

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Huy
First Name

Tran
Last Name

[Redacted]
Email Address

Please note, applications are continuously accepted to the City of San Jose Boards and Commissions. The Board or Commission you select may or may not indicate there is a vacancy. Your application will remain on file for one year from the date of submission. During the year, your application may be considered for unanticipated vacancies.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Charter Review Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?

Yes No

Length of Residency

6 or more years

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov/?tab=dt> *

District 4

[Redacted]
Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose
City

CA
State

95131
Postal Code

Business: (408) [Redacted]
Primary Phone

Mobile: (408) [Redacted]
Alternate Phone

Justice at Work Law Group, LLP
Employer

Partner
Job Title

Current Employer Address

1550 The Alameda, Suite 302

Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Spouse's Job Title

N/A

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

N/A

Demographics (Optional)

The demographic information you choose to provide is **VOLUNTARY** and **OPTIONAL**. This information will be kept separate from your application and will not be used for evaluating applications or making appointments. The City of San José will use this information to solely conduct research and compile statistical reports regarding the composition of its Board and Commission applicants.

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

Santa Clara University School of Law, Fall 2009 – Spring 2012 Juris Doctor with Social Justice Certificate, 2012 San Jose State University, Fall 2001 – Spring 2005 Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Minor in Economics, Spring 2005 Middle College High School, Fall 1997 – Spring 2001 High School Diploma, Spring 2001

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates

Commissioner, Housing and Community Development Commission, July 2017 to current. Santa Clara County Chief Executive Officer, Office of Cultural Competency Management Analyst, Aug 2016 to Dec 2016 Santa Clara County Vietnamese American Service Center Project Project Lead, Oct 2015 to Feb 2016 Vietnamese American Roundtable (VAR) Core Member, Secretary, and President - May 2015 to present Wage Theft Coalition Steering Committee Member, Jan 2015 to present; Affiliate, Jan 2014 to Dec 2014 A Union of Golden Hearts, Inc. Legal Counsel, 2016 - present Youth Changing Society, Inc. Treasurer, 2016 - present Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California Professional Development Chair, 2013 to 2016

Languages Spoken

English, Vietnamese

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

2018 Community Hero Award - Assemblyman Kansen Chu 2016 Small Business of the Year Award - Senator Jim Beall

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

How our city is structured is tied into how it will serve its people. I am applying to the Charter Review Commission to ensure that discussions around the powers of the mayor and the scheduling of elections focus on how all residents are served while at the same time acknowledging that making changes to when we vote and what powers the mayor should have impact every corner of San Jose. In particular, discussions around mayoral powers have to reflect the reality that San Jose is a big city, and its ability to respond to immediate concerns such as the demands made during the Black Lives Matter protests this summer is severely restricted when the Mayor has limited authority to act quickly. The Mayor can be held more accountable than a city manager or the chief of police, who are not elected but hired. On the other hand, granting the Mayor large expansive powers means that our residents have to trust whoever is elected because a new administration can make drastic changes to how city services are provided every four to eight years. Regarding the scheduling of elections, the demand to reschedule elections was driven by the recognition that presidential years drive more turnout. How rescheduling is done, and which districts or office elections get rescheduled, can impact the entire city. The balancing of these issues requires that we take a holistic approach to these questions and ensure that the voices of our residents carries through.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

I am a current member of the Housing and Community Development Commission. If I am limited to serving on one commission

Do you own property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

Yes No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain of your financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scopr of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

Yes No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

Reference 1 Name

June Tran, small business owner

Reference 1 Address

██████████, San Jose, CA 95126

Reference 1 Phone

██████████

Reference 2 Name

Robin Roemer, Orchard PTA

Reference 2 Address

██████████, San Jose, CA 95134

Reference 2 Phone

██████████

Supplemental Questions

If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

Yes No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

Yes No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

I have served on various boards since 2003, serving in capacities from members of the board of directors to committee chairmanships. The boards that I served on as a student include Student Union, Incorporated and Associated Students, Incorporated while at SJSU, and on the board of community organizations such as United Vietnamese Student Associations and the Union of North American Vietnamese Student Associations as an alumnus. Currently, I serve on two boards, Vietnamese American Roundtable, Inc. and Youth Changing Society, Inc., an organization that focuses on engaging with those who seek to create a civil society in Vietnam. I am also a current member of the Housing and Community Development Commission. I also served as a member of the Housing Commission from 2017 to 2019 and was re-appointed in September of 2020.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).

I was a member of the Housing and Community Development Commission from 2017 to 2019, and re-appointed in September 2020. In that capacity, I developed intimate understanding of the rules and regulations that applies to new developments in San Jose, such as the Ellis Act and the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. On the Housing Commission, I led the effort to recommend to the City Council that we enact the Commercial Linkage Fee and to study residential vacancies in San Jose. Outside of the Housing Commission, I have also been active as an advocate with the Wage Theft Coalition, where we enacted wage theft ordinances in Santa Clara County, Santa Clara Unified School District, and the cities of Milpitas, Sunnyvale, and San Jose. As part of the Vietnamese American Roundtable, I have also been active in mobilizing our community on the critical issues that impact us, including hosting candidate forums to ensure that information about those running for office is accessible and available to the community.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Charter Review Commission has been charged with reviewing proposals for the expansion of mayoral powers and shifting city council elections to maximize voter participation for both the Mayor and District seats.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.

