

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE APPROVING WORKING PARTNERSHIPS USA'S ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VTA SOLIDARITY FUND TO COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE DONATIONS TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY RAIL YARD MASS SHOOTING

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2021, a mass shooting occurred at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority ("VTA") light rail yard in the City of San José, where an armed VTA employee opened fire on his colleagues, killing nine people before taking his own life (the "VTA Light Rail Tragedy"); and

WHEREAS, the need for increased public safety personnel, first responders, public health professionals, community service officers and other officials to work long hours both in direct response to the shooting, in investigating the crime scene and in dealing with the aftermath has stressed City of San José ("City") resources; and

WHEREAS, individuals, including residents of San José, residents of California, and others, as well as numerous businesses, have exhibited extraordinary generosity in seeking to help those who were most impacted by the VTA Light Rail Tragedy; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the burdens imposed on it to field inquiries for community support, collect gifts and monetary donations and ensure appropriate distribution, assist the victims in receiving both financial and other restitution, and provide a vehicle to centralize the community's efforts to assist those affected by the VTA Light Rail Tragedy; and

WHEREAS, after the VTA Light Rail Tragedy, Working Partnerships USA ("WPUSA") established a fund (the "VTA Solidarity Fund") for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, WPUSA's VTA Solidarity Fund lessens the City's governmental burdens by serving as a centralized vehicle for receiving and distributing those gifts and contributions, fielding inquiries for community support, assisting victims in receiving both financial and other restitution, ensuring appropriate distribution, and providing a vehicle to centralize the community's efforts to assist those affected by the VTA Light Rail Tragedy; and

WHEREAS, the City anticipates that all of the funds collected and pledged to date will be distributed to those individuals and families most affected by the VTA Light Rail Tragedy; and

WHEREAS, the City anticipates that the VTA Solidarity Fund will receive a continuing stream of contributions thereafter to continue to provide support for those affected by the VTA Light Rail Tragedy; and

WHEREAS, to decrease the likelihood of people and organizations inadvertently donating funds to fraudulent charities, the City deems it prudent to approve WPUSA's establishment, operation and oversight of the VTA Solidarity Fund as the single vehicle where donations could be channeled that would address the loss suffered by victims and thereby lessen the City's governmental burdens; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the VTA Solidarity Fund will be used to address these concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:

1. The City of San José approves the VTA Solidarity Fund to be operated by Working Partnerships USA, which will lessen the governmental burdens caused by the VTA Light Rail Tragedy by alleviating the suffering of those directly harmed by that event; and
2. The City of San José approves the VTA Solidarity Fund to (i) provide a single vehicle to receive contributions which immediately began pouring in from the public in the wake of the VTA Light Rail Tragedy, and thereby avoid the misdirection of donations to fraudulent organizations; (ii) provide the infrastructure to coordinate the collection, administration and distribution of these funds in a manner consistent with the City's interest in assisting the victims of the attacks with financial and other restitution; and (iii) act as a central resource to allow those affected by the VTA Light Rail Tragedy to find appropriate and reputable services; and
3. The City of San José acknowledges that Working Partnerships USA managing the VTA Solidarity Fund allows the City to respond immediately to those in need while also freeing up City resources for other purposes, thereby lessening the burdens of government; and
4. The City of San José approves the establishment of an Oversight Committee, to consist of community leaders selected by Working Partnerships USA, to oversee the VTA Solidarity Fund, to develop a protocol for the distribution of assistance to those most seriously affected by the VTA Light Rail Tragedy, and to ensure transparency and accountability to the victims' families, donors, and the community.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

SAM LICCARDO
Mayor

ATTEST:

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk