jose's future. It is this lack of judgment that makes the San Jose City Council laughable at times instead of making clear decisions that affect the quality of life in San Jose. You are saying that people who don't live here (non-citizens by definition) or people who have illegally entered our community when so many others have gone through the proper processes to citizenship are relevant to making choices that affect the very day-to-day development of our community and other factors that affect taxes and services. We need better leadership than this to have even considered this entry onto the Agenda. As I watch the parks wither and die and considerations like high-density housing next to single-family homes, we can clearly see the priorities of San Jose have been lost to wokeism. Can you please get back to looking at how we can staff the park departments so they can take care of our parks instead of wasting important time figuring out how you will allow the people of New Jersey, Birmingham, Chicago or any other non-citizen to make decisions for our community? This council could do more and be better if you would actually focus on what is good for San Jose residents instead of these types of ridiculous proposals.

Respectfully,

Greg Holsen

[REDACTED]

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