



# Item 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

May 20, 2025

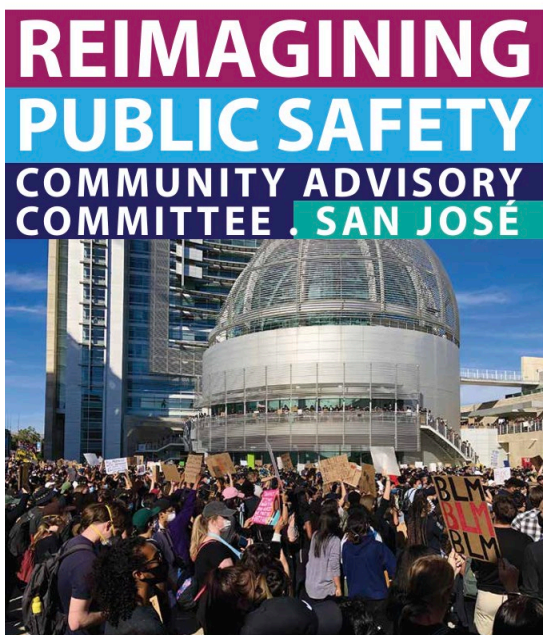
**Sarah Zárate** Director, City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations  
**Kailyn Kenney** Assistant to the City Manager  
**Sujata Warrior** Battered Women's Justice Project

**City of San José**

**City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations**

# Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

## Background: Project History



### City Council & Committee Actions (2022 & 2023)

**Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee City Council Report.** City Council accepted report recommending broad array of public safety reforms.

May 2022

**Police Department Reform & Operational Improvement PSFSS Report.** Staff report identified (3) priority projects in collaboration with Racial Equity Action Leadership Coalition (REAL). City Council cross-reference

May 2023

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Adopted by City Council.** City Council passed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget with direction related to (3) priority projects.

June 2023

**Police Department Reform and Operational Improvement City Council Report.** Staff issued Supplemental Memorandum providing a workplan for (3) priority projects.

August 2023

### Priority Project Reports to City Council (2024 & 2025)

February 2024

**Violence Prevention Service Model City Council Report.** Staff examined violence prevention efforts in other jurisdictions and analyzed them against San José's approach.

February 2024

**911 Event Data Analysis City Council Report.** Staff evaluated (9) categories of police events for possible development of alternative service models.

February 2025

**Expanding Alternative & Co-Response Programs City Council Report.** Staff provided update on February 2024 City Council direction and Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence project.

May 2025

**Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence City Council Report.** Staff and consultant bring community engagement findings and recommendations.

# Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

## Background: Identifying Priority Projects from Reimagining Public Safety Advisory Committee Recommendations

### City Manager's Office collaborated with advocates (REAL Coalition)

- ❖ Three priority projects identified (complimentary FY 2023-2024 budget direction)
  - Local Government Violence Prevention Research
    - ✓ Presented to City Council February 2024
    - ✓ Subsequent MBA issued May 2024
  - Exploring Alternate and Co-Response Models to Select 9-1-1 Calls for Service
    - ✓ Presented to City Council February 2024
    - ✓ Follow up direction brought to City Council February 2025
  - Community-Based Solutions to Domestic Violence
    - ✓ Project update during February 2025 alternative and co-response models report
    - ✓ Final consultant report is before City Council today

# Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

## Background: Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

### Reimagining Public Safety

#### Community Advisory Committee Recommendation #9

#### Gender-based violence

9

[AS3] The City of San José will develop alternative community-based response programs for gender-based violence that provide an alternative to law enforcement involvement. Programs may involve community teams designed to safely intervene in incidents of domestic violence, and survivor-led restorative practices for low-level gender-based violent crimes.

- Mayor's March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 directed, and Adopted Budget included, \$400,000 for a Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence project, funding a previously identified priority project.
- Intended to engage the community on gaps in domestic violence services outside of law enforcement.
- (3) RFPs issued; final procurement process selected Battered Women's Justice Project, who partnered with (2) local non-profits – Maitri and Caminar

# City of San José Study: Scope

- ❖ Literature review of domestic violence frameworks and models
- ❖ Community needs assessment and asset scan for domestic violence services in San José, especially examining services available to underserved groups
- ❖ Community outreach process centering those affected most by domestic violence
- ❖ Final report with findings and recommendations based on trends and community needs

# Key Findings

**1. Naming the Problem and Education for Social Change**

**2. The Importance of Healing and the Creation of Community-centric Healing Pathways**

**3. Interrupting Harmful Interventions and Expanding New Pathways to Safety**

# Recommendations

- ❖ Culturally Responsive Domestic Violence Education
- ❖ Create a Culturally Responsive Hub
- ❖ Center Survivor Realities
- ❖ Invest in Building Capacity
- ❖ Strengthen City Presence
- ❖ Invest in On-going Training
- ❖ Strengthen Disability Inclusive Services and Infrastructure
- ❖ Rethink Housing Models
- ❖ Clarity Around Definitions and Terms
- ❖ Measure Domestic Violence Work in Culturally Responsive Ways



## Contact Information:

Maria José Fletcher, Director, [mjfletcher@bwjp.org](mailto:mjfletcher@bwjp.org)

Sujata Warriar, Chief Strategy Officer, [swarrier@bwjp.org](mailto:swarrier@bwjp.org)

Amy Sanchez, Chief Executive Officer, [asanchez@bwjp.org](mailto:asanchez@bwjp.org)



# Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

## Next Steps

Staff will collaborate with the County of Santa Clara Office of Gender-Based Violence and use recommendations to inform intersecting programs

### Citywide

- County Partnerships
- Communications
- Training

### Racial & Social Equity

- Welcoming San José
- Visa Legal Support
- Disability Affairs

### Housing

- Community Plan to End Homelessness
- County Partnerships
- Dedicated Housing Options

### Neighborhood Services

- Children & Youth Master Plan
- Youth Empowerment Alliance
- Female Intervention Team
- Opioid Overdose Prevention grant program

### Public Works

- Safety Placards

### Police

- Training
- Existing YWCA contracts



# Item 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

May 20, 2025

## Recommendation

- ✓ Accept the Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence Report

**Sarah Zárate** Director, City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations

**Kailyn Kenney** Assistant to the City Manager

**Consultant** Battered Women's Justice Project

**City of San José**

**City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations**

