
FW: No cuts to Library Funding

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Fri 4/25/2025 1:16 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Amanda Flowers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 12:05 PM
To: District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: No cuts to Library Funding

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Good morning,

I am reaching out after reading an article in San Jose Spotlight about budget cuts to library funding. As an educator, I am strongly opposed to cutting what is the true backbone of community education, child development, job readiness, and one of our largest community hubs. I myself feel strongly about investing in education as studies have shown a direct correlation between literacy rates and crime rates in communities. But moreover Libraries provide the most basic and valuable social services to every member of our community. In a time when loneliness is a endemic we need to ensure that there are free spaces where anyone can walk in the door and be respected.

I hope my representative ensure that this invaluable resource is protected for years to come because a communities strength can be found in its libraries.

Best,
Amanda Flowers

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Fw: A Message from Mayor Matt

From Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Mon 4/28/2025 9:41 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

**Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 7:45 AM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: FW: A Message from Mayor Matt

From: Barbara Gallaty <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, April 27, 2025 2:56 PM

To: Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Torres, Omar <Omar.Torres@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Cranford, Sandra <Sandra.Cranford@sanjoseca.gov>; Wilcox, Leland <Leland.Wilcox@sanjoseca.gov>; Solivan, Erik <Erik.Solivan@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; HomelessConcerns <homelessconcerns@sanjoseca.gov>; beautifysj <beautifysj@sanjoseca.gov>; issa [REDACTED] Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Hertzberg, Keith <Keith.Hertzberg@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Randall Vazquez <[REDACTED]> gregoreo [REDACTED] martabulaich [REDACTED] Stanton, Garrett <Garrett.Stanton@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamath, Sudha <Sudha.Kamath@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Fw: A Message from Mayor Matt

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Thanks for the update. I hope like many people you are saving money because this is the beginning of many more cuts coming our way. I hope your prepared.

You now own the homeless situation by giving them a place to live, food and cash and getting nothing in return. And that's going to cost a lot of money.

Especially since the problem was dismissed, and laws were ignored and we tax payers were also ignored, as it grew larger and larger, over the last 4 years.

Now you will be responsible for homeless that were not our problem but came here because they new we would let them pull up a curb and camp there and no one would do anything.

And also some who were sent or pushed here from other places, while they cleaned up their end of the city. You own it!

Most of us predicted cuts from this new government I hope you did also. Because these people are now your responsibility.

And I hope you didn't spend all the tax dollars on tiny homes, and now expect us to pay more because your policies are being cut. Oops.....

Good Luck,
Barbara Gallaty

From: Mayor Matt Mahan <mayormatt@sanjosecagov.ccsend.com_gd72bt2ds68efm>

Sent: Sunday, April 27, 2025 1:29 PM

To: Hide My Email

Subject: A Message from Mayor Matt



Dear Neighbor,

In our last newsletter, I told you about going up to Sacramento to stand alongside Senator Catherine Blakespear to announce a bold piece of legislation — one that would have made sure every level of government does its fair share to address homelessness.

Less than two weeks later, the bill we championed was gutted.

We asked for something simple: if cities like San José step up to build shelter and interim housing, counties — who have the jurisdiction, the resources, and much larger budgets — should fund 50% of the operating costs. It's only fair, and it's the only way to move from endless process to a real outcome — an end to the era of encampments.

Instead, Sacramento insiders watered the bill down to yet another study. Another layer of analysis while people continue to suffer on the streets, families continue to pay the price, and taxpayers

continue to watch billions spent with too little to show for it.

We need better. We need more leaders like Senator Blakespear who are willing to challenge the status quo. And we need to keep fighting — not just for more investment, but for faster, smarter investment at every level of government. If you'd like to be part of that fight, you can sign up [here](#).

While some in Sacramento were strategizing how to create less change, San Jose was moving forward with more. We celebrated the opening of Via del Oro — our newest interim housing community — and broke ground at Taylor Street, our first safe sleeping site. These projects are more than just beds — they are proof that when we are laser-focused on achievable outcomes (such as providing a safe, dignified bed for every person on our streets), we can deliver real results.

Via del Oro was built in less than one year on privately-owned land, at a lower cost than past interim housing sites, and will be more affordable to operate than any site we've opened yet. Already, over 70 people have moved in with access to case management and supportive services. Meanwhile, Taylor Street will open this summer, offering 56 placements with basic necessities like security, sanitation, and access to case management, with a focus on quickly moving people into longer-term solutions.



Together with other new sites that opened this year like Branham Lane and Berryessa Safe Parking, these projects are moving us toward our bold goal of opening 1,000 new safe, dignified placements by the end of 2025 — giving real alternatives to our unhoused neighbors and real relief to neighborhoods across the city.

But getting people indoors is only part of the solution. We're also committed to reclaiming our public spaces for community use. At Columbus Park, once a hub for youth sports and families, unmanaged encampments and rising 911 calls have made it unsafe for everyone. That's why we're moving forward with a plan to decommission the encampment and break ground on a revitalized park — with new soccer fields, a playground, shaded paseos, and courts for pickleball, futsal, and basketball. By late 2027, Columbus Park will once again be a place for San José families to gather, play, and take pride in their city.



This work — opening shelter, reclaiming parks, restoring safety and dignity — is happening because San José has chosen action over excuses. But let's be clear: we can't solve this crisis alone. In fact, we've just about reached our limit. We cannot continue to build out a shelter system that will get us to functional zero without the support of other levels of government. We need the County to invest in mental health and addiction services. We need the State to create a framework that requires every city, big or small, to do their part.

That's exactly why Senator Blakespear and I pushed for SB 16 — to create a real, statewide model of shared responsibility. The insiders' failure to even consider this bill as drafted means the burden continues to fall unfairly on a handful of cities willing to act, while others sit on the sidelines. That's not leadership. That's not sustainable. And it's not fair to the people still suffering on our streets — or the taxpayers who are paying the price for political inaction.

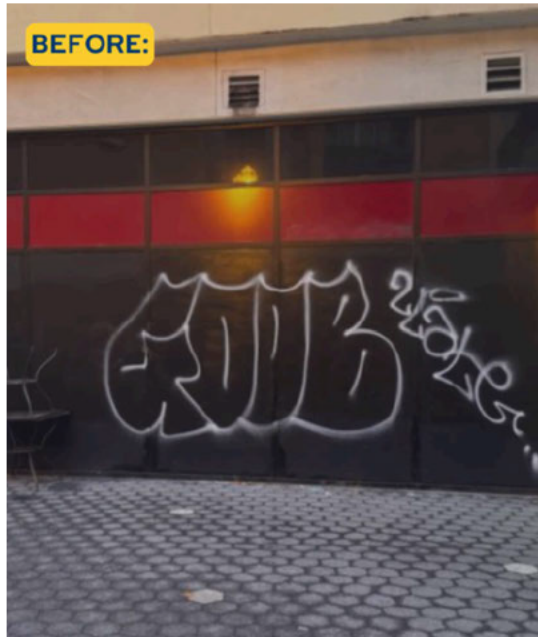
San José is doing its part. It's time Sacramento demands every city and county does theirs too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Mahan".

Mayor Matt

Graffiti Be Gone



Over the past several months, residents and small business owners have reported a troubling vandalism spree — some gang-related, some the work of repeat graffiti offenders. Thanks to incredible detective work by the San José Police Department and strong collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, two suspects are now in custody and facing serious charges.

One individual is believed to be responsible for over 70 separate acts of vandalism — damaging businesses, public spaces, and private property across our downtown. But this suspect didn't just target San Jose. Earlier this week, I was driving to speak at an event in San Francisco and saw the same moniker defacing the side of a building. The bad actors we hold accountable don't just harm San Jose — they harm our entire region. And we are doing our part to end their crime sprees for our residents and for our neighboring cities.

Another suspect, linked to at least 19 gang-motivated incidents, was found carrying both spray paint and a concealed firearm when arrested. Let's be clear: this isn't just graffiti — it's illegal, dangerous, and corrosive to our community.

We take the sanctity of our shared spaces seriously. Graffiti may seem minor to some, but when it becomes constant — and when it's driven by gang activity — it erodes public safety, community pride, and stacks up costs against our small business owners who are often operating on thin profit

margins. But these arrests are about more than property damage — they're about reclaiming our neighborhoods.

I want to thank Chief Paul Joseph, the Gang Investigations Unit, Captain Miri and our Central Division Patrol Officers, and the DA's Office for their exceptional effort. I also want to thank the residents who submitted tips through our 3-1-1 system — your eyes and voices make a difference.

Blue City Blues

There has been a lot of talk about the governance failures plaguing big cities in many parts of the nation. While this discussion often turns partisan and contentious, I'm more interested in figuring out what works—what are the policies and programs that will deliver the outcomes we want?

So it was a pleasure to join the Blue City Blues podcast last week to reflect on why many big cities are failing at the basics and how we might take a different path forward. Hosts Sandeep and David asked some great questions and shared their perspective from Seattle while I did my best to articulate how we are tackling problems in San Jose. I hope you'll give it a listen and let me know what you think!



What's in the Budget?

Over the past few weeks, I've visited Districts 5, 7, 8, and 10 to talk about what's in the budget. I've heard great questions, received important feedback, and learned more about your top priorities through these town halls.




Between now and June, I'll be visiting every single district to give you as many opportunities as possible to have your voice heard. You can find the full list and RSVP right [here](#).


News of Note

The New York Times

**SAN JOSE CONSIDERS ARRESTING
HOMELESS PEOPLE WHO REFUSE HOUSING**

NBC  **BAY AREA**

**SAN JOSE UNVEILS INTERIM HOUSING
PROJECT ON PRIVATE LAND**

NBC  **BAY AREA**

**SAN JOSE COLUMBUS PARK REVITALIZATION
PLAN WOULD SHUT DOWN UNHOUSED
ENCAMPMENT**

Upcoming Events

Basking Ridge Park Beautification & Tree Planting

Saturday, May 10th at 8:30 AM

619-643 Chelsea Crossing

Join your neighbors and Team Mahan for a park beautification at Basking Ridge on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 8:30 AM. Plant trees, paint benches, pick up litter, and work with us to create a cleaner, safer San Jose! [RSVP here](#).

Education Day! San Jose Giants vs. Lake Elsinore Storm

Tuesday, May 9th at 11am

Excite Ballpark

The San Jose Giants' Education Day is a unique day for local schools to enjoy an educational and fun baseball-themed field trip. Tickets include educational learning stations, baseball-themed activities and a baseball game at Excite Ballpark! [Buy tickets here](#).

San Jose State of the City

Saturday, May 17th at 10am

Arena Green East, 340 West Saint John Street San Jose, CA 95110

Show your civic pride alongside your neighbors at our annual event focused on service and celebration! After a short formal program with performances and a speech by Mayor Mahan, we'll paint art projects, plant trees and beautify the area before coming back together for a picnic with music, games and activities. Don't miss out – tickets are running low! [RSVP here](#).

San Jose Jazz Summer Fest

Friday, August 8th to Sunday, August 10th

Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park, 1 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113

San José — you showed up for Fisher a couple weeks ago, but the party isn't over! San Jose Jazz Summer Fest is back this August, with headliners like Mavis Staples and Common coming to visit Silicon Valley's Downtown. Get your tickets [here](#)!

Community Corner

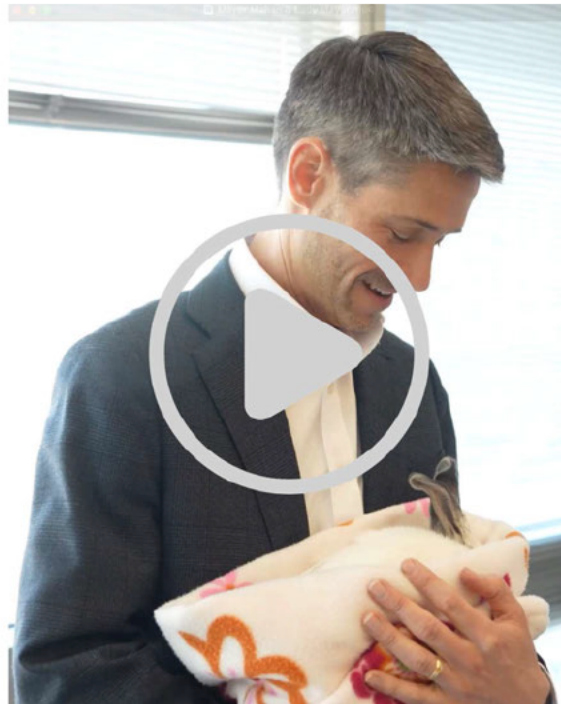


Often, when someone is deep in the throes of an addiction or mental health crisis, they can't make a rational decision about their own well-being — but they are making a choice we can't allow: to live and far too frequently die on our streets even when we offer shelter. Without accountability for coming indoors, recovery is rare. Thanks to Ellison Barber from NBC for having me on. This conversation is hard but necessary if we hope to end the era of encampments in California because the status quo has clearly failed our most vulnerable.



Happy Easter from the Mahan Family!

An Easter Surprise



This Easter, I met San José's Lady Mayor! She was found scared and alone in the City Hall parking garage. Just before Easter, she returned — healthy, loved, and surrounded by the people who helped save her. As shelters overflow and impulse Easter adoptions rise, Lady Mayor reminds us: fostering saves lives. Thank you to SaveABunny for all you do!

[Visit our Website!](#)



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FW: May 8th budget study session

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/6/2025 1:56 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Mila Bekele <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:55 PM
To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: San Jose Youth Climate Action Team <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 8th budget study session

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Dear Councilmembers and Mayor,

My name is Mila Bekele, and I am a university student born and raised in San Jose. I am also a youth leader with Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action. I am writing in response to a concerning attempt to decrease City funding for a critical program, Climate Smart San Jose. **I encourage you to 1) increase funding for Climate Smart San Jose, not decrease it, for the 2025-26 fiscal year, and 2) maintain or increase staff to carry out the Climate Smart action plan.**

Our city's budget needs to be an accurate, community-driven plan that allocates City resources with an eye towards both the near and long term well-being. Climate change is impacting our community at both time scales. San Jose has already experienced harms like drought, wildfire smoke, and extreme heat resulting from a changing climate. In the long term, these disasters will only intensify if climate change goes unaddressed.

San Jose has set a climate-neutral by 2030 goal. This goal is both ambitious and essential, and we have made progress towards reaching it. Residents can choose 100% green electricity, and building codes have been updated to prevent new natural gas construction. These are important steps -- and we cannot afford to leave this progress behind.

In an environment of federal budget cuts, climate resilience is one area where some funds remain on the table. California's Proposition 4 authorized \$10 billion for climate change and wildfire response last year. Failing to provide resources to the team that will help San Jose secure these and other outside funds is unwise.

My future, and the future of all young people, is incredibly uncertain. I can't say whether our climate will be stable, or whether the next decades of our lives will be dominated by climate-change-induced floods, wildfires, and extreme storms. We are not given certainty, but we are given choices. Climate Smart funding allocations in the upcoming budget are one of them.

Thank you for your time,

Mila Bekele

<https://www.svyouthclimateaction.org/>

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FW: May 8th Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Wed 5/7/2025 12:32 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kanika Rawat - [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:58 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: May 8th Budget Study Session

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Kanika Rawat, and I'm a junior at [REDACTED] High School and a member of the San Jose team of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action.
From nearby wildfires and extreme heat waves to growing concerns about water scarcity, San Jose is already feeling the impacts of climate change, which will only become more severe. To reduce San Jose's negative environmental impacts and be prepared for a changing climate, **I ask that the City increase Climate Smart funding for the 2025–26 fiscal year and ensure that both personnel and non-personnel funding are preserved and expanded in future years.**

I understand that the City faces many pressing issues, but climate change is just as important as any of these. Climate change impacts public health, homelessness, food and water access, and the economy. As climate change escalates, other problems will only worsen.

Now is the time to make sure the City is prioritizing climate action. The City has taken great steps, such as adopting strong building codes that promote clean, all-electric development; but to reach the goal of Carbon neutrality by 2030, Climate Smart needs consistent financial support from the City.

Please don't let budget cuts stand in the way of a cleaner, safer future for San Jose.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Kanika Rawat
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

FW: Preserve Climate Smart Funding

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 5/8/2025 7:46 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Daphne Zhu [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:22 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Preserve Climate Smart Funding

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Dear Mayor and Council,

My name is Daphne Zhu, and I'm a student at [REDACTED] High School and a co-lead of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action.

As budget study sessions begin, I urge you to **fully fund Climate Smart San José in the 2025–26 budget** to protect our future and build a more sustainable city today. Climate change is already impacting San José, from nearby wildfires and extreme heat waves to growing concerns about water scarcity.

Without adequate staff and resources, the city will fall short of its 2030 carbon neutrality goals.

Furthermore, the Climate Smart budget is already such a small percentage of the budget that cutting it further will not be of significant help to the budget deficit. Instead, preserving or preferably *increasing* the Climate Smart budget, both personnel and non-personnel funding, from what little it is now will make **an enormous impact on the health, safety, and prosperity of the City of San Jose**.

It may seem easier to ignore the problem now, but if we don't take action to protect our city from climate change now, **it will cost us many times more in the future**. Do not fail the citizens of San Jose who depend on you to keep our community safe and healthy, throughout our lifetimes—and longer. Do not make a decision that San Jose will regret.

