



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Carrasco

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: August 20, 2020

Approved by:

Date: August 20, 2020

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND EQUITY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to agendize for the September 1, 2020 City Council meeting for a discussion and consideration of the recommendations from the Health and Equity Task Force and for the City Manager to provide a written response to the recommendations relevant to the City.

BACKGROUND

Racial disparities within health care and health outcomes have long existed in our nation, and the current global pandemic has only further exasperated the negative outcomes. These disparities are apparent in the data on who is being infected and dying from COVID-19. The Santa Clara County Public Health data shows that Santa Clara County's Black and Latino populations have suffered a disproportionate share of coronavirus cases and deaths. Rates of infection are nearly three times higher in low-income neighborhoods in East San Jose and South County than in the wealthiest suburbs. Many of the ZIP codes with the highest case rates are clustered in and around East San Jose, a predominantly low-income Latino neighborhood. Latinos make up 25.8% of the Valley of Hearts Delight population but 33.3% of all coronavirus deaths and 53.9 of all infections. The white population is nearly the same size — 32% — but when it comes to deaths only 30.4% of those who have died so far in the pandemic were white.

This Spring, leaders in Santa Clara County created a task force to address health and racial disparities generated and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Health and Racial Equity Task Force, led by myself and State Assemblymember Kansan Chu, convenes over a dozen community members, nonprofit health care leaders, labor

representatives and elected officials to advance strategies that promote health and racial equity through the local COVID-19 response. The recommendations attached were developed by the task force and include solutions at the local, state and federal levels.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all of the members of the task force who have taken their time and effort to provide critical recommendations to stem the disparities during these challenging times. We look forward to working collaboratively with our City, County, and State leaders to address these systematic disparities permanently.