



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Raul Peralez

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC PUBLIC
TOILETS (APTs)

DATE: December 16, 2019

Approved by:

Date:

12/16/19

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation and direct staff to return in 2020 to the Community & Economic Development Committee with an update on a long-term funding strategy for APTs. The update should include exploring revenue-generating ideas such as digital advertising on existing APT infrastructure (and consequently changes to the sign ordinance), a plan for upgrades of existing infrastructure and expansion of additional APTs in areas of need.

DISCUSSION

Thank you JCDeceaux and the Downtown Property-Based Improvement District (PBID) for helping sustain this vital Downtown amenity throughout the years, especially during the dissolution of the redevelopment agency. I am supportive of this short term funding plan so that we can continue to maintain this free public service for those patronizing Downtown.

I appreciate staff recognizing the need for a long-term strategy to fund the APTs. When all is said and done, the City would be paying roughly \$2.5 million over the next several years to operate a small number of APTs in downtown. While I understand the need, I also believe that there are ways for us to reduce the cost to the City with creative funding sources such as from digital advertisements. Most APTs worldwide including in San José currently have the ability to display static advertisements, and with emerging technologies in digital advertisement, there could be opportunities to have our self-cleaning APTs be potentially more self-funded as well.