Preserve the Climate Smart personnel and non-personnel funding for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Thank you,
Daphne Zhu

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FW: Maintain Full Climate Smart Funding - Budget Study Session 5/8

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 5/8/2025 9:34 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Mani Bekele [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 9:26 AM
To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Maintain Full Climate Smart Funding - Budget Study Session 5/8

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Dear Mayor and Council,

My name is Mani Bekele, and I'm a highschool student from D3 and a co-lead of the San Jose team of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action.

As budget study sessions begin, I urge you to fully fund Climate Smart San José in the 2025–26 budget to protect our future and build a more sustainable city today. Climate change is already impacting San José, from nearby wildfires and extreme heat waves to growing concerns about water scarcity. Without adequate staff and resources, the city will fall short of its 2030 carbon neutrality goals.

Furthermore, the Climate Smart budget is already such a small percentage of the budget that cutting it further will not be of significant help to the budget deficit. Instead, preserving or preferably *increasing* the Climate Smart budget, both personnel and non-personnel funding, from what little it is now will make an *enormous* impact on the health, safety, and prosperity of the City of San Jose.

It may seem easier to ignore the problem now, but if we don't take action to protect our city from climate change *now*, it will cost us many times more in the future, not to mention lives and livelihoods lost to climate-driven disasters. Do not fail the citizens of San Jose who depend on you to keep our community safe and healthy throughout our lifetimes and longer. Do not make a decision that San Jose will regret. Preserve the Climate Smart personnel and non-personnel funding for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Our house is on fire. We have a hose in our hands. Cutting Climate Smart funding now is like arguing about whether we can afford the water bill. We will lose so, so much more - our very liveable home and planet - if we do not make this small upfront investment. As the last generation of leaders that has it in your power to prevent the most catastrophic effects of climate change, we are counting on you.

Thank you,

Mani Bekele | Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

FW: I oppose Mayor Mahan's approach to criminalizing homelessness

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 5/8/2025 4:58 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Joan Howe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 4:53 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: I oppose Mayor Mahan's approach to criminalizing homelessness

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Hello Toni Taber,

My name is Joan Howe and I am a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Santa Clara county. I am a San Jose district 10 homeowner, and I make it a priority to vote in each election.

I grew up in the Bay Area in the '70's and '80's when mental health facilities were shuttered as a result the repeal of the Mental Health Systems Act by Ronald Reagan's administration. Over the past several decades we've seen the unhoused population grow exponentially throughout our city and surrounding suburbs, as a result of this long-term systemic lack of supported health services.

While a substantial solution is urgently needed, I stand firmly against the criminalization of homelessness, and feel we must focus on prevention efforts in addition to building more affordable housing. Do not approve Mayor Mahan's plan to arrest unhoused people for supposed "refusal of shelter", if for no other reason than having a criminal record makes it more difficult to get housing.

And if you want to focus on public safety, spend your resources funding TRUST instead, which can be paid for with opioid settlement funds and Medi-Cal, saving the city money. TRUST is public safety. Fund care, not cuffs.

Sincerely,
Joan Howe

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Fw: 5/12/25 Study Session, City Service Area: Public Safety: Against Responsibility to Shelter Implementation

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Fri 5/9/2025 3:30 PM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Rebekah Jensen [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 3:28 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: 5/12/25 Study Session, City Service Area: Public Safety: Against Responsibility to Shelter Implementation

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Hello,

I'm a San Jose resident, in District 2. I'm furious at the mayor's plan to criminalize unhoused people for refusing housing! In my neighborhood, we are proud of the new facility on Branham and hope it will help many of our local unhoused neighbors. People will want to move into the shelter - the city doesn't need spend money forcing people to move in.

For the rare unhoused person who doesn't want to go into shelters, they usually have a very good reason - distrust of police, history of being assaulted at a shelter, fear of being indoors due to PTSD or other factors, etc. And if the government is forcing you to go somewhere, it's reasonable to fear that they might keep you there!

How big of a problem is this that you need to fund a special police team for it? Data from the city itself shows that less than ten percent of unhoused people refuse shelter. Spend money instead on creating more housing and making current housing more safe. Most unhoused people are waiting for beds, not refusing

shelter en masse. Plus this new police team will make it harder for people trying to help unhoused people - sowing distrust against census takers, garbage cleanup people, support groups, neighbors giving a hand. San Jose is brutally expensive to find housing, probably getting harder by new federal policies. Do not criminalize people becoming homeless - work to prevent it!

If San Jose really wants to help its most vulnerable residents, fund a 24/7 TRUST line for San Jose only. Unhoused people need help, not criminal penalties.

--Rebekah Jensen



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