
FW: Importance of Trail Maintenance and Conservation Efforts in San Jose

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/3/2025 11:58 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Bill Rankin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 11:40 AM
To: Webmaster Manager <webmaster.manager@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Councilmember Salas <district3@district3sanjose.ccsend.com>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@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: SOT Board <sot_board@saveourtrails-scc.org>
Subject: Importance of Trail Maintenance and Conservation Efforts in San Jose

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San Jose City Council

San Jose City Manager
San Jose City Clerk
San Jose City Hall
200 E Santa Clara St
San Jose, CA 95113

Subject: Importance of Trail Maintenance and Conservation Efforts in San Jose

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the city's trail network and to urge greater attention to its maintenance and stewardship. Our trails serve as essential infrastructure, providing numerous benefits for public health, nature conservation, and alternative transportation. They promote physical activity, mental well-being, and environmental connectivity while also offering residents a car-free commuting option. Ensuring that these trails remain accessible and safe should be a top priority for our community.

However, maintenance levels have significantly declined in recent years, impacting usability. A lack of regular sweeping and debris removal discourages use and poses safety hazards. For example, when water levels rise and then recede, the resulting silt and debris can make trails hazardous and unwelcoming. In the past, the city used power washing to clear these areas two to three times per year. Now, due to budget cuts, cleanings are delayed until after the rainy season, allowing mud and sediment to accumulate. This lack of upkeep diminishes trail accessibility and deters users. Restoring the previous maintenance schedule would greatly improve conditions and encourage greater community engagement with these spaces.

One proven program that supports our trails while also benefiting the city's youth is the San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) trail monitoring program. This initiative provides young people with valuable jobs, fosters environmental stewardship, and extends the reach of park rangers. Trail monitors perform quick repairs, report emerging issues before they escalate into major problems, and act as an extra set of eyes to ensure public safety. Investing in the SJCC not only strengthens our trail system but also provides career-building opportunities for local youth while promoting civic pride and responsibility.

I urge the city to restore higher levels of trail maintenance and continue supporting programs like the San Jose Conservation Corps. These investments will ensure our trail network remains a safe, vibrant, and accessible resource for all residents. Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and I look forward to your response.

Bill Rankin
President, Save Our Trails

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Outlook

FW: Plaza de Cesar Chavez

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Mon 3/3/2025 4:51 PM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachment (467 KB)

Plaza de Cesar Chavez Letter to City March 3, 2025.pdf;

From: Brendan Rawson [REDACTED]**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 4:46 PM**To:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>; Yotam, Avi <Avi.Yotam@sanjoseca.gov>; Lomio, Michael <Michael.Lomio@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Plaza de Cesar Chavez

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Mayor Mahan, District 3 Council Member Salas, and full City Council,
Please find attached our letter signed by 18 local event producers and supporters that regularly activate Plaza de Cesar Chavez with a wide range of cultural programming throughout the year.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of the issues we raise.

Sincerely,

Alex Stettinski, San Jose Downtown Association

Ato Walker, Independent Producer

Brendan Rawson, San Jose Jazz Summer Fest

Dan Orloff, Fountain Blues Festival

David Ocampo, Dia de San Jose Festival

Debbie Degutis, Christmas in the Park

Flor Martinez, Cultura in the Park

Gabriel Ramirez, Pro Wrestling Revolution

John Poch, San Jose Sports Authority/ Slam Jose! Hoops Festival

Jonathan Borca, Performing Artist/Community Advocate

Matt Gonzales, Producer

Melinda Chacon, Silicon Valley Mariachi Festival

Nicole Altamirano, SV Pride Festival

Pete Be, Pete Be Presents

Saldy Suriben, SV Pride Festival
Suzanne St. John-Crane, Fountain Blues Festival
Tony Garcia, Ungaffable Productions
Tony Lindsay, Performing Artist

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PLAZA DE CESAR CHAVEZ

March 3, 2025

Mayor Matt Mahan
Councilmember Carl Salas
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Subject: Request for City Support for Community Events at Plaza de César Chávez

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmember Salas,

On behalf of organizations and producers that host events at Plaza de César Chávez, as well as members of the performing arts community, we sincerely appreciate the city's ongoing support of arts and culture. The park has long served as San José's central hub for gatherings, performances and celebrations that bring our community together.

The City's allocation on February 4, 2025, of \$15 million to build a second downtown music stage underscores its commitment to investing in the cultural activation of its parks. Plaza de César Chávez is a cornerstone of San José's quality of life as the City's oldest public square and home to many signature events, including Summer Fest, Christmas in the Park, SV Pride, Dia San Jose, Music in the Park, Cultura in the Park, and Fountain Blues.

Key improvements, however, are needed for Plaza de César Chávez to reach its full potential as a premier setting for cultural and civic engagement—as well as serve as a special events location for Super Bowl LX and World Cup 2026.

Community Events at Plaza de César Chávez
March 3, 2025

Unfortunately, the park has not seen significant investment since the fountain, pathways and granite stage were constructed more than 35 years ago.

City Festival, Parade and Celebration (FPC) Grants have not kept pace with inflation or the city's population and, in many cases, do not even cover city fees associated with programming the park. Competition for a shrinking pool of corporate philanthropy has increased, and locally based independent businesses that support the performing arts face growing financial challenges. Only a limited portion of costs can be passed on to the public without excluding community members.

We kindly ask for your support in advocating for the following enhancements:

1. Stage Upgrades

The current stage is outdated, unsightly and worn down by daily public recreational use. It constrains performances that event producers can host. Costly infrastructure, frequently including temporary extensions and backdrops, must be installed. Investing in a stage renovation with improved lighting and sound systems, backstage amenities and a weather-resistant roof would enhance the quality of performances and attract a broader range of artists and event programmers.

While a planning process is underway, temporary measures should be undertaken to support ongoing events. We recommend establishing a Technical Task Force of event producers to define requirements and develop an immediate action plan.

2. Two-Year City Fee Waiver and Short-Term Support Measures

In addition to production expenses, event producers must pay for park use, parking meters, fire inspections, electrical connections, traffic control and police support—fees that frequently exceed the grants events receive from the City. Providing temporary relief on these costs would benefit citizens and enhance event sustainability.

Additionally, maintaining or enhancing the shade canopy, turf, sprinkler systems, power service, sound towers, Wi-Fi, storage, power washing and marketing support should be prioritized for upcoming event seasons.

We appreciate the City's current challenges and the Council's need to balance priorities. Public events, however, generate economic and social benefits, ultimately allowing the City to benefit fiscally from these strategic investments.

Community Events at Plaza de César Chávez
March 3, 2025

3. Enhanced Security

Ensuring the safety of attendees, performers and pedestrians is a public safety priority. Recent events around the world underscore the need for stronger perimeter security measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access and address growing risks to public gatherings.

We recommend bolstering security before this summer's events through increased city personnel, robust barriers and other protective measures to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

4. Long-Term Park Improvements

Reducing traffic from two lanes to one, improving landscaping, enhancing lighting, and improving sightlines would create a more welcoming and enjoyable plaza for residents and visitors. Additional enhancements, such as accessible restrooms, expanded power access, upgraded entrance amenities and a thoughtfully designed public art plan would enhance the experience for organizers, vendors and guests.

These improvements would not only support the events hosted at the plaza but also strengthen downtown San José's reputation as a premier destination for families, visitors and cultural celebrations.

We respectfully request the City Council's partnership in prioritizing these enhancements and exploring funding opportunities—including marketing support, grants, park funds and public-private partnerships—to make them a reality.


Ultimately, a conservancy-style governance model can help fund park operations and improvements independently of the city budget.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our community. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further and provide additional details on how these improvements can benefit both event sustainability and the broader community.


Sincerely,

(Signature page follows)


Community Events at Plaza de César Chávez
March 3, 2025




Brendan Rawson
San Jose Jazz




Dan Pulcrano
Music in the Park




Saldy Suriben
Silicon Valley Pride




Suzanne St. John-Crane
Fountain Blues Foundation




Pete Be
Pete Be Presents



Tony Lindsay, Singer/Musician
11-time Grammy winner




Tony Garcia
Ungaffable Productions



Gabriel Ramirez
Pro Wrestling Revolution




Melinda Chacon
Silicon Valley Mariachi Festival




Debbie Degutis
Christmas in the Park



Dan Orloff
Fountain Blues Foundation




David Ocampo
Día San José




Alex Stettinski, CEO
San José Downtown Association



Ato Walker
Independent Producer




John Poch, Executive Director
San Jose Sports Authority



Matt González
Producer/Musician



Jonathan Borca
Performing Artist/Community Advocate



Flor Martinez
Cultura in the Park

FW: support for City Parks in budget discussions

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

Date Fri 3/7/2025 9:17 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (690 KB)

YOP-BudgetLetter,Mar2025,signed.pdf;

From: Lames [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 5:20 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>

Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: support for City Parks in budget discussions

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Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

Attached please find a letter from Yes On SJ Parks as you consider the upcoming budget decisions.

Thank you.

~Larry Ames,
Yes On SJ Parks treasurer.

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5 March 2025

Matt Mahan

Mayor, City of San José
and Members of the City Council
200 East Santa Clara Street,
San José, CA 95113

Board of Directors

Rudy Flores

Bob Levy

Helen Chapman

Lawrence Ames, PhD

Jean Dresden

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

Parks are important to us all: they improve our physical and mental health, engage our youth, and build community and a sense of place – a reason to reside, work, and play in San José. Blighted parks with minimal maintenance detract from the city's image and discourage investment. Residents and investors expect San José to keep their parks safe and the playground equipment in good condition – without having to wait years for repair.

We ***support*** the City Manager's plan for ***no cuts to the Maintenance and Operations of the city's parks, trails and sports fields.***

- Well-maintained parks are a highly visible sign of a thriving city, which helps attract investment.
- The Parks maintenance budget suffered major cuts in prior economic downturns leading to lowered standards. Park maintenance currently is inadequate.
- A well-staffed park maintenance operation would slow the growth of the infrastructure backlog, which now is over \$500 Million.
- Continue work with community partners to provide diverse young adult populations to provide career pathways to higher paying jobs – keeping our youth out of homelessness.

We **urge** the Council to direct and to fund staff work plans to:

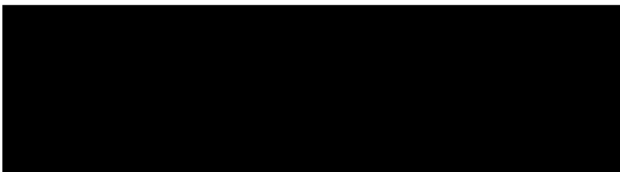
- Develop and implement a comprehensive **strategic** plan to reduce and eliminate the infrastructure backlog.
- Make budget moves towards **improvements** in a regular maintenance plan that ensures the safety and cleanliness of **all** parks equitably and takes into account how often and how many use the park.
- Prepare a **plan to fund quality parks with equitable distribution** of amenities and park features in all parts of the city.

We also **urge** Staff to develop and implement a comprehensive communication and outreach plan that:

- Builds support for a park focused ballot measure to maintain safety, integrity and health benefits of parks.
- Communicates clearly to all stakeholders the funding problem and how it is linked to dependence on the development cycle.
- Conducts robust and **unbiased** professional polling that builds on **best practices** from experts experienced in **successful** park and open space ballot measures to explore multiple pathways for revenue.
- Collects feedback more comprehensively from community members.

The Council has an opportunity this budget season to think strategically about solutions for our declining park system. We urge you to make the decisions needed to save our parks system rather than allowing it to continue to decline.

