RULES COMMITTEE: 10/27/2021 Item: E File ID: ROGC 21-803



TO: Honorable Mayor & City Council

SUBJECT: The Public Record October 14, 2021 – October 21, 2021

Memorandum

FROM: Toni J. Taber, CMC City Clerk

**DATE:** October 27, 2021

#### **ITEMS FILED FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD**

#### Letters from Boards, Commissions, and Committees

1. Letter from Charter Review Commission, dated October 21, 2021, regarding: Recommendation: Moving San Jose Mayoral Elections from Gubernatorial to Presidential Election Years.

#### Letters from the Public

- 1. Letter from Blair Beekman, dated October 15, 2021, regarding: Blair Beekman. Thursday. October 14, 2021. NSE. Open Forum.
- 2. Letter from Blair Beekman, dated October 15, 2021, regarding: <sup>2</sup>Blair Beekman. Thursday. October 14, 2021. NSE. Open Forum.
- 3. Letter from Gloria Mendoza, dated October 16, 2021, regarding: Essential Workers.
- 4. Letter from David Pimentel, dated October 17, 2021, regarding: \$2500 for County Employees.
- 5. Letter from Iohana Tapia, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: public comment for meeting today.
- 6. Letter from Racquel Franklin, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: Public Comment.
- 7. Letter from Gary Salihue, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: File Nos. C19-031& SP20-016, 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd- hearing scheduled for Oct 26, 2021.
- 8. Letter from Tom Morman, dated October 20, 2021, regarding: Public Comment for today's Joint Meeting for the Rules and Open Government Committee and Committee of the Whole.

Rules and Open Government Committee October 27, 2021 Subject: Public Record Page 2

- Letter from Shehana Marikar, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: Formal Request for a 4 week delay for the City Council Hearing for C19-031 & SP20-016 – Conforming Rezoning and Special Use Permit for Property Located at 1212-1224 South Winchester Boulevard.
- 10. Letter from Amy Finch, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: Request for extension for Winchester Hotel.
- 11. Letter from John Griswold, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: 10/26 meeting Re: 1212-1224 South Winchester Boulevard Hotel Project.
- 12. Letter from Aishah Salihue, dated October 19, 2021, regarding File Number C19-031 & SP20-016.
- 13. Letter from Hal Stone, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: c19-031 and sp20-016.
- 14. Letter from Mike Drabkin, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: Request to postpone the Winchester Hotel discussion 1 month.
- 15. Letter from Brian Matsumoto, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: File Nos C19-031 & SP20-016, 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd.
- Letter from Gary Salihue, dated October 20, 2021, regarding: File Nos. C19-031& SP20-016, 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd- hearing scheduled for Oct 26, 2021.
- 17. Letter from Sri Cha, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: 71 Vista Montana.
- 18. Letter from Randy Shree, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: City Council meeting 10/19/2021 open forum comment.
- 19. Letter from Rajasekar N, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: Poor city planning of Homeless encampment next to children's playground.
- 20. Letter from Prashant Maloo, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: Re: 09/27 -- 71 Vista Montaña RV parking site experiment is not the right place in middle of 5000+ residents with kids, pets and families.
- 21. Letter from Alma Goldchain, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: 71 Vista Montaña October 19, 2021.
- 22. Letter from Sheena Madan, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: City Council 10/19/2021 meeting open forum public comment.
- 23. Letter from Shprese Demiri-Head, dated October 19, 2021, regarding: Safe parking NOT safe at all.
- 24. Letter from Giyoung Yoon, dated October 20, 2021, regarding: Re: Citizen's voice against 71 Vista Montana Safe RV parking and lack of communication from city.

Rules and Open Government Committee October 27, 2021 Subject: Public Record Page 3

25. Letter from Louise E Jackson, dated October 20, 2021, regarding: Letter in support of conservation of agricultural land.

C

Toni J. Taber, CMC City Clerk

TJT/tt

**CITY OF SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA** 

Charter Review Commission 200 East Santa Clara Street San José, California 95113 Telephone (408) 535-1260 FAX (408) 292-6207

Frederick J. Ferrer Chair

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Vice Mayor Jones, and the Rules and Open Government Committee 200 East Santa Clara Street San Jose, CA 95113

Dear honorable Rules and Open Government Committee members,

On behalf of the Charter Review Commission, I am honored to submit the attached final recommendation regarding "Moving San Jose Mayoral Elections from Gubernatorial to Presidential Election Years."

We will utilize the following format in all our future recommendations: a statement of the actual recommendation (with the vote count), the problem we sought to address and the reasoning for our positions as well as the arguments against the proposed change. The final report will also include appendices that will contain all the background research documents used in forming our position. As well as the summary notes that include the valuable input we received from the community during public hearings and public comments times at our Commission meetings. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Frederick J. Ferrer Chair, Charter Review Commission

# Charter Review Commission Recommendation: Moving San Jose Mayoral Elections from Gubernatorial to Presidential Election Years

What is the recommendation?

Change the timing of San Jose's mayoral elections from the gubernatorial cycle to the presidential cycle beginning in 2024. This change would require amending Article XVI Section 1600 "Municipal Elections" of the City Charter. To initially sequence the city's mayoral elections to the presidential cycle, the candidate elected mayor in 2022 would serve a 2 year term with that term expiring in 2024. All candidates for mayor, including the then incumbent mayor, would be eligible to run for a regular 4 year mayoral term in 2024. Thereafter, a mayoral election would be held every four years during the presidential cycle. A mayoral candidate elected to office in 2022 would be eligible to serve the initial two year term plus two additional (regular) four year terms as currently allowed under Section 402 of the City Charter. A person's total time in the mayor's office could reach a total of 10 years if they win office in 2022 and are reelected in 2024 and 2028.

This recommendation was passed on October 4th, 2021 with 17 ayes, 1 nay, and 4 absent votes.

What problem(s) does this recommendation address?

Elections are pillars of a representative democracy. They allow the people to choose representatives who make decisions on behalf of the public and help hold elected officials accountable. Low turnout in city elections weakens the bonds between people and their elected representatives. When turnout increases, local government becomes more representative and responsive to the broader public. A more responsive and representative government is particularly important in a racially and ethnically diverse city like San Jose.

Historically, voter turnout in city elections is lower than in races for elected office in higher levels of government. The low rate of participation is partly a product of the timing of many city elections. (1) Political reformers more than a century ago advocated for "isolated" or "off-cycle" city elections which are scheduled in years separate from state (gubernatorial) and national (presidential) contests. Off-cycle elections, it was argued, allowed voters to concentrate on local issues and candidates. They were also seen as a tool to combat the power of 19 th and early 20th century urban political machines who relied on the political support of racial and ethnic minorities and newly naturalized citizens. Middle and upper class, predominately white, voters were often seen as protectors of "good government." (2)

In elected contests for San Jose mayor—the only at-large elected position in the city—voter turnout rates are relatively low. Although mayoral contests are not isolated elections in the traditional use of the term, the placement of the mayor's race in gubernatorial election years depresses turnout. Voter registration and turnout data covering the past four mayoral election cycles (2018, 2014, 2010, 2006) reveal that on average, less than half of city's registered voters (43.4%) cast ballots in the mayor's race. Research suggests moving the timing of San Jose's mayoral elections to presidential years would increase voter turnout in a range of 28% to 33%. In San Jose, this would equate to 148,203 to 169,375 additional voters in any given mayoral election using current voter registration figures (529,299) in the city. (3)

The city's current mayoral election process, characterized by relatively low turnout, would be less problematic if members of the voting public shared the same policy preferences, or had the same experiences with government, as nonvoters do.

Political science research, however, shows this is not the case. White residents, and residents with higher incomes and greater financial resources are, on average, more likely to vote in city elections. On issues surrounding policing, housing, or the environment (among other issues), where the interests and experiences of racial and ethnic minorities and lower income residents diverge from White residents and those with greater incomes, low voter participation can restrict the scope of political and policy debates. Low participation can indirectly skew city policy by not only influencing who gets elected but also who the mayor feels accountable to.

Why is this particular change being recommended?

The San Jose's City Charter structures the timing of city elections. Moving the timing of the mayoral elections can thus only be done by a change to the City Charter.

Moving San Jose's mayoral elections to presidential years would position the city as a leader behind statewide efforts designed to increase voter participation in our local elections. It would help signal that San Jose values a larger, more racially and ethnically inclusive electorate that reflects the city's demographic and socio-economic characteristics. The change would give greater voice to people too often left out of our city's politics and political discourse. It would strengthen our democracy in ways that match the city's 21st century ideals.

Moving the mayoral elections to presidential years should increase the likelihood that the winner of the contest has competed for votes in an electorate that more closely resembles the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic characteristics of the city.

What are the arguments against this proposal?

Several arguments have been made against moving the time of mayoral elections to presidential years, and were expressed by a few members of the public and Commissioners during commission meetings.

First, it is argued city issues would get lost in the "noise" of presidential year contests. As a result, voters would not have enough information to make "good" choices about local candidates or local issues.

Second, it is argued that removing the mayor's race from the gubernatorial cycle will depress turnout in odd-numbered City Council district elections which are held at the same time.

1) https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/24/voter-turnoutalways-drops-off-for-midterm-elections-but-why/

2) Terry Christensen and Tom Hogen-Esch (2006), Local Politics: A Practical Guide to Governing at the Grassroots. Routledge.

3). Please see memo submitted by Commissioner Garrick Percival on March 17, 2021. https://sanjose.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=862242&GUID=0E C9026E-D91D-4439-951C-5657602D9E01&Options=&Search=

#### Blair Beekman. Thursday. October 14, 2021. NSE. Open Forum.

b. beekman <

Fri 10/15/2021 8:30 AM

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

[External Email]

Dear community and city govt. of San Jose,

It is being reported, Southwest Airlines pilots, offered a serious walkout, last weekend. They are not against, the current vaccine mandate, of the airlines. They simply wanted, a better negotiation process, first. This is all I have been asking for, at public comment time, in the past few weeks. I think in San Jose, we are all seeing a seam, how to create, a continued, open, honest, good dialogue, for all sides, about the science & technology, of the vaccine process. And how, we can all better understand, the spread of Covid-19, this fall.

Open public policies, with technology, can very much help facilitate, this needed good dialogue. San Jose please respect, when city govt. workers, have honest fears, and do not want to take, current available vaccines. As I think, we are learning, there can be, interesting options developing, for all sides. And that, can still very much respect, community health & safety concerns, this fall & winter.

sincerely, blair beekman

#### <sup>2</sup>Blair Beekman. Thursday. October 14, 2021. NSE. Open Forum.

b. beekman <

Fri 10/15/2021 4:15 PM

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

[External Email]

Dear community and sj city govt.,

To revise, my earlier letter, and NSE Oct.14, 2021, open forum speech, on this subject - It is being reported, Southwest Airlines pilots, offered a serious walkout, last weekend. They are not against, the current vaccine mandate, of the airlines. They simply wanted their union, to be allowed, a better negotiation process, first.

With many, having already taken the vaccine, maybe we are at a time, to begin to better talk about, the science of Covid-19 vaccine process, this fall. And how the vaccine process, actually can offer, safe, good, acceptable lifestyle choices, in our modern, technological society.

As mask wearing, and the vaccine process, has very much helped, in our current understandings, of good community health & safety practices - this can be a time, to also begin, to better consider, as a society, the good choices available, for those who are uncomfortable, in taking the vaccine.

I am hoping, open public policies, and accountability, guidelines and legal precedents with technology, this fall & winter, can very much help, to frame & facilitate a process, of a safe, neutral space, for continued. open good dialogue, in the science of the Covid-19, vaccine process, and questions from everyday community, this fall.

Simple mask use, may help a lot, with current, good reasoned, community health & safety options, in how to address, & limit the spread, of Covid-19, this fall & winter.

sincerely, blair beekmian

#### **FW: Essential Workers**

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Mon 10/18/2021 8:25 AM To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Gloria Mendoza < Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:36 PM To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: Essential Workers

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[External Email]

We essential workers that served Santa Clara county community with pride and honor have worked together through this pandemic to make sure our community did feel safe and get treatment without interruption. We all deserve hazard pay to all who worked hand in hand together coded, half code AND extra help employees that work for county of Santa Clara.

We sacrificed our time to make ends meet. Mentally, physically draining day in and day out. When employees were out on remote schedules WE Essential workers came to work every morning!!! Wearing double mask wearing PPE getting patients their food and here you do not want to pay us what we deserve!!! It's a shame the county of Santa Clara can allow YOU to put down these essential workers as myself and the rest of county employees who worked. Again if it wasn't for us this county would've never made it through this pandemic do not exclude extra help they sacrifice their time away from family as well. It's sad that people like you can just come out and say we do not need hazard pay! Again we deserve it and even more. I'm Pretty sure you were home safe while we were out in public working.

No need to take from all DSW who stood up and served this community. If anything we all should be getting recognize more from County of Santa Clara not threatening to ignore and say we don't deserve any kind of hazard pay.

#### FW: \$2500 for County Employees

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Mon 10/18/2021 8:25 AM To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----From: David Pimentel < Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 2:28 PM To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: \$2500 for County Employees

[You don't often get email from <u>http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification.]</u>

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To whom it may concern,

It has come to the attention of Santa Clara County employees that Matt Mahan has suggested that providing County employees with \$2500 essential pay would be a waste of money received from the federal government. If Mr. Mahan is genuinely concerned with waste of taxpayer money, there are many other issues and special interests that he can label as being a waste of public funds.

Many private companies provided essential or hazard pay for their employees during covid 19 due to challenging circumstances and the risk of being exposed to the virus simply because employees were required to work and provide service to customers.

The risk of exposure and infection is even greater for County employees that work with the public, especially healthcare workers.

Many private organizations and businesses supported and appreciated the hard work being performed by healthcare workers, but apparently Mr. Mahan doesn't appreciate the difficult and stressful work being done by healthcare workers. County employees were occasionally sent an email by the administration expressing thanks and appreciation. However, the \$2500 would be a more genuine token of appreciation for the excellent healthcare that was being provided to every patient at the County hospital.

The environment at the hospital was so strict and intense as employees were required to follow many guidelines and protocols in the effort to slow the spread of the virus.

By his suggestion that the \$2500 essential pay for County employees would be a waste of money, Mr. Mahan has demonstrated that he lacks the character and quality that a true leader should have. Therefore, County employees will be strongly urged not to support Mr. Mahan in his efforts to be come the next Mayor. **David Pimentel** 

Sent from my iPhone

#### Fw: public comment for meeting today

#### Agendadesk < Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 10/19/2021 11:08 AM

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

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:43 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: Fw: public comment for meeting today

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

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From: IOHANA TAPIA < Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:31 AM To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: public comment for meeting today

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I am one of the County Employees and I feel that Matt Mahan's statements are a personal attack on all employees and the community. His statements and behaviors discriminate against the staff of Santa Clara because he has been all for approving the City employees receive the one time hero pay but pointing finger at the Board for approving the county employees. I am very disappointed in this politician Matt Mahan for his attempt to split the community. For his attempts to use the essential workers and community for his political gain. We demand an apology for the way he has disrespected us. It makes me sick to read the statements he made regarding the County's supposedly misuse of funds just to make up dirt to use against his opponent. We, the staff, have worked tirelessly to help our community members and assure they are receiving much needed services during these very difficult times. Santa Clara County employees are part of this community, employees are community members who also have loved ones receiving services so when this politician Matt Mahan goes after the staff of santa clara county we take that personal because we are all one community and his attempts to split us is unexceptable. We are tired of politicians causing conflict in the community to gain a few votes, we have gone through it during the presidential campaigns are are not going to tolerate it any longer. We are together and the community knows who we are, they know that through unity and together we will get through this crisis. We are the faces they saw at the covid positive hotels and shelters, we are the faces they saw giving them a meal

Mail - Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas - Outlook

when they suffered a natural disaster and their homes were damaged. We are the faces they saw when their loved one was struggling with mental health crisis. We are the faces they saw cleaning the hospitals assuring the spread of covid is reduced and no other life is lost. We are the faces of the community and the ones taking care of the community. The community has suffered enough and that is why we have been there with them through thick and thick making sacrifices together. Many of us staff have contracted covid, have had to go without seeing our families, push our children away to avoid close contact due to exposure, and have had to watch our loved ones suffer after contracting covid due to exposure at work. But we did not see Matt Mahan there cleaning a hospital room after a covid positive patient passed, throwing up when cleaning due to the bleach and chemicals. We did not see Matt Mahan giving grief counseling of a loved one who had someone in their circle pass away. We did not see Matt Mahan providing outpatient substance use treatment to a patient who was released from the hospital for overdosing due to increase triggers due to covid stressors. I never heard of a staff saying that Matt Mahan helped take care of their children while they were out as disaster workers for long hours and not able to see their family. We the staff of santa clara county have worked tirelessly to help our community, to help one another, and we did it without ever being told we would get a little bonus. And we will continue to do it regardless, but we know we have fallen behind on some necessities as well as the community and we also deserve some assistance as community members. Without the staff how would the community get these services? We have to take care of each other and unite in order to get through this crisis. We are not against each other. We are supporting one another. And this politician is trying to split us and cause friction for his political gain. We the staff do not want any part of these dirty games. The community and the staff will continue to work together and will not get manipulated by this politician who wants to use us all to win a political seat.

How is a business man going to tell us about humanitarian efforts, when money is his language, and social media apps and websites are his pastime.

SEIU Chief Steward Iohana Tapia

#### **Fw: Public Comment**

#### Agendadesk < Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 10/19/2021 11:13 AM To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:06 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: Fw: Public Comment

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Franklin, Racquel < Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:18 AM To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: Public Comment

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I'm a proud county employee. I am a Child Support Officer and have worked during the Covid pandemic response. I helped keep County services running and took on additional duties and responsibilities during an already stressful time so this County, as a team, could vaccinate almost 90% of Santa Clara county residents.

Santa Clara County employees accomplished extraordinary things during this pandemic including lowering infection rates, serving our homeless population, and keeping kids healthy.

How do you justify your criticism of hero pay when you voted in support of the same thing for San Jose public employees this summer? We have all contributed to keeping our communities safe and performed heroic services to protect vulnerable residents in Santa Clara County. Councilman Mahan, please apologize to me and my coworkers you have deemed essential by demonstrating respect for public servants like me. Racquel Franklin

# FW: File Nos. C19-031& SP20-016, 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd- hearing scheduled for Oct 26, 2021

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 10/19/2021 7:40 AM

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

From: gary <
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:23 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>;
Subject: File Nos. C19-031& SP20-016, 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd- hearing scheduled for Oct 26, 2021

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TO: <u>city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov</u>

We could like the rules committee to grant us an extension of 30 days from the 26th of October, to fully prepare for a city council hearing on this proposed project. I and at least 10 of my neighbors sent in comments by the deadline of June 15, 2021.

The reply to the responses was sent in the "11<sup>th</sup> hour" the 15<sup>th</sup> evening – similarly this was the case when the public response to the reports (EIR..) were requested – The city did not respond to the public/taxpayer/residents for almost 4 months it is a clear violation of ;

**City Policy Manual (CPM):** Code of Ethics 1.2.1 "City employees and officials are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, honesty and conduct in all activities in order to inspire public confidence and trust in City" employees.

City officials and employees are required to maintain the highest standards of integrity and honesty, and they are expected to treat all members of the public with respect, courtesy, concern and responsiveness.

City employees and officials are expected to avoid any conflicts of interest. Further, employees should avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest in order to ensure that City decisions are made in an independent and impartial manner.

Clearly the City employees and officials seem to have taken excessive time in responding to the Public/taxpayer/residents of city of San Jose District (1) giving the Public and taxpayer little time as possible.

#### California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Further CEQA requires that state and local agencies disclose and evaluate the significant environmental impacts of proposed projects and adopt all feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate those impacts.

The Responses of the City has been evasive and not accurate in answering the public/taxpayer/residents questions to the the reports. The reports (EIR..) have several inaccuracy that have to be address.

Finally the public/taxpayer/residents of the city need to be giving adequate time to investigate these reports

I believe that Vice Mayor, City of San José - Council District 1 "Chappie" Jones is diligent about process, and I sincerely hope

it will be applied especially in light of what the planning department is trying to push through.

Sincerely

G Salihue

### Fw: Public Comment for today's Joint Meeting for the Rules and Open Government Committee and Committee of the Whole

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 10/20/2021 8:50 AM

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

1 attachments (201 KB)
 Timeline of the release of 1775 pages.pdf;

### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? <u>Please take our short survey.</u>

From: Tom Morman < Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:51 AM

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

**Cc:** Gail Morman <

**Subject:** Public Comment for today's Joint Meeting for the Rules and Open Government Committee and Committee of the Whole

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To Chairperson Chappie Jones and Members of the Joint Meeting for the Rules and Open Government Committee and Committee of the Whole:

We would like to make a formal request for a 4 week delay in the City Council Hearing for C19-031 & SP20-016 (Conforming Rezoning and Special Use Permit for Property Located at 1212 South Winchester Boulevard. The reason for this request is the complexity and volume of documents needed to be reviewed, not only for us, but also for City Council members to have the time to do their due diligence. Attached is the timeline of the 1775 pages released since May 26, 2021. We request this 4 week delay in light of the impact this project would have on the community.

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully,





# <u>Timeline of the release of 1775 pages of public documents</u> <u>since 5/26/21</u>

### 5/26/21 – 1109 pages; Public was given 21 days to make formal comments.

Notice of Intent for a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for 1212-1224 South Winchester Boulevard Hotel Project (File Nos. C19-031 and SP20-016) is available online. Public circulation begins May 26, 2021 and ends June 15, 2021.

<u>https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/planning-building-code-</u> <u>enforcement/planning-division/environmental-planning/environmental-review/negative-declaration-</u> <u>initial-studies/1212-1224-south-winchester-boulevard-hotel-project</u>

- Public Review Draft Initial Study MND (Mitigated Negative Declaration) 205 pages dated May 2021
- 2. Appendix A Hotel Project Plans 47 pages Dated 2/1/21
- 3. Appendix B Cal EE Mod Assessment (California Emissions Estimator Model Assessment) 37 pages Dated 8/14/20
- 4. Appendix C Health Risk Assessment 79 pages Dated 8/28/20
- 5. Appendix D EMFAC Results (Emission Factor) 3 pages undated
- Appendix E Geotechnical Feasibility Study 7 pages Dated 10/2/19
- 7. Appendix F Phase 1 ESA (Environmental Site Assessments) 507 pages Dated 10/2/19; Amended 12/13/19
- 8. Appendix G Noise Assessment 32 pages Dated 9/17/20
- 9. Appendix H Transportation Analysis 156 pages Dated 6/18/20
- 10. Appendix I TDM (Transportation Demand Management) 20 pages Dated 1/27/21
- 11. Appendix J GHG Reduction Checklist (Green House Gas Emissions) 16 pages undated

## 10/14/21 - 560 pages posted 13 days before the 10/26/21 Council Meeting

https://sanjose.legistar.com/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=21676&GUID=ACCCCFF5-F14A-4E1A-8540-9065F45A8A90

- 1. Memorandum (City Council Staff Report) 495 pages <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k3QMBuvm9b\_9aHPWI4kC2253iPPZijxy/view?usp=sharing</u>
- 2. (proposed) Resolution 16 pages (See p 15 of City Council Agenda)
- 3. (proposed) Ordinance 6 pages (See p 15 of City Council Agenda)
- 4. (proposed) Resolution 42 pages (See p 15 of City Council Agenda)
- 5. Letters from the Public 1 page (See p 15 of City Council Agenda)

# 10/15/21 - 106 pages 11 calendar days before the scheduled City Council Hearing;

<u>https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/planning-building-code-</u> <u>enforcement/planning-division/environmental-planning/environmental-review/negative-declaration-</u> <u>initial-studies/1212-1224-south-winchester-boulevard-hotel-project</u>

Responses to Public Comments - 106 pages Dated October 2021; Released 10/15/21

Total Pages: 1775

Fw: Formal Request for a 4 week delay for the City Council Hearing for C19-031 & SP20-016 - Conforming Rezoning and Special Use Permit for Property Located at 1212-1224 South Winchester Boulevard.

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Wed 10/20/2021 8:38 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Shehana <

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:52 PM

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

Cc: Jones, Chappie < Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Formal Request for a 4 week delay for the City Council Hearing for C19-031 & SP20-016 - Conforming Rezoning and Special Use Permit for Property Located at 1212-1224 South Winchester Boulevard.

[External Email]

Dear Vice Mayor Jones,

I would like to formally request a 4-week extension in the City Council Hearing for C19-031 & SP20-016 (Conforming Rezoning and Special Use Permit for Property Located at 1212-1224 South Winchester Boulevard. The reason for this is that a tremendous amount of information was released to us on the evening of October 15th, 2021. This has made it very difficult for us to go over the documents and prepare for the hearing. I would assume that it would be the same for members of the city council who have to vote on this project, which will have long lasting impacts on our neighborhood and community.

Sincerely

Shehana Marikar

#### Fw: Request for extension for Winchester Hotel

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Wed 10/20/2021 8:37 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Amy Finch < Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:30 PM To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: Request for extension for Winchester Hotel

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[External Email]

Hi - I would like to request a 4 week extension for the Winchester hotel. We need more time to review. Thanks, Amy Simgeker

#### Fw: 10/26 meeting Re: 1212-1224 South Winchester Boulevard Hotel Project

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Wed 10/20/2021 8:37 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: John Griswold <	
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:25 PM	
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov></city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>	
Cc: Mabel Cheng <	Tom Morman <
Subject: 10/26 meeting Re: 1212-1224 South	Winchester Boulevard Hotel Project

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Please postpone the City Council's consideration of approval of the subject project, currently on the agenda for the 10/26 meeting. Between the City's late response to public comments and the many entities, guidelines, and regulations, we would like to have more time to formulate a cohesive public response on this proposal. Please push this topic to another City Council meeting in the middle of November. The City took 4 months to respond to initial public comment. We request only a fraction of the same courtesy.

Many thanks, John Griswold

#### Fw: File Number C19-031 & SP20-016

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Wed 10/20/2021 8:37 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Aishah Salihue < Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:31 PM To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: File Number C19-031 & SP20-016

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[External Email]

Hello,

I am formally requesting a 4 week extension for the public hearing on October 26th 2021 at 1:30pm on the proposed hotel project, File Number C19-031 & SP20-016 because the city responded to our community comments over 4 months after we submitted them. We have documents totalling more than 1,000 pages that detail the proposal for this project and the community and city council needs more time to consider all the factors concerning the proposed hotel project and its impact on the community.

Thank you, Aishah Salihue

#### Fw: c19-031 and sp20-016

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Wed 10/20/2021 8:37 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: hal stone < Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:11 PM To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Cc: Tom Morman < Subject: c19-031 and sp20-016

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To whom it may concern --

The purpose of this email is to formally request a four week postponement of the 10/26 meeting dealing with c19-031 conforming rezoning and sp20-016 special use permit.

As you know, recently the City of San Jose responded to neighborhood comments about this project. Your response consisted of almost 1,800 pages of documentation. This will obviously have a significant impact on our community. We believe that a four week postponement of the 10/26 meeting will not only allow our neighbors to thoroughly read and understand your detailed response, but will also give the city council adequate time to perform their own due diligence on this matter.

Thanks in advance for acknowledging this email and granting the requested postponement .

Sincerely,



San Jose, CA

#### Fw: Request to postpone the Winchester Hotel discussion 1 month

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Wed 10/20/2021 8:37 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Mike Drabkin <
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:53 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Request to postpone the Winchester Hotel discussion 1 month

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[External Email]

To whom it may concern,

As a homeowner, living in close proximity to the site of the proposed 1212-1224 South Winchester Boulevard Hotel Project, I am requesting removal of the discussion of rezoning and special use permit for this project from the October 26th SJ City Council's agenda and subsequent postponement of this topic until next month's City Council meeting.

The reason is that the 106-page document RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS AND TEXT CHANGES has just been published for public viewing last Friday, October 15th. This does not leave enough time for the neighborhood to process the material and formulate appropriate arguments that could be presented at the SJCC meeting. With such an important matter, affecting the lives of many, I am sure you would agree that my request is entirely reasonable.

Best regards, -Mike Drabkin , San Jose, CA

#### Fw: File Nos C19-031 & SP20-016, 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Wed 10/20/2021 8:37 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Brian Matsumoto < Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:59 PM To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: File Nos C19-031 & SP20-016, 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd

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[External Email]

To: city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov

The city council has a hearing on Oct. 26, 2021 to discuss a proposed project at 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd.

I am requesting an extension of 30 days for the review.

Comments and questions were submitted in June 2021 to the city and planning dept concerning this proposed project. However only recently a reply has been given and there is not enough time to review the documents.

#### Brian Matsumoto

San Jose

Fw: File Nos. C19-031& SP20-016, 1212-1224 S. Winchester Blvd- hearing scheduled for Oct 26, 2021

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Wed 10/20/2021 8:36 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: gary <
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:29 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Control of the sector of the s

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[External Email]

TO: city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov

We could like the rules committee to grant us an extension of 30 days from the 26th of October, to fully prepare for a city council hearing on this proposed project. I and at least 10 of my neighbors sent in comments by the deadline of June 15, 2021.

The Responses of the City planning Dept has been evasive and not accurate in answering the public/taxpayer/residents questions to the the reports. The reports (EIR..) have several inaccuracy that have to be address.

Finally the public/taxpayer/residents of the city need to be giving adequate time to investigate these reports

Note:Who enforces CEQA? What role does the Resources Agency have in enforcement of CEQA? CEQA is a self-executing statute. Public agencies are entrusted with compliance with CEQA and its provisions are enforced, as necessary, by the public through litigation. In summary, the Agency does not enforce CEQA, nor does it review for compliance with CEQA the many state and local agency actions which are subject to CEQA.

Sincerely

G Salihue

#### Fw: 71 Vista Montana

#### Agendadesk < Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 10/19/2021 10:36 AM

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

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:35 AM To: Agendadesk < Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: Fw: 71 Vista Montana

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Sri Cha <

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:37 AM

To: Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Jones, Chappie <Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Carrasco, Magdalena <Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>;

			-
<	Brown, Stacey <stacey.brown< th=""><th>@sanjoseca.gov&gt;; District4</th><th></th></stacey.brown<>	@sanjoseca.gov>; District4	
<district4@sanjoseca.gov>;</district4@sanjoseca.gov>	<		City Clerk
<city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>;</city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>	Nguyen, Lam <lam.nguyen@sa< th=""><td>anjoseca.gov&gt;; Safe Parking</td><td></td></lam.nguyen@sa<>	anjoseca.gov>; Safe Parking	
<safe.parking@sanjoseca.go< td=""><th>V&gt;</th><td></td><td></td></safe.parking@sanjoseca.go<>	V>		

Subject: 71 Vista Montana

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Ho, Wendy

[External Email]

Dear San Jose City officials.

I would like to highlight some of the issues that arose due to using 71 Vista Montana as a temporary SafeRVParking site. Your actions are causing a lot of security concerns noted below. I will request you to please vacate the site.

#### NO SECURITY

You said that "Housing staff were at the site on Monday afternoon and confirmed a security guard was on site". This is not what I mentioned. The security is missing from the site. Residents were able to walk into the site multiple days at multiple times freely and confirm that there was no security! The lack of security is concerning in many respects:

1. When there is no security, how are you able to confirm that there are no new people who moved to the site?

2. When there is no security, how are you able to confirm that there are no people inside the RVs which you say are "being stored onsite that belong to individuals participating in the HomeFirst motel program"?

3. We were promised 24 hours manned security by CM Cohen. Of course, it is just a promise, and it must not be a real concern that a promise is broken. That happens all the time!

#### JUNK

Rosalyn said "being stored onsite that belong to individuals participating in the HomeFirst motel program". I request you to personally visit the site. It is becoming a junk yard, and we see people sitting around the junk that is stored on the ground. As we brought it to your attention many times, homes are 2 feet away from this parking lot. Trailers full of junk is a clear fire hazard. you said "RVs are being stored onsite that belong to individuals participating in the HomeFirst motel program". It is not RVs being stored, it is JUNK being stored.

Megan's law and other information request

Note that city has not responded to residents requests even after 30 days have passed after the request. We have asked for critical safety information regarding the people the city placed in our midst starting on Sep 3 at Mr. Cohen's meeting. For example, are there sex offenders who are to be reported as per Megan's law that you placed in our midst? My son walks alone from his school bus to home using this sidewalk at 3PM when I am in office - I am really worried! And that is just a personal example of the anxiety you are subjecting us through.

Please address all above concerns.

Sri

#### Fw: City Council meeting 10/19/2021 open forum comment

#### Agendadesk < Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 10/19/2021 11:07 AM

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

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Fw: City Council meeting 10/19/2021 open forum comment

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: randy shree <

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:41 AM

To: Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Jones, Chappie <Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Carrasco, Magdalena <Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>;

<	<	Ho, Wendy
<	Brown, Stacey <stacey.brown@sanjoseca.gov>; District4</stacey.brown@sanjoseca.gov>	
<district4@sanjoseca.gov>;</district4@sanjoseca.gov>		City Clerk
<city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>;</city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>	Nguyen, Lam <lam.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Safe Parking</lam.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>	-
<safe.parking@sanjoseca.go< td=""><td>)v&gt;</td><td></td></safe.parking@sanjoseca.go<>	)v>	
Subject: City Council meetin	g 10/19/2021 open forum comment	

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This is regarding 71 Vista Montana, North First Street, San Jose

1. There is no 24 hour security as promised by the City and the fact is that when a few of the residents went in, there was no one to check at the gate and several entered without any check

2. There is trash along the side walk

3. Stacy and Rosalynn mentioned this site would be shut soon. Could you update when it will be shut?

4. It is more than a month now and we have not received any response to public information request (with the date being pushed out two times).

Thanks

#### Fw: Poor city planning of Homeless encampment next to children's playground

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Tue 10/19/2021 11:10 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Rajasekar N <

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:11 AM

To: david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov <david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov>; Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Jones, Chappie <Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Carrasco, Magdalena <Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Ho, Wendy <

 Hughey, Rosalynn <Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov>; Brown, Stacey <Stacey.Brown@sanjoseca.gov>; District4

 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>;

 <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt

 <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Safe Parking <Safe.Parking@sanjoseca.gov>

 Subject: Poor city planning of Homeless encampment next to children's playground

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#### NO SECURITY

We were promised 24 hours manned security by Cohen and his staff in the memo. But I and many residents have noticed many times, there were NO SECURITY.

The lack of security is concerning. We were able to notice some new people moving in and out in the last few days, new trailers showed up inside and some waiting outside to get in.

#### JUNK

You folks said "being stored onsite that belong to individuals participating in the HomeFirst motel program". I request you to personally visit the site. It is becoming a junk yard, and we see people sitting

around the junk that is stored on the ground. As we brought it to your attention many times, homes are 2 feet away from this parking lot. Trailers full of junk is a clear fire hazard. you said "RVs are being stored onsite that belong to individuals participating in the HomeFirst motel program". It is not RVs being stored, it is JUNK being stored.

Megan's law and other information request

Note that city has not responded to residents requests even after 30 days have passed after the request. We have asked for critical safety information regarding the people the city placed in our midst starting on Sep 3 at Cohen's meeting. For example, are there sex offenders who are to be reported as per Megan's law that you placed in our neighborhood? Share the details of who were allowed in the site with their background.

If you have nothing to hide, why is the delay in sharing the information?

I request you to put an end to this unsafe site as soon as you can.

From: Rajasekar N

Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 2:50 PM

To: david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov; chris.burton@sanjoseca.gov; jacky.morales-ferrand@sanjoseca.gov; sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov; chappie.jones@sanjoseca.gov; Sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov; maya.esparza@sanjoseca.gov; Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov; David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov; magdalena.carrasco@sanjoseca.gov; dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov; Sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov; pam.foley@sanjoseca.gov; Matt.mahan@sanjoseca.gov;

Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov;

Stacey.Brown@sanjoseca.gov; District4@sanjoseca.gov;

city.clerk@Sanjoseca.gov; Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov; Matt.mahan@sanjoseca.gov; Safe.Parking@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: Poor city planning of Homeless encampment next to children's playground

Dear city council,

1. Which committee/council/set of individuals made the decision to use this site? We understand that an EOC was used but its been almost a month since the site opened but we still do not have answers 2. It'll soon be 11% of the duration the site was intended for its original use. What plans has SJCC executed to get the RV residents into permanent housing? What progress has been made to find an alternate site as mentioned by Councilman David Cohen.

3. How is the City planning to communicate with the neighborhood residents? The City has executed RV safe parking and plans a 500+ affordable housing unit without considering the lack of safety or street parking. How can we collaborate to ensure our inputs are considered so that this neighborhood doesn't deteriorate?

4. With the winters approaching what is the city doing to provide heating to the RV residents without using generators or any other means that will worsen the air quality in the neighborhood ?
Learn

# Fw: 09/27 -- 71 Vista Montaña RV parking site experiment is not the right place in middle of 5000+ residents with kids, pets and families

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Tue 10/19/2021 11:08 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

## Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: prashant maloo < Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:43 AM To: Hughey, Rosalynn <Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov> Cc: david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov <david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov>; Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Jones, Chappie <Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Carrasco, Magdalena <Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Ho, Wendy



<Safe.Parking@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Re: 09/27 -- 71 Vista Montaña RV parking site experiment is not the right place in middle of 5000+ residents with kids, pets and families

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[External Email]

Thanks for your email Rosalynn. Can you please address the following concerns.

## NO SECURITY The security is missing from the site. Residents were able to walk into the site multiple days at multiple

times freely and confirm that there was no security! The lack of security is concerning in many respects:

1. When there is no security, how are you able to confirm that there are no new people who moved to the site?

2. When there is no security, how are you able to confirm that there are no people inside the RVs which you say are "being stored onsite that belong to individuals participating in the HomeFirst motel program"?

3. We were promised 24 hours manned security by Mr. Cohen. Of course, it is just a promise, and it must not be a real concern that a promise is broken. That happens all the time!

#### JUNK

You said "being stored onsite that belong to individuals participating in the HomeFirst motel program". I request you to personally visit the site. It is becoming a junkyard, and we see people sitting around the junk that is stored on the ground. As we brought it to your attention many times, homes are 2 feet away from this parking lot. Trailers full of junk is a clear fire hazard. you said "RVs are being stored onsite that belong to individuals participating in the HomeFirst motel program". It is not RVs being stored, it is JUNK being stored.

Megan's law and other information request

Note that city has not responded to residents requests even after 30 days have passed after the request. We have asked for critical safety information regarding the people the city placed in our midst starting on Sep 3 at Mr. Cohen's meeting.

On Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 10:30 PM Hughey, Rosalynn <<u>Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov</u>> wrote: Hello Prashant,

In an effort to communicate updated information to residents and to address observations, City staff have updated the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document; please see attached. Neighbors may also contact the Housing Department at 408-793-6827 or <u>safeparking@sanjoseca.gov</u> with questions or comments about safe parking.

Best regards,

Rosalynn

Rosalynn Hughey Deputy City Manager |Office of the City Manager Cell: rosalynn.hughey@sanjoseca.gov City of San José | 200 E. Santa Clara St. | San José, CA 95113 www.sanjoseca.gov | facebook | twitter

From: prashant maloo <

Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 12:49 PM

To: <u>david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov</u>; Burton, Chris <<u>Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <<u>Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Liccardo, Sam <<u>sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Jones, Chappie <<u>Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Jimenez, Sergio <<u>sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Peralez, Raul <<u>Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Cohen, David <<u>David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Carrasco, Magdalena <<u>Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Davis, Dev <<u>dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Esparza, Maya <<u>Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Arenas, Sylvia <<u>sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Foley, Pam <<u>Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov</u>>;



Thanks, Prashant

# Fw: 71 Vista Montaña October 19, 2021

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Tue 10/19/2021 11:08 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

# Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Alma Goldchain <

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:59 AM

To: david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov <david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov>; Jones, Chappie <Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughey, Rosalynn <Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov>

#### Cc:

Subject: 71 Vista Montaña October 19, 2021

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> Dear Council Members,

> This past Saturday (October 16th

> 2021), the Police arrived at Champion and the Guadalupe trail due to encampment individuals violating the law! And, again there is LACK OF SECURITY at our site! Our Neighborhood has more issues thanks to your decision to house individuals in our neighborhood!

>

> Council Member David Cohen, Mayor Licardo, and the City of San José have targeted our neighborhood carelessly with individuals who at a minimum are unpredictable and at a maximum could be extremely dangerous to the children and residents of this community!

>

> Home First has taken the money and placed these homeless individuals in an over crowded city block in a fire hazard contaminated parking lot with no one worrying about what is happening to the residents inside and out of the fenced area! > The SECURITY IS A JOKE! Placing a unmanned security vehicle outside the fence is RIDICULOUS!

> Home First and Council Member David Cohen are GROSSLY MISMANAGING this site! They are creating a DUMP SITE, not a safe place to park!

> 71 Vista Montana is a powder keg ready to explode! There is no enforcement of the basic rules & regulations that we were told would be the case! It's a complete money pit with no visible return on investment! Someone is benefiting, but it sure is not the homeless!

>

> I find it mind blowing and cruel that Council Member David Cohen & Mayor Licardo knew the site was contaminated with ARSENIC for over a year and did not clean it up before allowing human beings to live on it or park their personal belongings because with one flick of a fire all that lights up and puts all the houses and town homes in danger!

>

> We were told to have patience because evidently the homeless count more than the 3,500 residents that live in this city block and pay high property taxes and rents to live here!

>

> We are still being fully targeted by the homeless because the City clearly has allowed this to get out of control! They created a MONSTER of a SITUATION!

>

> To me what has been done to the unhoused is extremely cruel and yet you all try to spin it as if the residents who pay high rents and property taxes to live here, are the bad guys for shining a light on this atrocity and decision that Council Member David Cohen and Mayor Licardo passed in San Jose! There has to be over sight! Instead all we are seeing is secrecy!

>

> I request the council add a motion to the agenda to SHUT THIS DOWN as we were promised by Rosalyn Hughey!

>

> Regards,

> Alma Goldchain

## Fw: City Council 10/19/2021 meeting open forum public comment

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Tue 10/19/2021 11:07 AM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

## Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Sheena Madan <

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:59 AM

To: Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Jones, Chappie <Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Carrasco, Magdalena <Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>;

<	<	Ho, Wendy		
<	Brown, Stacey <stacey.brown@sanjoseca.gov>; District4</stacey.brown@sanjoseca.gov>			
<district4@sanjoseca.gov>;</district4@sanjoseca.gov>		City Clerk		
<city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <lam.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Safe Parking</lam.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov></city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>				
<safe.parking@sanjoseca.go< td=""><td><!--2</td--><td></td></td></safe.parking@sanjoseca.go<>	2</td <td></td>			

Subject: City Council 10/19/2021 meeting open forum public comment

[External Email]

City and County Officials,

We were very relieved to hear from Councilmember Cohen's Chief of Staff Stacey Brown and Deputy City Manager Rosalynn Hughey on Oct 8 that the 71 Vista Montana Safe RV Parking site will be shut down imminently as soon as there is another suitable RV site created.

As a reminder, this fully-funded "program" is an arsenic-contaminated parking lot with two portapotties and almost no case-worker support or any of the other amenities and programs that allow people to get back on their feet. Meanwhile, our neighborhood continues to have concerns that are going unaddressed and we need accountability from the city to address this situation from getting worse:

- **24-hour security has been missing several times**. They have not stopped discouraged behavior (used oil spilled over site, illegal dumping of paint, trash accumulating). One security guard even harassed our neighbors, following them outside the site yelling (has he been disciplined?).

- A man CHARGED towards my female neighbor yelling, next to the playground at the park -- she ran away terrified! The only recommendation was to call the police, but police response time is abysmal in our area! Security guards are supposedly not responsible for what happens outside the sitel. Other people acting erratically have also been seen in both nearby parks, and only after you created this site.

- As mentioned and still applicable: one person broke into one of the RVs on site. We were told by the police that he was evicted from the site, but have since been told he is still welcome to go back to the site. This means **someone who broke into another car**, clearly violated the code of conduct, who has his (non-operational, thanks to broken promises from the city) car on the site, **is being welcomed back to the neighborhood**.

- This same person has told my neighbors he is a meth addict and wants to get clean but has had no access to services since he arrived at the site! This is a great example of how this program is lose-lose for the homeless people and our neighborhood.

- Meanwhile, the code of conduct prohibits him from using drugs on the site, **he would likely use drugs** at the nearby parks since no one is monitoring him outside the site

- One of our neighbors reported a terrible stench from the site. I would like to know **how any wastewater from the RVs is being handled**, particularly from RVs that are not operational and can't dump off site. I know there are no hook ups here since this is NOT an RV site.

- We're also seeing additional trailers full of stuff left behind in addition to the heaps of trash we've seen near the RVs, which **poses a fire hazard** 

- This site was presented as people living in RVs in operational vehicles, but is continuing to be used as storage for:

- 1. Non-RV vehicles
- 2. Non-operational vehicles
- 3. Trailers filled to the brim with stuff not inhabitable

Please continue to work on opening a suitable different RV site to relocate these participants and absorb some of the other vehicles we've seen arriving in our neighborhood.

In the meantime, we also need the city to support our neighborhood and address the issues created because of this site, at and near the site.

Thank you, Sheena

## Fw: Safe parking NOT safe at all

#### Agendadesk < Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 10/19/2021 1:32 PM

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

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov> Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:30 PM To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov> Subject: Fw: Safe parking NOT safe at all

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: Shprese Demiri-Head <

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:51 PM

To: Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Jones, Chappie <Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Carrasco, Magdalena <Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Ho. Wendy

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<	Brown, Stacey <stacey.brown@sanjoseca.gov>; District4</stacey.brown@sanjoseca.gov>		
<district4@sanjoseca.gov>;</district4@sanjoseca.gov>	<	City Clerk	
<city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>;</city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>	Nguyen, Lam <lam.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Safe Parking</lam.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>	-	
<safe.parking@sanjoseca.go< td=""><td>V&gt;</td><td></td><td></td></safe.parking@sanjoseca.go<>	V>		
Subject: Safe parking NOT sa	ife at all		

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#### Mail - Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas - Outlook

We as a neighborhood have been sending emails on a weekly basis asking questions that are not being answered to us in regards to the safe parking at 71 Vista Montana and North San Jose. We would like to know if there is an actual security guard on the premises at all times and if so where are they? they are never seen. There is a trailer parked with junk and the RV site we were told this was not allowed when this opened up why is it parked there when is it going to be moved out? What are the current plans to shut this site down? What is the city actively doing to move these people to permanent housing?

# Fw: Citizen's voice against 71 Vista Montana Safe RV parking and lack of communication from city

Agendadesk < Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Thu 10/21/2021 8:45 AM

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

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:27 AM
To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Fw: Citizen's voice against 71 Vista Montana Safe RV parking and lack of communication from city

#### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113 Main: 408-535-1260 Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Please take our short survey.

From: giyoon21c <

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:43 PM

To: Hughey, Rosalynn < Rosalynn. Hughey@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov <david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov>; Burton, Chris

<Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; Liccardo,

Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Jones, Chappie <Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio

<sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David

<David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Carrasco, Magdalena <Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev

<dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; Arenas, Sylvia

<sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt

<Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>;

Ho, Wendy <

Brown, Stacey <Stacey.Brown@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>;

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen,

Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Safe Parking <Safe.Parking@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Re: Citizen's voice against 71 Vista Montana Safe RV parking and lack of communication from city

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#### 10/21/21, 12:26 PM

Hi Rosalynn,

Thank you very much for your reply taking time to respond!

As a resident near by 71 Vista Montana, this issue has become our daily struggle and appreciate you taking time and trying to address residents' concerns.

This pilot program at 71 Vista Montana actually have brought some good points personally.

1) We became more strongly bonded and I got to learn many new neighbors.

2) I became aware of the acute homeless problems in the City of San Jose as I spend copious amount of time researching homeless issues/homeless advocates in the area.

3) I also became an active participant (listening-in) in city hall meetings and various other meetings related to the homeless situation.

Yesterday, Jacky - housing director during City Hall meeting spoke about the attachment of homeless folks to their RV/Cars as their otherwise homes. Thank you for getting us educated on these points that we normally would have never learned.

In response to current and future Safe Parking program in San Jose, I would like to inquire whether there are any industry buildings/warehouses with ample parking can be looked into.

Given the unfortunate Covid situation, there could be many unoccupied business buildings that could be rented for longer term that can house the "unhoused" with much better living conditions than current 71 Vista Montana site where there are virtually no living amenities.

I see a lot of money being planned to building fences, but would a more structurally sound building in industrial zoning easy to manage and also engage in case management?

