

May 3, 2021

David Sykes
City Manager, City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Dear Mr. Sykes,

As leaders of community-based organizations committed to advancing racial justice in Silicon Valley--and members of the Race Equity Action Leadership coalition--we stand in solidarity with the April 27, 2021, memorandum from the Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet and NAACP of SJ/SV announcing the exit of members from the Reimagining Community Safety Advisory Group.

We share the concerns articulated in the memo, including the sincere frustration at the inefficient and ineffective process, harmful facilitation, and lack of clarity in the focus of the body from the onset. Those of us serving on the Advisory Group will also halt our participation in the current formation of the process.

We endorse the proposal of reengaging in a community-led process that centers the voices of community members directly impacted by the criminal justice system, with clear goals and a shared analysis of the problems we are collectively trying to solve. We look forward to partnering in good faith with the City to develop a more effective structure that moves this critical work forward.

Sincerely,

Poncho Guevara, Sacred Heart Community Service
Darcie Green, Community Health Advocate
Sparky Harlan, Bill Wilson Center
Maritza Maldonado, Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment
Mimi Nguyen, Vietnamese American Roundtable
Teresa Alvarado, Morado Consulting
Shiloh Andrade Ballard, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
Gloria Baxter, LCSW, Lighthouse of Hope
Rhonda Berry, Our City Forest
Zahra Billoo, CAIR San Francisco Bay Area
Bob Brownstein, Working Partnerships USA
Heather Cleary, Peninsula Family Service
Veronica Goei, Grail Family Services
Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez, MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana
Kyra Kazantzis, Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN)
Richard Konda, Asian Law Alliance
Camille Llanes-Fontanilla, SOMOS Mayfair
Erin O'Brien, Community Solutions
Mayra Pelagio, Latinos United for a New America
MyLinh Pham, Asian American Center of Santa Clara County
Susie Rivera, Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)
Carlos Rosario, Santa Clara County Black Lawyers
Josh Selo, West Valley Community Services
Pete Settlemayer, City Year San José
Shelley Swan, Carry the Vision
Eva Terrazas, Uplift Family Services
Wisa Uemura, San Jose Taiko
Quyen Vuong, International Children Assistance Network (ICAN)