Respectfully yours,




Rudy Flores
Yes on SJ Parks



Outlook

FW: Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action - March Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 3/11/2025 7:43 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (198 KB)

SJYCAT Letter to Mayor Mahan on March Budget Message 2025.pdf;

From: SJYCAT <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 5:04 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: 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>; Webmaster Manager <webmaster.manager@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action - March Budget Message

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Dear Mayor Mahan,

We are the San José chapter of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA), a team of 30+ students from across the city who are passionate about protecting our safe and stable climate future. In this pivotal time, we urge you to include the climate crisis as a top priority in your forthcoming March Budget Message.

We would also really appreciate meeting with you or your office to discuss this and related issues further.

Attached is our full letter.

[SJYCAT Letter to Mayor Mahan on March Budget Message 2025.pdf](#)
(199K).

Thank you for your time,
San José Youth Climate Action Team

Dear Mayor Mahan,

We are writing to sincerely and urgently request that you prioritize our city's fight against the climate crisis in this year's budget. Specifically, we ask that you include climate change as one of your top priorities in your March budget message. Climate Smart San José and the Environmental Services Department need to be fully funded every year to maintain our progress against the climate crisis.

Our city's young people will live out the consequences of the decisions you and your colleagues make today far into the future. We have already grown up in a world marred by climate chaos. Many of us simply never remember a time before we knew about this problem. Our lives have already been tangibly impacted. Some of us who live in East San José had to prepare to evacuate our homes during the massive SCU Complex Fire in 2020, while all of us have breathed in the hazardous smoke of this and other fires, frequently amounting to the equivalent of several cigarettes smoked per day. These harms will continue to worsen until we achieve major reductions in carbon pollution.

Addressing climate change is a pressingly necessary investment. Studies are clear that the financial cost of rapid decarbonization right now is dwarfed by the economic damages we will suffer if the climate crisis is allowed to progress. More pressingly, every delay in this investment is a lost opportunity to avert human suffering and environmental destruction.

Our city is at significant and increasing risk of natural disasters such as wildfire and flooding, as you so perceptively addressed in your directive to review our wildfire preparedness plans in response to the devastating Southern California blazes earlier this year. We must also get to the root causes of such disasters, and the climate crisis is the greatest.

San José must take steps to protect and restore natural ecosystems, which are important for biodiversity and for nature-based adaptation solutions. For example, the open space north of highway 237 is essential to protect. If this land is developed, Bay wetlands will not have space to migrate. Wetlands can migrate inland and serve as a natural sponge and buffer for sea level rise, protecting both wildlife and humans.

Further, a rapidly warming climate will compound many of the other problems facing our city and region. Extreme heat has already taken the lives of some of our most vulnerable unhoused neighbors, and further warming would be devastating. Harsh weather and natural disasters could slash agricultural productivity and disrupt supply chains, raising prices and seriously exacerbating our cost-of-living crisis. Our communities will need to house and accommodate large numbers of people displaced by extreme weather events and sea level rise.

The climate crisis is not only a threat that we must protect ourselves against, it is also a major chance to make progress on other fronts. Our City's Climate Smart plan details the societal co-benefits our action on climate change will produce: safer streets, healthier air, greener and more vibrant neighborhoods, medium- and long-term cost savings, and overall improvements to

quality of life. This is all in addition to the economic opportunities. San José could be the base of job-creating industries designing and scaling climate solutions in fields ranging from engineering to ecological restoration. Now is the time to attract green companies and pursue the investments, training, and development to make this happen.

San José's actions on climate change have a significance far beyond their direct cuts in emissions. As the capital of Silicon Valley and an epicenter of innovation, other cities look to our lead. The ripple effects of our decisions are profound, as has been shown already by the adoption of many of our climate policies such as all-electric reach codes and ambitious net-zero goals by other cities in quick succession. Our city must not backtrack on our climate commitments, and instead move forward to demonstrate that concerted investments in sustainability are possible, necessary, and effective.

The City is not taking on these challenges alone. Productive partnerships have already been formed with many community-based organizations, and we are ready to further advance efforts in public outreach and education to bring everyone in our communities together in confronting the climate crisis however they can.

Our city has committed to carbon neutrality by 2030 and has developed a detailed and promising Climate Smart plan to achieve this goal. We must put all resources necessary into implementing these critical actions. We cannot afford not to.

We look forward to your response, and to seeing your commitment to our liveable future expressed in your budget message next month. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
San José Youth Climate Action Team



Co-signed by Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet



FW: San Jose Budget - Labor Letter

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

Date Wed 3/12/2025 7:49 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (33 KB)

City of San Jose Budget Labor Letter.pdf;

From: Jack McGovern [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 6:59 PM

To: Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Salas, Carl <Carl.Salas@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: San Jose Budget - Labor Letter

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Dear Mayor Mahan and San Jose City Councilmembers,

Please find attached a letter from:

Jean Cohen, Executive Officer, South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council

Jerry May, President, San Jose Fire Fighters IAFF Local 230

John Tucker, Representative, AFSCME Local 101

Krista De La Torre, Representative/Organizer, IFPTE Local 21

Javier Casillas, Business Manager, IBEW 332

Jeremy Cabaccang, Business Agent, Operating Engineers Public Employee Division

Thank you very much,

Jack McGovern

Jack McGovern (he/him)
Political Director
South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council



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March 11, 2025

Mayor Matt Mahan and Councilmembers
18th Floor, San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

As unions representing over 100,000 workers across San Jose and Santa Clara County we write to share our deep concerns about the FY 2025-2026 Budget. Our members deliver some of the most critical services our residents depend on every day, and we believe it is critical that the City Council does all it can to protect our residents and our workers' needs by averting any potential loss of services or layoffs.

In this year's budget, we are facing a shortfall not by chance, but by choice. The added costs of short-term homeless shelter projects from the last two years of budget were made without thinking about where we can obtain the funding necessary to sustain them, and now their price tag has created a structural fiscal shortfall requiring the City to prepare for undefined service cuts. Let's be clear, this is no way to plan for our future. In one of the most thinly staffed big cities in the country, our residents deserve a real plan. Given the significant costs and needs within the City for addressing homelessness, with interim shelter and permanent affordable housing, and the troubling impacts of further service cuts in a City already starved for improved public safety, quicker development services, better parks, and more library hours, it is clear that the City needs additional revenue. We need to consider our options, including placing future revenue measures before voters. The labor movement remains ready to do its part to work with the City to consider options.

In the interim, we believe there are several steps the City can take without threatening the quality and availability of services residents depend on and the well-being of City workers. We encourage the City Council and Administration to consider these ideas and to collaborate with our unions to find efficiencies while strengthening services.

- Adjusting account practices to more accurately reflect a more realistic vacancy rate. While we appreciate the City listening to workers and beginning to address worker retention and recruitment, we still maintain a Citywide vacancy rate of around 9.5 percent. Despite this figure, staff assumes a vacancy rate of 0-2 percent across its departments in the base budget. Every year the City achieves multi-million-dollar savings from personnel services because of this practice, and many budgeted positions are never advertised or recruited for. This practice artificially inflates the assumed budget shortfall every year, creating unnecessary debate about cutting services when simply applying a more realistic assumption could solve some of the problem.
- Conduct a City-wide audit of contracts which could be done by City workers. Across the City, there are several expensive contracts where we pay much more for services than we pay similar City workers, but we still continue to extend these engagements year after year. Some contracts even include services for contractors to train City workers with the knowledge to transfer this work to the City staff. Yet despite the City paying knowledge transfer, the training never happens, and the contracts continue, wasting

millions of dollars a year. The City should work with department heads and its bargaining units to conduct a Citywide audit of contracts which include terms for the contractor providing knowledge transfer and evaluate whether and how this work could be done in-house. By conducting such an audit during FY25-26 we can work to generate potential savings in FY26-27 and beyond.

- Assess existing City contracts or plans to enter new contracts in FY25-26. The City should ask department heads to look at contract spending and determine what contracts could be amended, ended or deferred without having an impact on services.
- Reconsider hiring freeze in key positions. Some departments and positions still have extremely high vacancy rates and with an ageing workforce headed toward retirement and face the threat of a even larger vacancy rate without efforts to hire new workers and transfer important knowledge.
- Utilize existing reserves to continue services. It's clear that the strongest path to maintaining services is putting a proposal for new revenue before voters in 2026. To maintain critical services and retain the City's highly skilled workforce, it may require tapping some of the City's reserves on a short-term basis. Specifically, we encourage the City to consider utilizing the Budget Stabilization Reserve, the Salaries and Benefits Reserve, or other unexpended reserves from the General Fund balance.
- Assess executive compensation. If we are considering cuts to the City organization, we should also consider executive management. We encourage the City Council to consider a review of the compensation allocated to the top 10 executive positions, which totaled \$4.1 million in cost in 2023, to identify ways funds may be directed to preserve staff's ability to deliver essential services.

We encourage the City to commit to exploring all possible avenues to preserve jobs of current employees before considering layoffs, recognizing the value and experience they bring to the organization. Lastly we encourage the City to consider in its budgeting decisions to not disproportionately impact low income and marginalized groups, ensuring social and racial equity guides any efforts to adjust the budget.

We look forward to continuing conversations as the FY 2025-2026 Budget process continues.

Sincerely,

Jean Cohen, Executive Officer, South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council
Jerry May, President, San Jose Fire Fighters IAFF Local 230
John Tucker, Representative, AFSCME Local 101
Krista De La Torre, Representative/Organizer, IFPTE Local 21
Javier Casillas, Business Manager, IBEW 332
Jeremy Cabaccang, Business Agent, Operating Engineers Public Employee Division

FW: Item 3.3, File#25-242: Mayor's March Budget Message: opposition to the proposed Responsibility to Shelter program

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 3/13/2025 8:11 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Martha <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 5:51 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 3.3, File#25-242: Mayor's March Budget Message: opposition to the proposed Responsibility to Shelter program

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To: Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers Kamae, Campos, Salas, Cohen, Ortiz, Mulcahy, Doan, Candelas, Foley, and Casey

Date: March 12, 2025

Subject: Item 3.3, File#25-242: **Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message**

I am writing to **oppose your directive regarding a proposed Responsibility to Shelter program**. Found on page 11 of the Mayor's message, the full statement reads: "A Council "Responsibility to Shelter" policy to be reflected in departmental procedures that imposes misdemeanor charges for trespassing or other relevant code violations after three documented refusals to accept shelter or housing within an 18-month period."

Over half of the people who are unhoused are not drinkers, are not drug addicts, are not mentally ill. Many of these individuals refuse shelters for good reasons. Shelters can be unsafe, with items being stolen, quarrels and fights occurring in or near them that might be

dangerous to them, and vulnerabilities while sleeping being exploited among many other reasons.

CalMatters reported in a February ¹ Mercury News article that there are other, better, solutions than shelters. ““The shelters are not a solution,” said [Dennis] Culhane, a University of Pennsylvania social scientist who has advised the city of LA, the U.S. Congress and other public agencies. “We have every reason to believe that if we scaled up income support and provided rental assistance, we would probably see the homeless numbers cut in half.”” That same article reported that in California, deaths are twice as common in shelters across the state than in our jails. They report that “even under the most generous formula, the state’s shelters delivered housing for just 22% of residents from 2018 to early 2024.” Shelters are not the answer except on an interim basis, with no expectation that they will lead to more permanent housing. Indeed, in this same budget message the Mayor proposes deep cuts in the Measure E funding that our voters had fully expected to go to permanent housing.

I respectfully request that you spend more time on thinking through such a policy so that you are serving the citizens of our community, which includes our community members that are homeless.

Sincerely,

Martha C. Beattie, Resident of District 3

1. ‘A volunteer jail:’ Inside the scandals and abuse pushing California’s homeless out of shelters.
CALMatters, February 26th, 2025, The Mercury News.



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Fw: Please vote NO on changes to Measure E revenue allocation

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

Date Fri 3/14/2025 12:19 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Diane McNutt [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:23 AM

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

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

Subject: Please vote NO on changes to Measure E revenue allocation

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

[Attached find a letter](#) from the League of Women Voters urging the Council to vote NO on Item 3.3, File# 25-242:

Diane McNutt, President, League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara

lwvsjsc.org

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March 14, 2025
lwvsjsc.org

To: Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers Kamei, Campos, Salas, Cohen, Ortiz, Mulcahy, Doan, Candelas, Foley, and Casey
Cc: City Clerk

Subject: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message.
Item 3.3, File# 25-242: Vote NO

The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara strongly urges the City Council to **VOTE NO on the proposal to reallocate Measure E revenue to help fund support services and operations at the city's temporary housing sites.**

The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara was proud to strongly support the passage of Measure E in 2020. It addressed our long-established position regarding housing and the reduction of homelessness, and we believed that the measure was structured in conformance with good government. It provided for flexibility but also safeguarded the will of the voters by requiring a 2/3 vote of Council to amend the allocation of funds.

In that first year only 15% was to go to homeless support programs and shelter construction and operations. In this year's budget, 60% goes to them, reducing the affordable housing portion. In fact, the affordable housing for extremely low income families has gone from 40% of the allocation down to 12%.

This year the proposal for affordable housing funding is for "any remaining funds" after allocating 10% for homelessness prevention and "up to 90%" for homeless support programs. **This is not what San Jose voters supported when they approved Measure E.** It is tempting to use the \$39 million from Measure E to reduce next fiscal year's deficit to \$21 million, but this short term answer will have long-lasting repercussions in our ability to build permanent affordable units and to assure voters that their voting decisions carry weight.

We respectfully ask that the Council make no change to current Council Policy 1-18, Section 22.

Respectfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Diane McNutt, President
League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara

FW: Destination: Home letter regarding the Mayor's March Budget Message (Item 3.3 on the 3.18 agenda)

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

Date Fri 3/14/2025 3:20 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (143 KB)

DH letter on fy25-26 march budget message 03142025.pdf;

From: David Low <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 12:58 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>

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

Subject: Destination: Home letter regarding the Mayor's March Budget Message (Item 3.3 on the 3.18 agenda)

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Honorable Mayor & City Councilmembers,

Please find attached a letter from Destination: Home CEO Jennifer Loving expressing our deep concerns with the proposals including the Mayor's March Budget Message.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Thank you,
David



DAVID LOW

Sr. Director of Public Policy



DestinationHomeSV.org

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roger Biscay
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Dontae Lartigue
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Ky Le
County of Santa Clara

Jennifer Loving
Destination: Home

Janae Pina
LEAB SV

Preston Prince
SCC Housing Authority

Joel John Roberts
PATH

Alex Senegal
Enneagram Prison Project

John A. Sobrato
The Sobrato Organization

Erik Solivan
City of San José

Ben Spero
Spectrum Equity Investors

Nicole Taylor
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Ted Wang

Gary Wipfler
Apple



P: 408.961.9895 F: 408.559.9515

E: info@destinationhomesv.org

3180 Newberry Dr, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95118

DESTINATIONHOMESV.ORG

March 14, 2025

Mayor & City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Mayor's FY 25-26 March Budget Message (*Item 3.3 on the 3/18/25 Council Agenda*)

Dear Mayor Mahan and City Councilmembers,

I write today to express my grave concerns with the Mayor's March Budget Message and its many proposals related to homelessness. **To be blunt: the Mayor's strategy for addressing homelessness will fail to deliver its promised results.** And while we appreciate the urgency with which you all are moving to address this crisis, the decisions you make today will create serious long-term implications and challenges for not only our collective desire to end homelessness, but also the health of the City as whole.

A Shelter-Centric Strategy Simply Will Not Work

As we've written many times before, **a narrow focus on shelter will not be effective in curbing homelessness** and we are deeply concerned that the Mayor's plan triples down on a massive expansion of shelter at the expense of other key strategies.

Even as our community provided shelter to thousands of people last year, only about 1/4 of these individuals successfully transitioned into a permanent housing location (the majority of whom were only able to do so with the help of an affordable housing subsidy or unit). And because persistently high housing costs continue pushing more people into homelessness every day, we have not been able to meaningfully reduce the number of people living outside even as we've brought hundreds of new shelter beds online.

To make shelter work, it must be part of a continuum of solutions that includes more affordable housing options - both to prevent more people from being pushed into homelessness and to ensure there are enough pathways out of shelter.

However, this Budget Message continues a multi-year trend of depleting the City's limited affordable housing dollars to pay for shelter expansion, without taking any significant steps to ensure the City is able to continue expanding affordable housing options in the years to come.

Increasing Enforcement is Cruel, Costly & Ineffective

We're further concerned about the Mayor's latest proposal to arrest unhoused individuals who decline shelter. **Cities that have focused on enforcement have found their efforts to be extremely costly and ultimately ineffective** at reducing homelessness.

Here, in Santa Clara County, our coordinated entry system does not have difficulty filling our shelter or housing units. There is, however, a constant lack of available options for people to go. As City staff presented during a recent study session, there are only about 2,900 shelter beds in San Jose for roughly 5,500 unsheltered individuals in the city. And very few shelter beds open up in our community at any given time - in fact, County staff recently shared that there were 1,400 households on their Countywide Shelter Hotline waiting list.

With so few available shelter beds in our community, the Mayor's enforcement proposal will do nothing to actually reduce the number of people living outdoors. It could, however, lead to additional violence for people surviving outside, as we've seen recently.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roger Biscay
Cisco

Jan Bernstein Chargin
Gavilan College

Louis Chicoine
Abode Services

Dontae Lartigue
Razing the Bar

Ky Le
County of Santa Clara

Jennifer Loving
Destination: Home

Janae Pina
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P: 408.961.9895 F: 408.559.9515

E: info@destinationhomesv.org

3180 Newberry Dr, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95118

DESTINATIONHOMESV.ORG

We must remember that being homeless is not a crime. Nobody suffers from this crisis more than our unhoused neighbors and subjecting them to more criminal penalties will only put these vulnerable people at greater risk and create even more barriers to achieving stable housing and self-sufficiency.

Charting a More Effective Course Forward

If we want to solve homelessness, we must put politics aside and focus on evidence-based strategies that address the root of the problem.

We must create more places for people to go - including both temporary shelter and long-term housing - and we must invest in key supportive services to help people remain stably housed and thrive. And without charting a more thoughtful, strategic and collaborative approach, we simply won't see the results that we're all hoping for.

That's why in this year's budget we urge you to:

1. Reject the proposal to increase criminal penalties for unhoused individuals;
2. Broaden the City's homelessness strategy from a shelter-centric approach to a more holistic, balanced and multi-faceted strategy;
3. Affirm the Council's commitment to affordable housing and identify strategies to preserve as much funding for affordable housing in this year's budget as possible;
4. Deepen investments in proven homelessness prevention strategies that will become even more important in the year ahead; and
5. Start seriously considering opportunities to raise or redirect revenues that will allow the City to expand all of its homelessness strategies at the scale necessary to meet the depth of this crisis.

We appreciate the enormity of the challenge before you and stand ready to assist you in any way that we can. Let's come together to chart a more thoughtful, sustainable and effective approach for ending our homelessness crisis.

Sincerely,




Jennifer Loving
CEO

FW: Item 3.3 3/18 March Budget Message

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

Date Fri 3/14/2025 4:35 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (129 KB)

SV De-Bug Letter Regarding Mayor's March Budget Message Item 3.3 .pdf;

From: Elizabeth Gonzalez [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 3:26 PM

To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@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>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Andrew Bigelow [REDACTED]

Subject: Item 3.3 3/18 March Budget Message

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Good afternoon,

Enclosed is our letter from Silicon Valley De-Bug calling on the San Jose City Council to reject the 3 recommendations under Reducing the Impacts of Homelessness by Mayor Mahan in his March Budget Message directing the City Attorney and City Manager to 1) change existing ordinances, 2) create new or amend current ordinances and worst of all 3) creating the "Responsibility to shelter" policy.

Thank you on behalf of Silicon Valley De-Bug

--

Liz González // Silicon Valley De-Bug
siliconvalleydebug.org

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701 Lenzen Ave. San José, CA. 95126 • info@siliconvalleydebug.org • 408.971.4965

March 14th, 2025

Mayor Matt Mahan
Vice Mayor Pam Foley
Council Member David Cohen
Council Member Rosemary Kamei
Council Member Peter Ortiz
Council Member George Casey
Council Member Michael Mulcahy
Council Member Carl Salas
Council Member Bien Doan
Council Member Domingo Candelas
Council Member Pamela Campos

Re: Mayor's March Budget Message Item 3.3

Dear Mayor and San Jose City Council,

We, Silicon Valley De-Bug, are writing this letter to call on the San Jose City Council to reject the 3 recommendations by Mayor Mahan in his March Budget Message directing the City Attorney and City Manager to 1) change existing ordinances, 2) create new or amend current ordinances and worst of all 3) creating the "Responsibility to Shelter" policy.

In the Mayor's Memorandum, we are seeing a suggested policy of arresting and charging unhoused residents of San Jose because "people should not have the choice" to be unhoused. This suggested policy is the epitome of criminalizing poverty and if passed, will be the stained legacy of Mayor Mahan and this City Council. This suggested policy does not understand the circumstances of unhoused people nor how incarceration impacts people's lives, especially people dealing with poverty and instability. This suggestion is either intentionally cruel and unethical or it is uneducated and naive. De-Bug's over 20 years of experience working closely with unhoused people and people dealing with the carceral system informs us that this policy will both not work in ending houselessness and will actually further throw people into the endless cycles of poverty that they may already be experiencing.

Unhoused people often choose to be outside rather than in shelters for various reasons including shelter rules or set up, not allowing pets or belongings, or not allowing family or friends to be together. This idea that because an unhoused person does not want to go to a shelter somehow makes being unhoused a "choice" is an exaggeration at best. Nearly all unhoused people would welcome an apartment of any kind if they were able to maintain their autonomy in doing so. We often wonder what meaningful interactions

or experiences the Mayor or his staff have had with unhoused people that this is their conclusion. For us, it shows the lack of relationship or meaningful experience with our loved ones who experience homelessness.

Furthermore, we think it is crucial to point out how destructive it was to our San Jose and Bay Area community for the Mayor to call homelessness a “choice” while making appearances on local news channels and posting premeditated, edited social media videos. We live in a cultural moment in the Bay Area where homelessness is being viewed as a blight and not the human rights crisis that it is. We are concerned how this will invoke people already with prejudice towards our unhoused neighbors to become more bold in how they treat them. Within the same week of the Mayor conducting his media campaign for this policy, San Jose police brutalized an unhoused person so badly that the person whose house they were in front of tried to stop it (the story was later written about in the Mercury News). The Mayor’s comments further this false public perception of our neighbors experiencing poverty and is weaponizing it for political clout. This is not a demonstration of leadership but instead an exploitation of suffering. Our unhoused neighbors are not things to be removed so the view is more pleasant. And if they do not want to go to the shelter that you have made, we must ask why someone would rather live along the creeks or freeways than stay there?

In regards to the suggested policy of arresting, charging and incarcerating unhoused people who decline the invite to the shelters, we implore the council to understand the relationship between incarceration, poverty and homelessness. Nothing derails a person's life more than incarceration. It makes people ineligible for services, affects ability to obtain housing, affects ability to get a job to escape the cycles of poverty and entirely disrupts anything a person may have been working towards prior to their arrest. We understand that incarceration does nothing more than plunge people deeper into the crisis they were already experiencing before the arrest. We often see the link between people’s housing instability and their prior incarceration. Incarcerating people is not the answer. It will only take us back to a disgraceful time in California’s history where we incarcerated more people than anywhere else in the country. And as our state takes steps back towards that inherently racist and anti-poor history with ballot measures like Prop 36, that Mayor Mahan also publicly campaigned for, we are yet again at a crossroads if we are going to continue to regress as a city and a community.

Lastly, as this Council considers arresting unhoused people for being unhoused, this same budget proposal includes cuts to funds for permanent housing and increases the already half a billion dollar budget for the San Jose Police Department, partly to enforce arresting unhoused people. The Mayor’s priorities are being expressed through this budget and none of them include actual, long-term housing solutions for the unhoused neighbors we claim to care about. Please, consider changing course in how you view solutions to the epidemic of poverty in the wealthiest region in the world, starting with rejecting the suggested policy of criminalizing and arresting our unhoused residents.

Thank you.

On behalf of Silicon Valley De-Bug,



Andrew Bigelow
Silicon Valley De-Bug


Mayor's Budget Message Item 3.3

From Jesus [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Date Fri 3/14/2025 4:46 PM

To City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc Jesus [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Stephanie Flores <[REDACTED]>

 1 attachment (135 KB)

Protecting San Jose's Smallest Businesses.pdf;

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

Please include the attached document in the Letters from the Public for ITEM 3.3 of the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

Jesus Flores

President & CEO

Latino Business Foundation SV

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.lbfsv.org

www.thesbrc.org

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Protecting San Jose's Smallest Businesses: Addressing Displacement, Economic Uncertainty & Policy Solutions

The Economic & Community Impact of Very Small Businesses

The **very small businesses we support** are the backbone of San Jose's neighborhoods—**family-owned restaurants, local sombrero stores, service providers, and mom-and-pop shops** that define the city's character and economy. These businesses, **with 10 or fewer employees**, are owned by people who live in our neighborhoods, send their children to school with ours, and reinvest almost every dollar they earn back into the local economy.

- San Jose is home to 65,000 small businesses—19,000 of them have 10 employees or fewer.
- 65% of the businesses we support are women-owned, and 60% of these women are single mothers, the sole providers for their families.
- In East San Jose and surrounding areas, there are over 2,000 very small businesses, nearly 600 (30%) of which are owned by undocumented entrepreneurs.
- Immigrant-owned businesses are already facing average losses of 30-40% in sales and services.

What's at Stake? The Economic Risks of Inaction

- **Revenue at Risk:** Very small businesses in East San Jose and surrounding areas generate approximately **\$600 million in annual revenue** ([Biz2Credit](#)). A significant portion of this could be lost if closures continue.
- **Sales Tax Loss:** An estimated **\$4.2 million in annual sales tax revenue is at risk**, reducing funds available for public services, infrastructure, and community programs ([San Jose City Tax Data](#)).
- **Job Losses:** With an average of **4 employees per very small business**, widespread closures could result in **up to 8,000 job losses** ([San Jose Small Business Spotlight](#)).
- **Displacement:** Business closures could lead to **housing insecurity and economic displacement**, forcing families to leave the communities they've long been part of ([San Jose Retail Trade Data](#)).

These businesses **reduce displacement, provide jobs, anchor cultural identity, and support access to essential services like childcare**, yet today, they face threats that **put them at risk of closure and displacement**.

Key Challenges Facing Very Small Businesses

1. Economic Pressures & Misinformation

- **Labor Shortages and Immigration Policies:** Stricter immigration enforcement is causing labor shortages in industries like hospitality. Fear of enforcement actions is also disrupting operations, reducing revenue, and limiting community participation.
- **Misinformation is driving sharp declines in business activity**—Families afraid of ICE appearances are staying home, not sending their kids to school or daycare, avoiding public spaces, and spending less.
- **Without intervention, these issues will have long-term ripple effects on San Jose's economic stability.**

2. Policy Barriers & Lack of Targeted Support

- **Rollback of DEI programs and minority business funding** has reduced access to resources that help small businesses thrive.
- **Increased regulatory burdens** make it harder for very small businesses to stay compliant and competitive.
- **Existing business aid often excludes undocumented entrepreneurs**, leaving a large portion of San Jose's economy without critical support.

LBFSV's Comprehensive Support Strategy

Latino Business Foundation Silicon Valley (LBFSV) is heading a **community-driven response** to protect very small businesses, counter misinformation, and advocate for policy solutions.

Entrepreneurial Support

- **Small Business Support Hotline** – Providing immediate assistance to business owners facing immigration-related concerns, misinformation, and financial challenges.
- **Educational Webinars & Know-Your-Rights Resources** – Informing business owners about workplace rights, employer responsibilities, and available assistance.
- **Strategic Referral Network** – Ensuring business owners receive legal and financial services through trusted partners.

Community Advocacy & Policy Engagement

- **Anti-Displacement Efforts** – Just like during COVID-19, misinformation-driven revenue losses are pushing businesses toward closure. We are actively developing strategies and recommendations that will protect small businesses and families from eviction and displacement.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Engagement** – Partnering with city and state leaders to implement policies that protect vulnerable businesses.
- **Data-Driven Policy Recommendations** – Using real-time hotline data and economic impact tracking to inform decision-making.

Call to Action

Very small businesses don't just create jobs, they create community. Without them, San Jose faces increased displacement, job losses, and economic instability.

As city leaders set priorities, we urge you to integrate small business protections into economic recovery efforts by:


- **Prioritizing small business support in stabilization initiatives.**
- **Investing in policies that prevent closures and displacement.**
- **Collaborating on solutions that strengthen long-term business resilience.**

We welcome the opportunity to work together on policies that protect San Jose's most vulnerable businesses and ensure our local economy remains strong and inclusive.

Jesus Flores
President & CEO
Latino Business Foundation Silicon Valley

FW: MORE: Council agenda Item 3.3 for Tuesday, March 18th meeting under "Letters from the Public."

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 8:24 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (607 KB)
SIGNED D2NLC BOD response to Mayoral message.pdf;

From: sgsmail [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 11:16 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: MORE: Council agenda Item 3.3 for Tuesday, March 18th meeting under "Letters from the Public."

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Madames and Sirs:

Please see below and attached. I am superseding my earlier e-mailed letter to correct an omission in the letterhead.

Thank You.

Steven Spivak
Director
District 2 Leadership Council



D2 Neighborhood Leadership Council

Board of Directors

John Leipelt, Chairman
Basking Ridge Neighborhood
Association

Carlos Rosario, Vice-Chair
VEPCA Neighborhood
Association

David Wilkins, Secretary
Silver Leaf Neighborhood
Association

Wanda Wong, Treasurer
Basking Ridge Neighborhood
Association

Darryl Ospring, Director
Coyote Creek Neighborhood
Association

Mike Ospring, Director
Coyote Creek Neighborhood
Association

Joe Lopez, Director
Coyote Creek Neighborhood
Association

Vanessa Dao Burbach, Director
Coyote Creek Neighborhood
Association

Steven Spivak, Director
Cottle-to-Lean Neighborhood
Association

Debbie Luu, Director
EGOPIC Neighborhood
Association

Alain Mowad, Director
VEPCA Neighborhood
Association

DATE: March 16, 2025

TO: Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
Council Meeting March 18, 2025 Item #3.3

I write on behalf of the Board of Directors of the District 2
Neighborhood Leadership Council.

We APPROVE the Mayor's budget message for Fiscal Year 2025-
2026. In doing so, we place special importance on the Mayor's
emphasis on homelessness issues, as well as the need to build back
the numbers of street-ready police officers.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that all members of the
Council join us in supporting best outcomes for our city by voting to
ACCEPT the Mayor's message. We urge you to vote "YES" when
the time comes to do so, and to support all efforts to enact the
initiatives contained in the budget message.

Sincerely,

John Leipelt
Chairman




D2 Neighborhood Leadership Council

City of San Jose, District 2, John Leipelt, Chairman

FW: City Council Meeting March 18,2025 agenda item 3.3 Budget Message File 25-242

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 8:26 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (27 KB)

Letter to City.odt;

From: rloftusjr [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2025 2:12 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: City Council Meeting March 18,2025 agenda item 3.3 Budget Message File 25-242

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Please include the attached letter to the "Letters from the Public" for this meeting.

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March 15, 2025

Mayor Mahan and Council members

Subject: San Jose City Council Meeting March 18,2025 Agenda Item 3.3

I am a retired judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County. In my role as a judge, for seven years I chaired a state-wide task force on the Justice System and the Mentally Ill. Because of that work, I came to realize that San Jose and Santa Clara County are probably the most thoughtful, innovative and caring city and county in California (and possibly the country) in treatment and services for the mentally ill. We set the standard and should be proud of that and I congratulate you for that work.

However, a proposal in the memo on the budget on today's agenda does not reflect that thoughtfulness. It directs the City Attorney to draft legislation that would criminalize a refusal to accept shelter by an unhoused person (who could be mentally ill or addicted). The memo states that the objective is to use this law to get the person into the Behavioral Health Court and into treatment.

Before retirement, I was one of the judges n the Behavioral Health Court and the Supervising Judge of the Drug Court. This proposal is misguided. It will not achieve its stated objective. The justice system does not work the way this proposal contemplates. If arrested for “trespass” or some other municipal ordinance, the person will be cited and released or released on zero bail. They will not go the Behavioral Health Court. They will not see a judge. They will not be sent to treatment. Instead they will be released to the street within hours. Additionally, if arrested and incarcerated (even briefly) they will lose their eligibility for MediCal –the only way they could qualify and pay for the treatment they need. They would need to requalify. (Furthermore, our experience and data show that arrest and incarceration makes them more distrustful and less likely to participate in treatment.)

Let me, instead, endorse a more productive path. I have reviewed the memo by Council members Cohn and Candelas attached to today's agenda and believe it offers a better approach. I think the courts and the County share the goal of shelter and treatment for this population. The challenge is how to achieve it. I believe a more robust and formal collaboration is needed. I wish there was a panacea, a magic solution, but there is none. I am the first to admit , after working with this population for more than twenty years, they are a difficult challenge and can be very frustrating. It is a hard problem and requires patience and persistence—and does not promise universal success.

Let me add that incarcerating a mentally ill /addicted person is more than just counterproductive. It visits upon this vulnerable person additional misery. They are not only burdened with being mentally ill and/or addicted but also traumatized by being homeless. They have undoubtedly alienated their family/friends and with arrest lost track of their tent, bike, cart with all their meager worldly possessions—more trauma and less likely to seek treatment.

Please don't do that.

Sincerely,


Judge Richard J Loftus, Jr. (ret'd)
Resident District 6

FW: 3-18-25 Agenda Item 3.3 - Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

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

Date Mon 3/17/2025 8:51 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (465 KB)

3-17-25 SV@Home response to March Budget Message.pdf;

From: Alison Cingolani [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 8:35 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Salas, Carl <Carl.Salas@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Regina Celestin Williams [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 3-18-25 Agenda Item 3.3 - Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and Councilmembers Kamei, Campos, Salas, Cohen, Ortiz, Mulcahy, Doan, Candelas, and Casey,

Please find attached SV@Home's response to the Mayor's March Budget Message. As an organization dedicated to ensuring every resident of Santa Clara County has access to a safe, stable home they can afford, we at SV@Home are pleased that the Mayor's March Budget Message contains proposals to remove barriers to housing development broadly. However, we are deeply disappointed that it fails to bring any real plan to address the housing needs of nearly half of the city's residents. We know affordable housing stabilizes communities, prevents homelessness, supports our schools and economy, and helps ensure that San Jose's families and individuals can stay here. We look to our City Council to demonstrate their full leadership, shaping the Budget Message to direct the City Manager and her team to create a budget that represents and serves the breadth and diversity of San Jose. We welcome the opportunity to continue to engage in productive conversation with Council offices to support a budget that addresses the needs of all of San Jose's residents.