The Charter Review Commission's top priority should be on ensuring that the voices of our marginalized communities are uplifted and heard on par with the wealthier communities in San Jose. The driving force behind the call to shift mayoral elections to presidential years was the issue of representation, and we must continue to address the need for stronger representation. The Charter Review Commission also needs to thoroughly balance the pros and cons of expanded mayoral powers. This could be a significant shift from our current system which gives each member of the Council an equal voice. The Commission also needs to determine exactly what powers the Mayor should be empowered with. Lastly, the Charter Review Commission must ensure that all of its recommendations take into account the impact of any proposed changes across the city. Structural and procedural changes such as those that will be considered by the Commission will have ripple effects on all residents, and we must be cognizant of these impacts as the Commission produces its recommendations.

I would like to say . . .

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

I Agree *

Huy Tran

San José, CA 95126

- Professional Experience**
- Justice at Work Law Group, LLP
Partner, Jan 2014 to present; **Associate**, Jan 2013 to Dec 2013 San José, CA
- Represent workers on wage and hour matters in multiple industries, including service, automotive repair, and construction.
 - Research and analyze employment, procedural and legal issues such as overtime exemptions, prevailing wage, and CBA preemption in state and federal jurisdiction.
 - Investigate factual disputes between clients and opponents and analyze the impact of any findings on the factual disputes.
 - Created discovery strategies employing various tools such as interrogatories and depositions to identify which questions needed to be asked and answered.
 - Develop community relationships to advocate on issues dealing with wage theft, immigrant rights and issues related to the Vietnamese community.
- Santa Clara County Chief Executive Officer, Cultural Competency San José, CA
Management Analyst, Aug 2016 to Dec 2016
- Analyze and assess current and past use of language line to project future need.
 - Review all department procedures at County Government Center for working with Limited English Proficiency Speakers.
 - Recommend improvements to county departments for procedures for working with Limited English Proficiency Speakers.
 - Act as liaison between County and vendors for language line services.
 - Provide technical and inventory support to County departments for language line needs.
 - Study language access policies of other municipalities and determine their applicability to Santa Clara County.
- Santa Clara County Vietnamese American Service Center Project San José, CA
Project Lead, Oct 2015 to Feb 2016
- Coordinate stakeholder sessions to determine which services were important to include in the Vietnamese American Service Center Project to be constructed.
 - Develop and distribute surveys in English and Vietnamese to gather information about which services should be prioritized for the Vietnamese community in Santa Clara County.
 - Conduct focus group with staff from Social Services Agency and the Department of Behavioral Health to determine what they see as priority needs for the Vietnamese community in Santa Clara County.
 - Lead team meetings to efforts to hold stakeholder sessions, distribute surveys, and conduct focus groups.
 - Coordinated translation and entry of data from various data sources.
 - Conducted initial assessment of data and final review of report generated from the data.
 - Presented final findings to Board of Supervisors and to the Community
- Additional References**
- Tomas Margain, Partner and former Employer, [REDACTED]
Ruth Silver-Taube, Wage Theft Coalition and former Professor, [REDACTED]
Shiloh Ballard, Executive Director of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and current Planning Commissioner

Community Activities

Housing and Community Development Commission, City of San José
Commissioner, August 2017 to August 2019

- Provide oversight to the Housing Department on how federal and state funds are spent in accordance with the requirements of the grants provided, including the Community Development Block Grants and the Homeless Emergency Aid Program.
- Provide oversight on the quality and level of service in response calls related to the Mobilehome Ordinance and Apartment Rent Ordinance.
- Review policy proposals and pass recommendations to the San José City Council, including the following efforts:
 - preserving the Ellis Act Ordinance requirement that new housing developments that replaced those governed by the Apartment Rent Ordinance have 50% of its units – or an equal number of units lost – be subject to rent stabilization.
 - enacting the Commercial Linkage Fee
 - studying residential vacancies in San José
 - ending consideration of the Mobile Home Opt-In Ordinance
 - reducing the rent increase cap under the Apartment Rent Ordinance to 5% from 8%

Vietnamese American Roundtable (VAR)

Core Member, Secretary, and President, May 2015 to present

- Build community relationships through events for the Vietnamese American community, including annual Black April Commemoration.
- Research and advocate on issues affecting the Vietnamese American community including the Vietnamese American Services Center, Wage Theft, and Public Safety.
- Promote local organizations with activities or campaigns benefiting the Vietnamese American community.
- Identify and train young professionals and students to become advocates and organizers for the Vietnamese Community.

Wage Theft Coalition

Steering Committee Member, Jan 2015 to present; **Affiliate**, Jan 2014 to Dec 2014

- Organize and Promote actions against Wage Theft Violators such as Crazy Buffet.
- Research wage theft ordinances in other cities and on permits, licenses and other requirements to run a business in San José.
- Research and analyze wage theft judgments issued in Santa Clara County to determine their impact on local communities.
- Draft proposed language for local ordinances fighting wage theft.
- Lobby local elected officials to draft and enact wage theft ordinances.

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Research Group

Member and Creator, Spring 2011

- Created the research group as collaboration between VALS, the Environmental Law Society, and the Vietnamese American Volunteer Law Corp.
- Recruited four students to research different legal issues around the April 20, 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.
- Created a proposal for an agency approach to administering liability under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Education

Santa Clara University School of Law, Fall 2009 – Spring 2012
Juris Doctor with Social Justice Certificate

San José State University, Fall 2001 – Spring 2005
Bachelor's Degree in Political Science
Minor: Economics