In conclusion, please consider ending 71 Vista Montana safe site program as 1) it's not being fully utilized at all resulting in waste of federal money, 2) it's becoming a junk yard of sort, and 3) it's attracting other unhoused folks to our neighborhood.

Thank you.

Giyoung Yoon.

On Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 9:52 PM Hughey, Rosalynn <<u>Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov</u>> wrote: Hello Giyoung,

Attached is an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that addresses points you raise in your email, as well as answers to questions we have received from many residents. Neighbors may contact the Housing Department at 408-793-6827 or <u>safeparking@sanjoseca.gov</u> with questions or comments about safe parking.

Best regards,

Rosalynn

#### **Rosalynn Hughey**

Deputy City Manager |Office of the City Manager

Cell:

rosalynn.hughey@sanjoseca.gov

City of San José | 200 E. Santa Clara St. | San José, CA 95113 www.sanjoseca.gov | facebook | twitter

From: giyoon21c <

Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 2:47 PM

**To:** <u>david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov</u>; Burton, Chris <<u>Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <<u>Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov</u>>; Liccardo, Sam

, 12:26 PM Mail - Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas - Outlook
< <u>sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Jones, Chappie < <u>Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Jimenez, Sergio < <u>sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Peralez, Raul < <u>Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Cohen, David < <u>David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Carrasco, Magdalena < <u>Magdalena.Carrasco@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Davis, Dev < <u>dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Esparza, Maya < <u>Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Arenas, Sylvia < <u>sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Foley, Pam < <u>Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Mahan, Matt < <u>Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Foley, Pam < <u>Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Mahan, Matt < <u>Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; District4 < <u>District4@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Brown, Stacey < <u>Stacey.Brown@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; District4 < <u>District4@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Safe Parking < <u>Safe.Parking@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Nguyen, Lam < <u>Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov</u> >; Safe Parking < <u>Safe.Parking@sanjoseca.gov</u> >
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Re: Sharing concerns of a citizen who's daily life is impacted by the safe RV site that's been setup in 71 Vista Montana with Emphasis on personal side and direct impact on neighborhoods.
Over the weekend, I met my immediate neighbor on a different row - a nice couple who resides in Renaissance and I was heart broken to hear that they are putting their condo out for a market. Husband (works in IT) was busy doing remodeling and cleaning up the garage over the weekend.
From the brief conversation, they said that the RV park by the city was the tipping point over to put the house on the market.
Safe Parking or not (no matter how you want to paint it), we didn't agree to it and you put it there just because it's a city owned land. I'd like to remind you that there is an adjacent children's park right next to it.
There are numerous violations at the site's protocol that we were assured of prior and logical reasons why this site should have never been THE place. So far, the all our requests seem to be met with "tire 'em out, they will go away".
I drive this area by every day for daily commute wondering and worrying about what new event will unfold. Do you think it's the right thing to do? Many parents have stopped taking their children to the park.
Yes, homeless is a big problem now as I am just finding out because of this incident. However, the decision to put it so close the children's park and densely populated residential neighborhood needs re-examination and immediate injunction.
Please re-consider this RV safe site so closed to children's park and residential neighborhood and put some robust community involved decision making process when it comes to the unhoused.
Thank you.
Giyoung Yoon

## Fw: Letter in support of conservation of agricultural land

#### Agendadesk < Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 10/20/2021 3:24 PM

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

From: Louise E Jackson <

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 12:00 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>; PlanningSupportStaff
 <PlanningSupportStaff@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2
 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@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 Sam Liccardo
 <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>
 Subject: Letter in support of conservation of agricultural land

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October 20, 2021

To the San José City Council, City Council Districts, Mayor's Office, and Planning Commission of the City of San José:

I am a retired Professor Emerita and Specialist in Cooperative Extension at the University of California Davis, in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. My research has included a focus on conventional and organic agricultural vegetable production, climate smart agriculture for food security, and the benefits of conserving agricultural land to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I am writing to voice my strong support for the potential for agricultural production and resilience in Santa Clara County, not only for the continued viability of farms, ranches and local food availability, but for the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and other ecosystem benefits that accrue when natural and working lands are conserved.

My research was used by the County of Santa Clara in developing the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan<sup>1</sup>, which was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in January 2018. The focus of the Ag Plan is the retention of remaining agricultural lands in Santa Clara County, including Coyote Valley, to support local food supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, direct growth into existing urban areas and support a shift to local climate-smart economic development. The Plan was funded with Cap and Trade revenues from the State of California's Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program (SALCP) through the Strategic Growth Council and Department of Conservation. The Ag Plan was awarded the state's highest environmental honor, the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) in 2018.

My agricultural research in Yolo County<sup>2</sup> demonstrated that when agricultural land is converted to urban uses, greenhouse gas emissions increase by at least an order of magnitude, regardless of the crop being grown on the land. This research informed the Ag Plan finding by the American Farmland Trust that one

acre of farmland in the Santa Clara Valley produces 77 times fewer greenhouse gas emissions than an acre of urbanized development<sup>3</sup>.

I also contributed to the development of the Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant Program developed by the Santa Clara County Department. of Planning and Development. This unique program enables farmers and ranchers to design a set of practices that 'stack' environmental benefits in ways that support farm production and operations. Under the program, farmers receive a \$30,000 technical assistance grant to improve their success, which is important for their livelihoods and for environmental co-benefits.

The Santa Clara Valley was once one of the most productive farming areas in the country, before widespread urbanization consumed most its farmland. As a child growing up in Mountain View, I remember the huge acreages of prune and apricot orchards, and the enormous strawberry fields in nearby Sunnyvale. This type of large-scale, conventional production is only viable on a few remaining blocks of land. Yet there is plenty of opportunity for smaller-scale, direct-marketed production to be successful, especially for specialty crops such as fresh market fruits and vegetables.

During the past 30 years, many farmers in California have developed a new small-scale approach to specialty crop production, often using organic production methods that avoid toxic pesticides and have benefits for soil health and water quality. My research group has documented the viability of such operations in Yolo and Monterey Counties and their environmental co-benefits<sup>4</sup>. In the classes that I taught at UC Davis, there has been a rapidly growing cohort of students dedicated to small-scale organic production and sustainable agriculture. California has a shortage of land for these young people to farm, and several programs now provide entry points for them to develop their career goals.

California agriculture is always facing new challenges, e.g., agricultural pests and other production problems, periodic drought, new regulations, changes in markets, and even a pandemic. All farming operations in California face a continual need for innovation and renovation. Farmers and ranchers who stay in business are constantly adjusting and adapting to new situations. I am well aware of this dynamic situation as a member of family who has maintained a large ranch in Merced County since the 1870s. The foresight and effort to cope with new challenges requires determination and continued investment in infrastructure and the land.

For landowners who farm parcels zoned for non-agricultural purposes, decisions to invest in new infrastructure and management strategies can be difficult. If they decide to hold onto their land to maximize profits from its potential sale for urban development, major changes and investment in their operations may seem unwise. New infrastructure, such as the construction of expensive irrigation systems, may seem counterproductive, even on excellent soils capable of high agricultural productivity. They may have little incentive to set up novel marketing strategies or to embark on projects to improve soil health or restore marginal lands. These types of changes require several years to come to fruition, which may not fit the planning horizons of this type of landowner.

The Santa Clara Valley Ag Plan defines long-term success "as an evolution and maturity of an integrated regional food system, where food grown in Santa Clara Valley is present and recognized in markets, stores, and households throughout the County and region". Based on my agricultural experience in Central California, I believe that this is a viable and likely prospect. Given the resources and competency available in Santa Clara County and the state of California, I think that this can be achieved in the Coyote Valley in a way that fits the definition of *sustainable* agriculture, with economic, environmental and social benefits<sup>5</sup>.