Warm regards,

Alison Cingolani, AICP

Director of Policy | SV@Home
[REDACTED]



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*The Core Companies*Staff
Regina Celestin Williams
*Executive Director***Via email****March 17, 2025****RE: Agenda Item 3.3 - Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message**

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and Councilmembers Kamei, Campos, Salas, Cohen, Ortiz, Mulcahy, Doan, Candelas, and Casey,

As an organization dedicated to ensuring every resident of Santa Clara County has access to a safe, stable home they can afford, we at SV@Home are pleased that the Mayor's March Budget Message contains proposals to remove barriers to housing development broadly. **However, we are deeply disappointed that it fails to bring any real plan to address the housing needs of nearly half of the city's residents.** We know affordable housing stabilizes communities, prevents homelessness, supports our schools and economy, and helps ensure that San Jose's families and individuals can stay here. We are looking to our City Council to demonstrate their full leadership, shaping the Budget Message to direct the City Manager and her team to create a budget that represents and serves the breadth and diversity of San Jose.

The cost of housing in San Jose is some of the highest in the nation, whether that housing is for sale or for rent. As a consequence, we have lost tens of thousands of our families and individuals who have been pushed out of the city to find more affordable places. San Jose's residents [consistently identify housing affordability](#) as one of their top three concerns. Our lack of housing affordability is the reason schools are closing for lack of enrollment, small businesses are struggling with an inconsistent customer base, and commercial vacancy is at an all-time high, as the cost of living in the region continues to skyrocket. Our lack of affordable housing is also the reason homelessness continues to rise, as people working hard to pay rent and make ends meet are often just one emergency or unexpected expense away from being unhoused. Unless we make real changes to address our need for affordable housing, we will continue to collectively experience these harms.

No plan for homes for people with low incomes. The Mayor's budget message has no plan to address the housing needs of San Jose's residents earning less than 60% of the area median income, unless they are currently unhoused and living unsheltered. San Jose has more than 140,000 households- almost 420,000 people-

March 17, 2025

Re: Agenda Item 3.3 - Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

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43% of San Jose's current residents- with low, very low, or extremely low incomes¹. Many are living in overcrowded living conditions, or paying more than half their incomes on rent. There is no dedicated funding for affordable housing to meet the needs of these residents, and the Mayor also proposes to alter policy tools such as the inclusionary housing ordinance and surplus city-owned land away from serving residents in this income range. These are people our communities, and our economy, depend on. These are our teachers, our childcare workers, our grandparents living on a fixed income, our medical assistants, people working in grocery and retail stores and many small business owners and employees. A family of four would need to work at least 3 full time minimum wage jobs to reach 60% of the area median income² and qualify for the kind of housing the Mayor suggests should be our focus. How was the decision made to walk away from these families?

We appreciate the leadership of Councilmembers Cohen and Candelas in their memo, which calls for the City Manager to inform Council about opportunities to pursue alternative funding options for promoting affordable housing development by working with partners and stakeholders.

No plan to meet commitments made in the City's state-certified Housing Element to fund affordable housing, exposing the City and its residents to potential liability. The city's mandatory, state-certified 8-year housing plan, known as the Housing Element³, lays the groundwork for the city to enable 62,200 new homes within the planning period. Nearly 24,000 of these homes must serve households with incomes below 80% of the area median. We know this level of production in housing and affordable housing is what we need to transform the city into a thriving place for everyone. If the city fails to meet its explicit commitments by diverting funding elsewhere, the California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) may decertify the city's Housing Element, reopening exposure to builder's remedy development projects, fines and fees, litigation, and loss of access to some pools of state and regional funding⁴.

We appreciate the leadership of Councilmembers Campos, Salas, Mulcahy, Doan, and Casey in their memo calling for an MBA to evaluate the resources and an expenditure plan required to maintain compliance with the City's adopted and certified Housing Element Programs.

The city has made the following specific affordable housing funding commitments in the Housing Element:

- **Program P-2: Subsidize Extremely Low-income Housing Including Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless** - Continue to prioritize funding to create affordable homes for extremely low income individuals and families, including permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness, to meet the needs of the community and create more balance in the affordable housing portfolio.

¹ Number of San Jose households by income level, [City of San Jose Affordable Housing Programs and Policies: Production, Preservation & Protection City Council Study Session September 7, 2023](#). Persons per household average in San Jose, [U.S. Census Bureau](#).

² [City of San Jose Housing Market Report, Third Quarter 2024](#)

³ [City of San Jose 2023-2031 Housing Element, Chapter 3: Housing Goals and Strategies](#)

⁴ [California Department of Housing & Community Development: Accountability & Enforcement](#)

- **Metrics**
 - Dec 2031: 45% of City capital subsidies spent on ELI and PSH
 - Dec 2031: 1,200 ELI affordable homes created
- **Program P-5: Affordable Housing Investments in North San José** - Direct City resources to help meet the city's goal of 20% of all North San José homes being restricted affordable for lower-income residents. Prioritize city land acquisition in North San José for future 100% affordable housing new construction opportunities, then conduct Requests for Proposals to award development rights through ground leases to developers. Ensure that future city Notices of Funding Availability for new construction prioritize affordable development proposals in North San José.
 - **Metrics**
 - 800 restricted affordable homes in North San José
 - 2 sites acquired with RFP awards & ground leases to affordable developers
- **Program P-18: Loans for Affordable Housing** - Continue to provide land acquisition, construction, and permanent financing for the development of new affordable homes. Provide financing for the acquisition/rehabilitation of existing market- rate rental housing to create newly-affordable homes. Issue Notices of Funding Availability at least annually for both new construction and preservation.
- **Program R-2: Establish a Preservation NOFA** - Establish a regular housing Preservation program, including an annual funding allocation averaging at least \$5 million, funding priorities, underwriting guidelines, Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) scoring framework, NOFA issuances, and ongoing work plan.
 - **Metrics:**
 - Jun 2024: Program guidelines completed
 - by Dec 2024: First NOFA issued at least every other year (i.e., at least 4 NOFAs during the Sixth Cycle compliance period)
 - \$5M average available per year per NOFA
 - By 2031: At least 110 units of newly-restricted affordable housing acquired by nonprofits and rehabilitated through City and external funding

No plan to address the long-term fiscal consequences of a shelter-first approach rather than investing in the full continuum of responses. The structural deficit the City of San Jose is facing is a consequence of investing heavily in interim shelter without a clear plan to cover the ongoing cost of operations. Over the last several years, the city's interim housing portfolio has been sustained by one-time funding from the State and federal government, and previous one-time contributions from the General Fund and Measure E. However, all federal sources will be depleted by the end of 2024-2025, all State funding by the end of 2028-2029, and most of the previous one-time city funded allocations will be spent by the end of 2025-2026. As a result, in order to develop and operate *only the city's existing interim housing portfolio and previously committed expansions*, General Fund contributions will total \$25 million in 2025-2026, increasing to \$92 million by 2029-2030. This cost is in spite of the planned **closure** by that date of 76 rooms in the First Street Interim Housing, and 306 rooms, 60 spaces, and 55 RV spaces in the Waterway Focus Safe Sleeping & Moteling Program⁵.

⁵ See Table 3 in Appendix, from the [City of San Jose 2025-2026 City Manager's Budget Request & 2026-2030 Five-Year Forecast and Revenue Projections](#)

March 17, 2025

Re: Agenda Item 3.3 - Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

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Table 1: Interim Housing Revenue Funding and Costs (\$ in millions)

	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
Estimated Available Funding*	105.6	25.8	25.9	21.5	14.5
Interim Housing Costs	128.5	87.5	91.3	88.0	101.3
Surplus / (Shortfall)	(22.9)	(61.7)	(65.5)	(66.5)	(86.7)
Required Ongoing General Fund Contributions	25.0	66.0	70.0	71.0	92.0
Revised Surplus / (Shortfall)	2.1	4.3	4.5	4.5	5.3

*Includes the Revised Surplus/(Shortfall) from the prior fiscal year

Source: [City of San Jose 2025-2026 City Manager's Budget Request & 2026-2030 Five-Year Forecast and Revenue Projections](#)

The Mayor's budget message not only doubles down, but recklessly triples down - proposing that we nearly **triple** existing shelter capacity beyond the existing and under-construction portfolio, at \$225 million in on-time construction costs, and an estimated **annual** operating cost of \$234 million⁶. The only references to funding sources to pay for this is a vague reference to "other levels of government as well as philanthropic and corporate partners," and to "generous philanthropists and foundations." This enormous and unfunded commitment to just one segment of the continuum of response to the threat of unsheltered homelessness is clearly unsustainable, and does not actually provide housing. An individual or family in interim shelter is still classified as homeless because of the temporary and limited nature of this resource. **This is not a complete solution, only part of one that must include actual permanent housing production.**

We appreciate the leadership of Councilmembers Campos, Salas, Mulcahy, Doan, and Casey in their memo calling for a limit of the total investment from the General Fund Operating Budget in shelter/interim housing construction and operations to no greater than the amount of revenue allocated from Measure E, and for reinvesting any savings into homelessness prevention and long-term affordable housing solutions.

The need for investment in the full spectrum of affordable housing and homelessness response is clear.

Homelessness prevention and affordable housing are the most cost-effective homelessness interventions. In 2023, for every one household housed, another 1.7 became homeless⁷. Without robust investment in homelessness prevention, and somewhere affordable for people to live when they leave interim shelter, unsheltered homelessness will continue to increase. With a shortfall of affordable places to live for people leaving interim shelter, the City's current approach of diverting almost all funds earmarked for affordable housing to interim shelter creates a road to nowhere. A systems-level approach is necessary and more cost-effective: Increasing investments in homelessness prevention, a targeted and

⁶ City of San Jose, [City Council 2025-2026 Budget Priorities Study Session Presentation February 11, 2025](#)

⁷ The 2020-2025 [Community Plan to End Homelessness 2023 Year-End Progress Report](#)

March 17, 2025

Re: Agenda Item 3.3 - Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

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cost-effective approach to keep people in their homes, can dramatically reduce the number of residents falling into homelessness. Stemming the tide of people falling into homelessness with emergency rental assistance and eviction diversion is the most cost effective and humane option on the table. Affordable housing, a one-time investment in an asset that will continue to serve the community for decades to come, provides a place for interim shelter residents to move on to, helps make interim shelter more functional and effective.

Affordable housing also serves the nearly 420,000 San Jose residents living in low-income households.

In San Jose, more than 33,000 households pay more than half their income in rent every month and 15% of our rental homes are overcrowded. Affordable housing is an asset that sustains and strengthens our communities by ensuring we **all** have a safe, stable home. Affordable housing provides a range of housing solutions that address the diverse needs of local residents who cannot afford the cost of housing in Silicon Valley. Affordable housing improves health outcomes, educational attainment, and employment stability, and helps reduce family and community violence. Households living in San Jose's existing affordable housing save an average of \$940 a month on rent, which is additional income per household to return into the local economy.

SV@Home's Recommendations

1. We recommend dramatically increasing the City's investment in **homelessness prevention**, the most impactful, cost-effective, and humane intervention. 95% of assisted households remained stably housed both while receiving services, and one year later, only 5% of households became homeless.
2. We recommend that, rather than expanding interim shelter with enormous unfunded operating expenses, the City focuses on **sustaining the existing in-service and under-construction interim portfolio**.
3. We recommend that the City work as partners with the County and jurisdictions throughout Santa Clara County, in close collaboration with community stakeholders and affordable housing developers, to **create new sources of funding** to subsidize deed restricted housing affordable to extremely low-, very low-, and low-income households. These include but are not limited to enhanced infrastructure improvement districts, bond measures, and innovative financing tools.
4. We recommend that any language regarding a permanent reallocation of Measure E be removed from the budget, as it may create a false assumption that the allocation of these funds are not considered each year by the City Council as part of the budget process.

The City of San Jose needs to be pulling together with partners to identify and create the resources we need to move the full continuum of housing solutions forward. These are challenging times, but San Jose is up to the task! San Jose is known for innovation - when we are faced with a challenge we don't shrug our shoulders and walk away, we find solutions. We need to apply San Jose's talent and leadership to making sure every San Jose resident has a safe, stable, and affordable place to live.

Sincerely,

Regina Celestin Williams
Executive Director

March 17, 2025

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"We as a country always act like we can't find the money to solve this home affordability crisis, which implies that we are not spending it now. We are spending it now. We are just spending it on adverse health and bad outcomes."

-Dr. Megan Sandel, pediatrician and co-director of the Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center, professor at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine and Boston University School of Public Health.

Silicon Valley @ Home is a nonprofit advocacy organization that supports housing and affordable housing development throughout Santa Clara County. SV@Home works with a broad coalition of strategic partners to address the urgent housing needs of the diverse residents across all our communities. We advocate for solutions including increasing production of homes at all income levels, especially affordable housing; preserving existing affordable housing; and protecting our community's most vulnerable residents from displacement.



Appendix

Table 3: Interim Housing Costs (\$ in millions)

	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
Bridge Housing Communities / Emergency Interim Housing (1,110 units)					
Mabury (38 units)					
Operations	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
Felipe (38 units)					
Operations	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Bernal-Monterey (78 units)					
Operations	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.7
Rue Ferrari (182 units)					
Operations	8.1	10.3	10.7	11.2	11.7
Construction	7.2	-	-	-	-
Evans Lane (49 units)					
Operations	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.4
Guadalupe (96 units)					
Operations	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.2
Branham-Monterey (204 units)					
Operations	8.7	9.0	9.4	9.9	10.3
Via del Oro (135 units)					
Operations	6.6	6.9	7.2	7.6	7.9
Construction	-	-	-	-	9.5
Cerone (162 units)					
Operations	5.8	8.1	8.4	8.8	9.2
Lease	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Construction	18.1	-	-	-	-
Cherry (128 units)					
Operations	3.9	5.4	5.7	5.9	6.2
Construction	13.8	-	-	-	-
Motel / Hotel Conversions (280 converted hotel rooms)					
First Street Interim Housing (76 rooms)					
Operations	3.0	-	-	-	-
Plaza Hotel (43 rooms)					
Operations	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.2
Arena Hotel (89 rooms)					
Operations	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7	6.0
Pacific Motor Inn (72 rooms)					
Operations	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.7
Supportive Safe Parking (126 RV spaces)					
Santa Teresa Supportive Parking (42 RV spaces)					
Operations	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3
Berryessa Supporting Parking (84 RV spaces)					
Operations	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.5
Lease	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0
Waterways Focus - Safe Sleeping and Moteling Program (306 rooms, 60 spaces, and 55 RV spaces)					
Taylor Street Navigation Center/Hub (60 spaces)					
Operations	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3
Moteling Program (306 rooms and 55 RV spaces)					
Operations	14.0	6.7	7.0	-	-
Major Repair and Maintenance					
Public Works Department					
Staff and Contractual Services	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8
Total	128.5	87.5	91.3	88.0	101.3

Source: [City of San Jose 2025-2026 City Manager's Budget Request & 2026-2030 Five-Year Forecast and Revenue Projections](#)

FW: Supporting Mayor Mahan's Budget

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 8:22 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Annmarie Bustamante [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 8:27 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Supporting Mayor Mahan's Budget

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Hello,

I am writing in support of the Major's budget specifically so more interim housing can be built. We need to get homelessness to functional zero with more people exiting than entering street homelessness.

This comment is for agenda item 3.3.

Thank you so much,

Annmarie Bustamante

Cofounder and Street Outreach Coordinator
Tree Ring Village



FW: City Council Agenda Item 3.3 -March 18, 2025

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 8:25 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Aurelia Sanchez [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 5:43 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: City Council Agenda Item 3.3 -March 18, 2025

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Honorable Mayor and Council members,

I am writing to ask that our council supports our Mayor's budget especially his proposal to end homelessness. I understand it is not a perfect plan for everyone but residents expect our Mayor and council to provide city services to everyone and not just a selected few.

Please note I live in the Spartan Keyes Neighborhood and for over 20 years the unhoused has impacted our quality of life. We have unhoused living on our streets that is costing the city millions in cleaning up after them when residents complain. I do want to add I feel if the city directly offered rental assistance to families in need that this might prevent homelessness. These families should be working families who might need help because of a illness or a crime was committed against them that might have impacted their ability to work. A sudden layoff should also be considered no matter their income. Emergencies happen to everyone.

Best,
Aurelia Sanchez

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FW: 3/18/25 City Council Meeting Item 3.3 City Budget

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

Date Mon 3/17/2025 8:26 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Patricia Crespo <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 7:58 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>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: 3/18/25 City Council Meeting Item 3.3 City Budget

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Hi city council,

I'm writing in support of the mayor's budget. In the time that I've been living in San Jose I didn't start to see any improvement in my neighborhood until he became mayor. Things are moving in the right direction

My own personal passion is the ability to cycle safely in San Jose. My own Seven Trees neighborhood is still dangerous for bike riders. But the neighborhoods around it seem to be getting better. San Jose could sell itself as a city where you could commute by bike everywhere. It's crossed by wonderful trails, like Coyote Creek Trail, the Guadalupe River Trail, and others. The problem is that there are segments overrun with trash and homeless encampments, and it doesn't feel safe to be riding there alone. Apart from that, the environmental destruction of the creeks is appalling. We can't allow that.

The graffiti, the blight, the sideshows and the general sense that you can do anything to the public spaces in San Jose, and there are no consequences has to stop.

I hope everybody will vote in favor of the budget.

Thank you,

Patricia

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FW: 3/18/25 City Council Meeting Item 3.3 City Budget

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 8:26 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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

From: Brandi DR2 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2025 11:22 PM
Subject: 3/18/25 City Council Meeting Item 3.3 City Budget

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I am a 40 year San Jose resident and I really hate to see what my city has become. This is why I support and encourage you to do the same in approving the mayors budget message where it concerns reducing homelessness and managing blight. Now that all the investment had been made into offering people homes they need to be responsible and get off of the streets that we all pay for, otherwise why make us pay, how is that fair? San Jose used to be the envy of many Bay Area cities and now all you hear about is people and jobs moving away instead of into our city because who wants to pay what we have to pay to live here and see squalor, theft and drugs we see as we drive down the street to go to the grocery store or take our children to school, nobody, that's who. Prove you can do make the tough decisions to do what's best for everyone and not just a few of us.

Best regards,
Brandi Muniz

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FW: 3/18/25 City Council Meeting Item 3.3 City Budge

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 8:26 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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

From: Gary Omura [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 12:26 PM
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>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Beth mobile [REDACTED]; Gary Omura [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/18/25 City Council Meeting Item 3.3 City Budge

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I support the direction of this comprehensive plan to move San Jose forward.

My mother and I were both born in San Jose and our family has roots going back about 110+ years beginning with my grandparents from Japan running a small leased farm in the Berryessa district. I have seen Santa Clara Valley grow from a relatively small, quiet agricultural community into a leading global technology center. After graduating from UCSB and SCU, I worked in the Silicon Valley technology companies beginning in the early semiconductor days, then social media and ending in biotech.

I have seen San Jose grow through numerous phases, often with great visions of turning our city into a highly desirable location for businesses, residents and entertainment activities, but usually failing from the social/entertainment perspective. The goals in the City's plan are commendable and will be very challenging, especially as the economy is currently expected to be very volatile in the near future. My only concern is, especially with the forecast budget deficit, are you trying to do too much? Also, many of the goals are dependent on collaborations with those outside the City's control. Perhaps, may need contingency plans prioritizing top goals further.

Homelessness seems to be a top priority state wide, yet we seem to fail to diminish the problem though spending a lot of money. I have no solutions to this very complex issues but am very frustrated along with other

Californians about this problem. There is substance addiction, behavioral/psychological problems, lack of affordable housing, fear of the "government housing projects" of the past, and many just prefer living in their "off road" tent encampments or trailer parks. With further automation, Artificial Intelligence and other technological improvements, I suspect there will be an increase in our already very high disparity between the "Haves" and "Have nots". In addition, housing developers prefer building luxury homes with greater profit and neighborhoods prefer that over high density housing. So, getting more affordable housing built will be a huge challenge.

Do we know if the homeless have family or close friends that could take them in if the City provides some remuneration for their assistance? I have some concern about what to do if the homeless refuse provided housing three times. What does issuing a citation do? They won't be able to pay anything and probably not a good idea to force them into some type of homeless "jail".

Working collaboratively with corporations and churches/temples is a great idea to help resolve the RV/auto homeless parking problem. In addition, corporations can help beautify neighboring areas and provide contributions to assist with homelessness taking charitable tax deductions and increasing their brand image. I would think that many churches/temples and their parishioners would want to help out.

Regarding our police force, are we losing more than gaining because of retirements? Or, is it too expensive to live here on a police person's salary? Corporations and colleges sometimes provide subsidized housing to attract non-Bay Area professionals here. Obviously, that adds more expense. Do Neighborhood Watch programs help or hinder?

I am all for reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and taxes to attract desirable businesses and housing development.

Striving to revitalize Downtown San Jose, which failed before, may require coordination with Adobe, Google, San Jose Sharks, San Jose Earthquakes and Bay FC, San Jose Giants, Santa Clara 49ers and other major corporations downtown to create a master plan to take advantage of our local businesses, sports venues, shopping, restaurants and entertainment. Improving the connection between major sporting centers with shopping, restaurants and entertainment would be very helpful increasing the vision laid out in the City's plan. Since Valley Fair has become the shopping destination for Santa Clara County (San Jose erred in not accepting Macy's offer many years ago to develop Downtown), developing an easier transit between Downtown and Valley Fair would be helpful.

Finally, I agree with trying to pay for results for those in leadership positions that make the major decisions.

This is a very well thought out plan and meets the priorities from my single perspective.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Gary Omura

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FW: Agenda Item 3.3

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 10:32 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Camie Nicholson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 10:08 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 3.3

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am advocating for the preserving of the city's library funding.

Library programs provide economic opportunities for many of the city's most vulnerable residents. They provide access to digital tools, professional skill development, and career resources all for free. Library programs assist with ESL, tax preparation, learning to read, as well as give enjoyment with the free materials they provide.

Please preserve library funding for San Jose Public Libraries.

Thank-you.

Camie Piccolo-Nicholson
[REDACTED]
San Jose, CA 95148

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FW: Agenda Item 3.3

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 10:32 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Sangeetha Vasu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 9:59 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 3.3

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Hello,

I'm writing to advocate to preserve library funds.

We go to the library at least six times a month.

My daughter is 5 years old and she has already read close to 400 books and it has helped develop her love towards books. We go to san jose libraries (willow glen and king branch) all the time.