Sincerely,



Louise E. Jackson

Emerita Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist Department of Land, Air and Water Resources University of California Davis Davis, CA 95616

- <sup>1</sup>Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan: Investing in Our Working Lands for Regional Resilience. <u>https://www.openspaceauthority.org/system/user\_files/Documents/Grids/current\_projects/SCV\_A</u> <u>ctionPlan\_010318.pdf</u>
- <sup>2</sup>Jackson, L.E., V.R. Haden, A.D. Hollander, H. Lee, M. Lubell, V.K. Mehta, A.T. O'Geen, M. Niles, J. Perlman, D. Purkey, W. Salas, D. Sumner, M. Tomuta, M. Dempsey and S.M. Wheeler. 2012. Adaptation strategies for agricultural sustainability in Yolo County, California. California Energy Commission. Publication number: CEC-500-2012-032. <u>http://www.energy.ca.gov/2012publications/CEC-500-2012-032/CEC-500-2012-032.pdf</u>
- <sup>3</sup>Shaffer, S. Comparing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Southern Santa Clara County Rangeland and Irrigated Cropland and Santa Clara County Urban Lands. Steve Shaffer Environmental Consulting for Agriculture For County of Santa Clara (December 2016).
- <sup>4</sup>Smukler, S.M., S. Sánchez-Moreno, S.J. Fonte, H. Ferris, K. Klonsky, A.T. O'Geen, K.M. Scow, K.L. Steenwerth, and L.E. Jackson. 2010. Biodiversity and multiple ecosystem functions in an organic farmscape. *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* 139:80-97. Bowles, T.M., A.D. Hollander, K.L. Steenwerth, and L.E. Jackson. 2015. Tightly-coupled plant-soil nitrogen cycling: Comparison of organic farms across an agricultural landscape. *PLoS ONE* 10(6): e0131888. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0131888
- <sup>5</sup>According to 7 USCS § 3103 (Title 7, Agriculture; Chapter 64, Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching; Findings, Purposes, and Definitions), the term "sustainable agriculture" means "an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long-term-- (A) satisfy human food and fiber needs;(B) enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends; (C) make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls; (D) sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and (E) enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole."

Cc: agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov planningsupportstaff@sanjoseca.gov district1@sanjoseca.gov district2@sanjoseca.gov district3@sanjoseca.gov district5@sanjoseca.gov district6@sanjoseca.gov district7@sanjoseca.gov district8@sanjoseca.gov district9@sanjoseca.gov district1@sanjoseca.gov district1@sanjoseca.gov Emerita Professor and Extension Specialist Dept of Land, Air and Water Resources University of California One Shields Ave. Davis, CA 95616 USA

http://ucanr.edu/sites/Jackson\_Lab/

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• SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Land, Air and Water Resources Department

DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

(Administrative) (Students) (Fax)

October 20, 2021

To the San José City Council, City Council Districts, Mayor's Office, and Planning Commission of the City of San José:

I am a retired Professor Emerita and Specialist in Cooperative Extension at the University of California Davis, in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. My research has included a focus on conventional and organic agricultural vegetable production, climate smart agriculture for food security, and the benefits of conserving agricultural land to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I am writing to voice my strong support for the potential for agricultural production and resilience in Santa Clara County, not only for the continued viability of farms, ranches and local food availability, but for the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and other ecosystem benefits that accrue when natural and working lands are conserved.

My research was used by the County of Santa Clara in developing the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan<sup>1</sup>, which was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in January 2018. The focus of the Ag Plan is the retention of remaining agricultural lands in Santa Clara County, including Coyote Valley, to support local food supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, direct growth into existing urban areas and support a shift to local climate-smart economic development. The Plan was funded with Cap and Trade revenues from the State of California's Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program (SALCP) through the Strategic Growth Council and Department of Conservation. The Ag Plan was awarded the state's highest environmental honor, the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) in 2018.

My agricultural research in Yolo County<sup>2</sup> demonstrated that when agricultural land is converted to urban uses, greenhouse gas emissions increase by at least an order of magnitude, regardless of the crop being grown on the land. This research informed the Ag Plan finding by the American Farmland Trust that one acre of farmland in the Santa Clara Valley produces 77 times fewer greenhouse gas emissions than an acre of urbanized development<sup>3</sup>.

I also contributed to the development of the Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant Program developed by the Santa Clara County Department. of Planning and Development. This unique program enables farmers and ranchers to design a set of practices that 'stack' environmental benefits in ways that support farm production and operations. Under the program, farmers receive a \$30,000 technical assistance grant to improve their success, which is important for their livelihoods and for environmental co-benefits.

The Santa Clara Valley was once one of the most productive farming areas in the country, before widespread urbanization consumed most its farmland. As a child growing up in Mountain View, I remember the huge acreages of prune and apricot orchards, and the enormous strawberry fields in nearby Sunnyvale. This type of large-scale, conventional production is only viable on a few

remaining blocks of land. Yet there is plenty of opportunity for smaller-scale, direct-marketed production to be successful, especially for specialty crops such as fresh market fruits and vegetables.

During the past 30 years, many farmers in California have developed a new small-scale approach to specialty crop production, often using organic production methods that avoid toxic pesticides and have benefits for soil health and water quality. My research group has documented the viability of such operations in Yolo and Monterey Counties and their environmental co-benefits<sup>4</sup>. In the classes that I taught at UC Davis, there has been a rapidly growing cohort of students dedicated to small-scale organic production and sustainable agriculture. California has a shortage of land for these young people to farm, and several programs now provide entry points for them to develop their career goals.

California agriculture is always facing new challenges, e.g., agricultural pests and other production problems, periodic drought, new regulations, changes in markets, and even a pandemic. All farming operations in California face a continual need for innovation and renovation. Farmers and ranchers who stay in business are constantly adjusting and adapting to new situations. I am well aware of this dynamic situation as a member of family who has maintained a large ranch in Merced County since the 1870s. The foresight and effort to cope with new challenges requires determination and continued investment in infrastructure and the land.

For landowners who farm parcels zoned for non-agricultural purposes, decisions to invest in new infrastructure and management strategies can be difficult. If they decide to hold onto their land to maximize profits from its potential sale for urban development, major changes and investment in their operations may seem unwise. New infrastructure, such as the construction of expensive irrigation systems, may seem counterproductive, even on excellent soils capable of high agricultural productivity. They may have little incentive to set up novel marketing strategies or to embark on projects to improve soil health or restore marginal lands. These types of changes require several years to come to fruition, which may not fit the planning horizons of this type of landowner.

The Santa Clara Valley Ag Plan defines long-term success "as an evolution and maturity of an integrated regional food system, where food grown in Santa Clara Valley is present and recognized in markets, stores, and households throughout the County and region". Based on my agricultural experience in Central California, I believe that this is a viable and likely prospect. Given the resources and competency available in Santa Clara County and the state of California, I think that this can be achieved in the Coyote Valley in a way that fits the definition of *sustainable* agriculture, with economic, environmental and social benefits<sup>5</sup>.

Sincerely,



Louise E. Jackson Emerita Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist

- <sup>1</sup>Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan: Investing in Our Working Lands for Regional Resilience. <u>https://www.openspaceauthority.org/system/user\_files/Documents/Grids/current\_projects</u> /SCV\_ActionPlan\_010318.pdf
- <sup>2</sup>Jackson, L.E., V.R. Haden, A.D. Hollander, H. Lee, M. Lubell, V.K. Mehta, A.T. O'Geen, M. Niles, J. Perlman, D. Purkey, W. Salas, D. Sumner, M. Tomuta, M. Dempsey and S.M. Wheeler. 2012. Adaptation strategies for agricultural sustainability in Yolo County, California. California Energy Commission. Publication number: CEC-500-2012-032. http://www.energy.ca.gov/2012publications/CEC-500-2012-032/CEC-500-2012-032.pdf
- <sup>3</sup>Shaffer, S. Comparing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Southern Santa Clara County Rangeland and Irrigated Cropland and Santa Clara County Urban Lands. Steve Shaffer Environmental Consulting for Agriculture For County of Santa Clara (December 2016).
- <sup>4</sup>Smukler, S.M., S. Sánchez-Moreno, S.J. Fonte, H. Ferris, K. Klonsky, A.T. O'Geen, K.M. Scow, K.L. Steenwerth, and L.E. Jackson. 2010. Biodiversity and multiple ecosystem functions in an organic farmscape. *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* 139:80-97. Bowles, T.M., A.D. Hollander, K.L. Steenwerth, and L.E. Jackson. 2015. Tightly-coupled plant-soil nitrogen cycling: Comparison of organic farms across an agricultural landscape. *PLoS ONE* 10(6): e0131888. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0131888
- <sup>5</sup>According to 7 USCS § 3103 (Title 7, Agriculture; Chapter 64, Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching; Findings, Purposes, and Definitions), the term "sustainable agriculture" means "an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long-term-- (A) satisfy human food and fiber needs;(B) enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends; (C) make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls; (D) sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and (E) enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole."

Cc:

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