Investing in libraries is an investment in San José's economic growth, equity, and prosperity.

Libraries play a vital role in community safety and well-being by providing safe, inclusive spaces, fostering social connection, and offering resources and programs that address community needs, including those related to health, education, and social justice

--

Signing Off..
Sangeetha Vasu

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FW: March Budget Message letter of support

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 11:31 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Joanne Price [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 10:58 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: March Budget Message letter of support

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Dear San Jose City Council,

I am writing in strong support of Mayor Mahan's budget proposal, specifically the investment in reaching "functional zero unsheltered homelessness" in San Jose.

It's mythical to think that there is a zero price to pay leaving people languish on our streets. Data suggests that cost is at least twice as high as bringing someone indoors into a structured and safe living environment where the efficacy of services is tenfold – it's called interim housing. San Jose is already benefitting from the advantages of this approach, a 10.7% decrease in unsheltered homelessness versus a 10.3% rise across California – a saving of ~\$15M to society.

This is not just about money though. This is about **restoring dignity, rebuilding communities, and being smart with our resources.**

If we continue to let this crisis fester, **it will define us.**

But if we take action—if we choose smart, structured, accountable solutions—we don't just fix homelessness. We reclaim our communities.

And more importantly, we **reclaim our humanity.**

The time to act is now. Be the boldest city on the West Coast and work towards ending inhumane suffering of unsheltered homelessness and make the fiscally correct choice.

Thank you

Joanne Price

Silicon Valley Homelessness Advocate

[REDACTED]
Sent from iCloud

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FW: Libraries Agenda Item 3.3

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 11:31 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Margaret Stanton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 10:43 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Libraries Agenda Item 3.3

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On Mar 17, 2025, at 10:40 AM, Margaret Stanton [REDACTED] wrote:


Being personally acquainted with a homeless person, I know how he relies on the library for help finding resources and using the Internet. The last thing he needs is for library funding to dry up.
I personally read ebooks by the boatload, what would I do if the libraries weren't there? I don't have the money to pay for books.
Please think of us poor people, there are so few public resources left.
Margaret Stanton
[REDACTED]
SJ

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FW: In support of Mayor Mahan's March Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 11:31 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (85 KB)
DMSupport_MarchBudgetMessage_031725.pdf;

From: Elizabeth Funk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 11:11 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: In support of Mayor Mahan's March Budget Message

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Attached please find DignityMoves' letter of support for Mayor Mahan's March Budget Message.

Thank you,

--
Elizabeth Funk
Founder and CEO
[DignityMoves](#)



[Check out the DignityMoves 2024 Impact Report](#)
[Read my take on solutions to unsheltered homelessness \(SF Chronicle\)](#)

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March 17, 2025

Dear San Jose City Council,

I am writing in strong support of Mayor Mahan's budget proposal, specifically the investment in reaching "functional zero unsheltered homelessness" in San Jose. While the cost estimates of \$225m one-time capital investment and \$234m in annual operating expenses (initially) may sound daunting, those numbers pale in comparison to the actual costs our community incurs allowing unsheltered homelessness to continue. Studies estimate that between encampment sweeps, emergency room visits, police interactions, and a laundry list of other interventions, the average unsheltered individual costs society over \$60,000 per person per year. With over 4,000 people living unsheltered in San Jose, that alone is \$240m or more annually. That's just the "hard costs," not including the impact on our local economy, tourism, and businesses.

This is a budget discussion, so I am focused on fiscal issues. But the most important impacts of all are the intangibles of increased mortality rates and trauma inflicted on those suffering on our streets, as well as the sense of hopelessness and shame for our housed community.

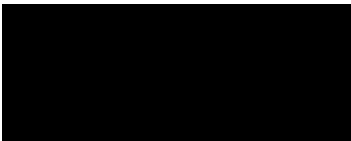
If San Jose boldly embraces this plan, I can assure you that the private sector will join you in avid support. I don't need to tell you that the community is fed up-- and eager for bold leadership and solutions that will finally put an end to the suffering on our streets.

A focus on interim housing is the single point of intersection between multiple political views. For those who care about human suffering, providing safe and dignified housing options that are appealing is the humane approach. For those concerned with reducing welfare and fiscal responsibility, this is the fiscally-responsible approach. And for the general public, who as taxpayers feel they have a right to clean sidewalks and parks, they too want to see an end to unsheltered homelessness. The only thing lacking is political will. Until now.

Ending unsheltered homelessness is possible, it requires a policy decision. In a time with budget shortfalls, we can't afford NOT to end unsheltered homelessness. Of course once everyone is indoors, the work is not done. There will still be a need to provide sufficient permanent housing, which will take time. But "functional zero unsheltered" will take enormous pressure off the system, save significant funds that are today being squandered in after-the-fact cleanup and triage-- and our streets won't be the waiting room.

I urge you to approve Mayor Mahan's budget proposal, including the bold initiative to be the first major US city to end unsheltered homelessness--an unacceptable, tragic, and solvable humanitarian crisis.


Sincerely,



Elizabeth Funk,
Founder & CEO
DignityMoves

FW: Budget support letter

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 11:33 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (87 KB)
03.17_SJBudget.pdf;

From: Adrian Covert <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 11:25 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Budget support letter

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Greetings,
Please see the attached letter from the Bay Area Council.
Best,
Adrian

Adrian Covert

Senior Vice President, Public Policy

[REDACTED]
The Historic Klamath, Pier 9, The Embarcadero, San Francisco

www.bayareacouncil.org



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March 17, 2025

The Honorable Matt Mahan
Mayor, City of San José
200 E Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Re: March Budget, Functional Zero Homelessness (Support)

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, I'm writing to offer our strong support for your proposed budget action to achieve "functional zero unsheltered homelessness" in San Jose.

For decades, the state of California and local California jurisdictions have treated unsheltered homelessness as an unfortunate but acceptable price to pay for respecting the choice of some homeless individuals to remain unsheltered. However, recent research definitively shows that unsheltered homelessness comes at a staggering cost to the health and safety of unsheltered individuals themselves, many of whom struggle with severe psychiatric and substance use disorders. Homelessness policy must be centered on saving lives, and that requires bringing people indoors.

The high rate of unsheltered homelessness in virtually all California cities results in worsened public health and safety outcomes that create additional costs to our emergency medical, corrections, and public works departments and agencies that would be at least partially avoided under a low unsheltered-rate scenario. For example, a 2022 literature review on unsheltered homelessness and health found that the standardized mortality ratio for an unsheltered homeless individuals was nearly 3 times higher than their sheltered counterparts; that unsheltered individuals had the greatest risk of developing infectious disease and the average number of days hospitalized and required for follow-up care was 4 times as high as that of sheltered homeless; and that longer durations of unsheltered homelessness were accompanied by increased daily substance use, injection drug use, and dependency. An analysis of homeless deaths occurring across 10 California counties representing 75% of California's homeless population between 2020 and 2022 found that 12 percent (1,227) of all deaths were the result of auto accidents and eight percent were (762) homicides, risk factors particularly elevated by unsheltered conditions.

These social costs have enormous fiscal impacts as well. Studies estimate that between encampment sweeps, emergency room visits, police interactions, and myriad other interventions, the average unsheltered individual costs society over \$60,000 per person per year. With over 4,000 people living unsheltered in San Jose, that alone is \$240 million or more annually, not counting the negative economic impacts encampments have on business, tourism, and neighborhoods. San José cannot afford *not* to make the proposed \$225 million one-time capital investment, and \$234 million in annual operating expenses, to bring the tragic chapter of encampments to an end.

This proposed budget includes a blueprint for San José to become the first “functional zero” unsheltered homelessness city in California. This involves expanding the city’s shelter supply, reducing operating costs, expanding safe parking sites, increasing prevention, and other interventions. It also includes a “Responsibility to Shelter” policy to refer individuals who refuse shelter placements to Santa Clara County for life-saving treatment and intervention. For these reasons we believe this budget is good for San José and a model for the region and state.

Sincerely,



Adrian Covert
Senior Vice President, Public Policy
Bay Area Council

FW: Agenda Item 3.3

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 2:10 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Uma & Suresh Rangarajan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 1:48 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Uma Suresh <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Agenda Item 3.3

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Please consider increasing the budget for our public libraries. This is all the more important during crazy times like at present when the DOE is getting shut down! Politicians at the Federal level figure their best chance to stay in power is to keep the public illiterate and ignorant. We need a grassroot movement that thwarts these plans. Let us help youngsters (and adults alike) stay informed and involved. Public libraries are the catalysts that help the community improve itself, one book at a time.

Suresh Rangarajan
A Concerned citizen

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FW: Support for Item 3.3: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget

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

Date Mon 3/17/2025 1:01 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Narduzzi, Darcy [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:57 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: Support for Item 3.3: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Councilmembers,

Please support the Mayor's Budget Message to move forward with a budget centered on fostering economic development, capitalizing on the global sporting events of 2026, supporting small business and tackling the impediments of permitting and code enforcement on our businesses.

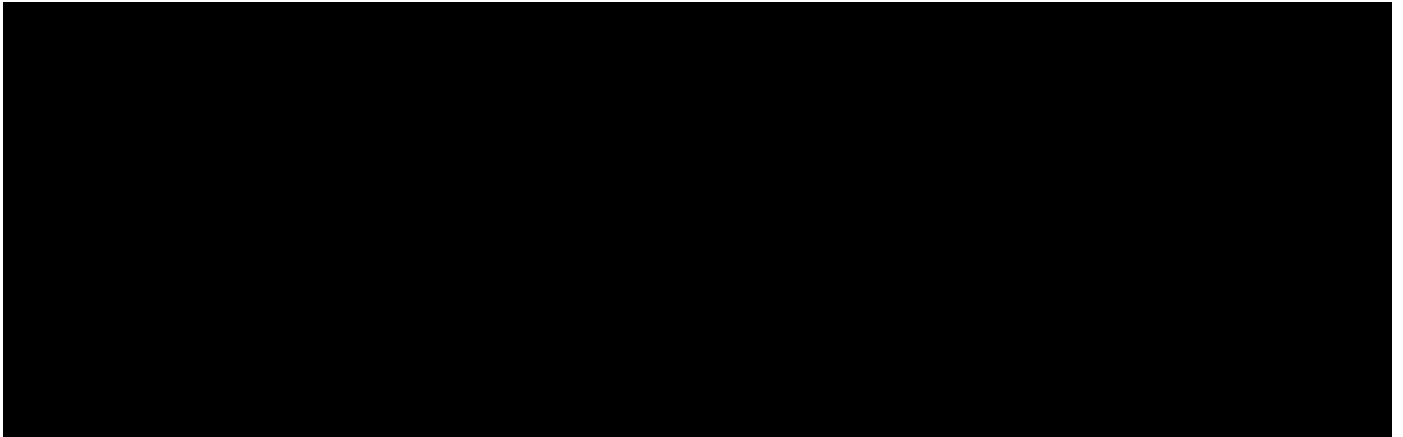
The City is facing a budget shortfall of \$46 million, with a sizeable portion of that shortfall coming from our increased interim housing and service needs for the unhoused. I am pleased to see the focus of the Mayor's budget on reducing costs, improving generation of general fund dollars, and prioritizing critical services without creating significant workforce reductions. This is the path of a multi-year strategy that will balance the budget over time while maintaining our most critical essential services remain intact.

These priorities align with the needs of our business community, and I encourage the Council to approve this budget framework while continuing to seek innovative solutions to improve efficiency and maximize resources. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the residents of San Jose.

Sincerely,

DARCY NARDUZZI, Assoc. DBIA

Vice President / Construction Manager



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FW: Support for the Mayor's accountability budget

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 1:01 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Nick Cochran [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:39 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support for the Mayor's accountability budget

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I fully support the Mayor's proposed accountability budget. It's high time we held our elected representatives accountable by tying their compensation to the outcomes they promise. For far too long, the only metric politicians concerned themselves with was inputs - how much money was spent on a given issue. It's time to pivot and measure spending against quantifiable outcomes - what was actually achieved with the dollars spent.

This is not a novel concept. This is exactly how businesses are measured. Simply put, it is the difference between success and failure.

Taxpayers deserve a measurable return on their "invested" tax dollars.

Nick Cochran

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FW: Agenda Item 3.3

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 1:01 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Hairartbylori [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:21 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 3.3

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Library funding is essential to all people in San Jose, especially to our residents with limited funds and fixed incomes. The library has updated through the years to offer programs. It would hurt all if the budget was cut for this essential service.

My brother is homeless, clean and respectful. He goes to libraries regularly to read and use other programs.

My mother who is on a fixed income uses the library regularly.

Please consider our libraries as a critical necessity to our residents.

Respectfully,

Lori Schultz Range

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FW: Item 3.3: SUPPORT Mayor's March Budget Message

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

Date Mon 3/17/2025 1:12 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Bill Baron [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 1:07 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>

Cc: Bill Baron [REDACTED]; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Item 3.3: SUPPORT Mayor's March Budget Message

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Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley and Honorable Councilmembers:

Despite several continued and new challenges facing our city and region, the City of San Jose is smartly positioning itself to be the breakout leader of the major Bay Area cities. Indeed, San Jose is on a very positive track.

With your support of the Mayor's Budget Message, the City can move forward with a budget centered on fostering economic development, capitalizing on the global sporting events of 2026, supporting small business and tackling the impediments of permitting and code enforcement on our businesses. The City is facing a budget shortfall of \$46 million, with a sizeable portion of that shortfall coming from our increased interim housing and service needs for the unhoused. I am pleased to see the focus of the Mayor's budget on reducing costs, improving generation of general fund dollars, and prioritizing critical services without creating significant workforce reductions. This is the path of a multi-year strategy that will balance the budget over time while maintaining our most critical essential services remain intact.

I ask the Council to approve this budget framework while continuing to seek innovative solutions to improve efficiency and maximize resources.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the residents of San Jose.

Sincerely,

Bill Baron

William B. Baron
MANAGING PARTNER



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FW: Please support the Mayor's Budget Message

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 1:40 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Pat Waite [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 1:39 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: Please support the Mayor's Budget Message

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Mayor and council members, I am a long-time resident of District 8 who is asking that you vote for Mayor Mahan's budget letter in full.

I applaud the mayor's drive for focusing our city on a few well-defined and measurable priorities. For far too long our city has attempted being all things to all people, which has diverted resources away from the critical core services that our city should be providing. It is high time that we retrench and focus on delivering the things that matter most to our residents, especially the three Ps: public safety, parks and pavement. We need to do these imperatives well before investing in "nice to have" services.

Sadly, too, we need to be much better at solutions for our unhoused neighbors. We need emergency housing NOW. I fully support Mayor Mahan's request for flexibility in redirecting Measure E funds to solutions that can be implemented almost immediately rather than five or more years down the road. We cannot continue the inhumane conditions in which we are forcing unhoused residents to live while awaiting the promise of expensive permanent supportive housing.

Thank you for your time, and for your service. Both are greatly appreciated.

Pat Waite
President
Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility




Virus-free www.avg.com

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FW: Public Comments on agenda item 3.3 (March Budget Message) of City Council meeting on March 18, 2025

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 3/17/2025 1:04 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (74 KB)

ACLU Santa Clara Valley Public Comment Mayor Budget Message 03_18_2025.pdf;

From: SCVchapter ACLUNC [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:04 PM
To: SCVchapter ACLUNC [REDACTED]; 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: Public Comments on agenda item 3.3 (March Budget Message) of City Council meeting on March 18, 2025

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

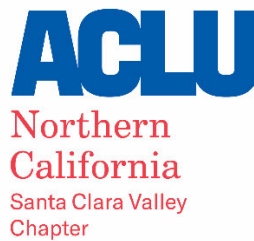
On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California, I submit the attached letter, in pdf format, as public comments on agenda item 3.3, "Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message," of the San José City Council meeting to be held on March 18, 2025.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victor Sin
Santa Clara Valley Volunteer Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California

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200 E. Santa Clara Street,
San José CA 95113

March 17, 2025

Re: Item 3.3, Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message

Dear Mayor Mahan and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California, I submit public comments on agenda item 3.3, "Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's March Budget Message" of the City Council meeting on March 18, 2025.

Criminalizing Homelessness

We understand the city is facing a critical situation with homelessness, and that there are challenging decisions to be made to support the wellbeing of the city's residents. We are staunchly opposed to proposals to arrest and jail unhoused people. People who are unsheltered cannot avoid living outdoors when there is insufficient access to dignified interim or long-term housing. These proposals only criminalize unhoused San José residents, traumatize poor people in our community, and do not make the city safer.

This is both a racial justice and disability justice issue. Black people in Santa Clara County represent 2.7% of the population, but 19% of those who are unhoused¹. A significant portion of San José's unhoused population reports having disabilities. According to data from the 2023 Homeless Census, 20% of respondents reported having a physical disability, 25% reported chronic health issues, and 34% reported psychiatric or emotional conditions².

We appeal to City Council to reject proposals to jail unhoused people in San José. The city should not be conducting encampment sweeps without safe, clean, and welcoming alternatives. We urge the City to invest in affordable housing and basic survival needs for our unhoused community members. We need permanent, subsidized housing, instead of temporary, emergency stop-gap initiatives that do little to solve the underlying crisis, and are deeply concerned about reallocation of Measure E funding towards interim makeshift measures instead of funding new housing development. In light of the memorandum signed by Councilmembers Campos, Salas, Mulcahy, Doan, and Casey, we ask the City Council to maintain affordable housing investments by preserving some level of investment in Measure E. Resources should not be used to expand the homeless shelter system—a strategy that only further

¹ SJSU Human Rights Institute, *Silicon Valley Pain Index*, available at: https://www.sjsu.edu/hri/docs/2024%20SVPI_Final.pdf.

² City of San José, *2023 Homeless Census*, available at: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/housing/resource-library/homeless-reports/homeless-reports-executive-summary>.

segregates unhoused people away from their communities and services. We agree that the City and County should improve collaboration and together deepen investment, in a coordinated fashion, in the solutions that actually work and don't further harm traumatized people. We also hope that City Council will elicit perspectives and feedback from unhoused San José residents—they are your constituents and our fellow community members.

Privacy Concerns and Increased Surveillance

The March Budget Message notes there are currently 474 Automatic License Plate Reader cameras (ALPRs) in its network. According to the vendor's transparency portal (<https://transparency.flocksafety.com/san-José-ca-pd>), in the 30-day period leading up to March 17, 2025, over 2.7 million vehicles were detected. Since the data retention period is 365 days, on any given day, there are about 32 million data points. This enormous network of cameras blanketing the city is capturing mass amounts of data. The City's Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC), which aggregates data including footage from cameras, creates a vast surveillance network able to monitor the everyday movements of law-abiding community members.

This surveillance is particularly dangerous to immigrant communities. Across the United States, federal immigration agencies have eagerly exploited local databases rich with information collected by private data brokers, municipal agencies, and police departments. This information is fed into a deportation machine that tears apart immigrant communities. In recent years, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has further expanded its reach into communities by exploiting local surveillance systems and databases to track, identify, and target immigrant community members for detention and deportation. No local surveillance system is safe from ICE's demands. Therefore, we encourage the City to suspend the proposal that turns about 1000 public safety cameras from monitoring to recording, to evaluate data protection and data collection practices on surveillance technologies currently in deployment, to shorten data retention periods to mitigate the risk of exposure, to improve data minimization and anonymization practices, and to ban the uploading of data to Fusion Centers.

As abortion and gender-affirming care is being criminalized in some states, there is a real threat that surveillance information collected in communities will be exploited to identify, track, and criminalize people who travel for care and the Californians who are helping those people obtain care. Deploying surveillance systems in our community fills databases with information that place people at risk. Even if there are limits to sharing information, once this information is collected, there is no foolproof way to immunize it from legal demands brought by out-of-state governments.

We encourage you, as policy-makers, to look into and invest in alternatives to surveillance that are proven to increase public safety. Investing in the physical lighting of a neighborhood, rather than installing more cameras, can reap community-wide benefits. City Council must deliberate about the very real harms of surveillance and whether these invasive tools have been demonstrated to make a meaningful impact on public safety.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to these critical issues.

Respectfully,

Victor Sin

Santa Clara Valley Volunteer Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California

Letter from San Jose Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to City Council for agenda item 3.3 at 3-18-25 City Council meeting

From Smith, Ryan <ryan.smith@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Mon 3/17/2025 3:04 PM

To City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (174 KB)

BPAC Letter to City Council for 3-18-25 March Budget Message.pdf;

Hello,

Please see the attached letter from the San Jose Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) for the 3/18/25 City Council meeting, agenda item 3.3.

Thanks,

Ryan

Ryan Smith
Active Transportation Program Manager
Department of Transportation
City of San Jose

February 24, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

RE: Priority of Street Safety in Upcoming Budget

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

On behalf of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), we strongly urge the City Council to prioritize **funding for street safety** in the upcoming budget. We advocate for the continued investment in **Vision Zero**, in particular the **Walk and Roll, Quick Builds** and **Data Analytics** components. These programs are vital to reducing the alarming number of traffic-related fatalities and injuries in our city, which have tragically exceeded homicides. All these fatalities are preventable, and it is essential that we act now to save lives.

We respectfully request the following:

1. **Full funding for Vision Zero:** This ambitious program aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries through targeted infrastructure improvements, enforcement, and education. It is essential that we continue to prioritize and expand these efforts. We will not meet 30 in '30 (Vision Zero Goal to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries by 30% by 2030) if we back off on support. At this time, we support:
 - a. **Quick Builds:** These initiatives are effective tools in rapidly implementing safety improvements in our neighborhoods. These programs provide tangible, impactful safety measures that can be implemented quickly while longer-term infrastructure projects are in progress. This aligns with both the **Walk Safe San José** component of Vision Zero and the focus on vulnerable street users.
 - b. **Walk and Roll Programs:** Safety around schools matters to everyone, and no program does so much with so little. Raising awareness and safety around schools will have lasting effects in our communities and will keep our most vulnerable safer. **Children are our future and deserve the largest investment.**
 - c. **Continued funding for Data Analytics:** Accurate data is crucial for addressing traffic safety concerns, including identifying high-risk areas and patterns. Ongoing investments in data analytics are necessary to inform decisions regarding the **Speed Camera Program** and other safety measures, allowing the city to allocate resources where they are most needed.

DATE February 24, 2025

2. **Encouragement for the Use of Discretionary Monies:** We urge council members to consider using discretionary funds to support street safety initiatives, particularly the installation **of enhanced crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and other pedestrian and cyclist-focused improvements** that enhance the safety of all road users.
3. **Grant Writing Capability:** Much of the street safety infrastructure comes from grant money. Our city has done great work applying and receiving these monies, we need this more than ever in a budget-challenging landscape.

San José's traffic fatalities are preventable, and by investing in these critical programs, we can save lives, improve the quality of life for our residents, and help create a more sustainable, equitable, and walkable city. We implore the Council to act to ensure that street safety remains a top priority in this year's budget.

This letter was approved unanimously at the February 24, 2025 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aarshdeep Kahlon', written in a cursive style.

Aarshdeep Kahlon, Chairperson