
FW: Letter from the Behavioral Health Community Association regarding 9.30.25 Agenda Item 3.5

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 9/29/2025 12:51 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (175 KB)
9.29.25 BHCA Endorsement for Item 3.5.pdf;

From: Eva Stuewe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:30 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Elisa Koff-Ginsborg <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Letter from the Behavioral Health Community Association regarding 9.30.25 Agenda Item 3.5

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On Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 12:25 PM Eva Stuewe <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Attached to this email is a letter for comment from the Behavioral Health Community Association (BHCA) regarding item 3.5 - Ordinance Prohibiting Law Enforcement Officers from Concealing their Identities in the City of San José on the 9.30.25 Council Agenda.

Best,

Eva Stuewe | Policy Assistant



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Behavioral Health Community Association
of Santa Clara County
1922 The Alameda, Suite 322
San Jose, CA 95126



September 29, 2025
Mayor and City Council
City of San Jose

via e-mail

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I write on behalf of the Behavioral Health Community Association (BHCA) with a providers' perspective on the September 30th San Jose City Council agenda item 3.5 - Ordinance Prohibiting Law Enforcement Officers from Concealing their Identities in the City of San José.

We support Councilmember Ortiz, Kamei, Cohen, and Campos's proposal that would prohibit law enforcement officials from concealing their identities.

The organizations that comprise BHCA serve thousands of children, adults and families daily, many of whom are immigrants or at risk of the [Supreme Court's decision](#) to not uphold constitutional limits that prevent racial profiling by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers.

Behavioral health providers on the front lines witness clients (from young children to older adults) and staff in tears and expressing fear of the Federal Government and law enforcement. The communities we serve are traumatized not only by families being separated by ICE action, but also by the stories of masked individuals impersonating ICE officers and harassing, detaining, and even assaulting community members.

Holding ICE officers to identify themselves and be accountable for their actions is a crucial step in protecting our community and decreasing trauma. BHCA strongly urges the San José City Council to demonstrate their commitment to serving our community by approving this item. Please reinforce the Constitutional Rights of all who live here and clearly articulate that all can seek services and participate in their community without fear.

Sincerely,

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg
Executive Director
 mobile

Member Agencies

AACI
Abode Services
Alum Rock Counseling Center
Bill Wilson Center
Caminar
Catholic Charities
Children's Health Council
Community Solutions
Gardner Family Health Network
HealthRight 360
Hope Services
Horizon Services
Indian Health Center
Mekong Community Center
Mental Health Advocacy Project
Momentum for Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Our Common Ground
Pacific Clinics
Pathway Society
Rebekah Children's Services
Seneca Family of Agencies
TURN Behavioral Health Services
Ujima Adult & Family Services

FW: Public Comment: Agenda Item 3.5, City Council Meeting 9/30/25

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 9/29/2025 1:30 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Rachel Monaco [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:52 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda Item 3.5, City Council Meeting 9/30/25

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Members of the San Jose City Council,

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley writes in support of Item 3.5 on the 9/30 City Council meeting agenda to have the City Attorney's Office draft an ordinance which prevents law enforcement from concealing their identities.

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley provides free food assistance to nearly 500,000 people in our region every month. Our distributions are open and welcoming to all who are in need of support. There is a great deal of fear in our community due to anti-immigrant rhetoric and ICE activity locally and nationwide which prevents people from accessing the resources their families need to be healthy and stable.

Masking by law enforcement further creates an environment of fear and distrust and opens pathways to abuses of power by both law enforcement and impersonators. To protect the safety of our community, strengthen public trust in those sworn to protect us, and ensure everyone is freely able to access the resources their family needs, we urge you to move forward with passing this ordinance in the City of San Jose.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rachel Monaco

Rachel Monaco (she/her)

Senior Manager, Policy & Advocacy
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
[REDACTED]

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FW: Agenda Item 3.5 25-1075 September 30, 2025 SJ City Council meeting (Support for No Secret Police Memo and recommendations)

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 9/29/2025 4:12 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kylie Borges <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:12 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 3.5 25-1075 September 30, 2025 SJ City Council meeting (Support for No Secret Police Memo and recommendations)

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Hello,

My name is Kylie and I'm a resident of San Jose, CA (95112). I am writing in strong support of the No Secret Police Memo and recommended proposals, submitted by Councilmembers Ortiz, Kamei, Cohen, and Campos.

As a California resident who has witnessed the horrific escalation of violence against brown-skinned people across our state by masked ICE officers, this memo--and any piece of ordinance or legislation that demands accountability by law enforcement agencies--is profoundly important to me for so many reasons:

Masking [erodes public trust and undermines legitimate law enforcement](#), creating fear in our communities. This anonymity has also [fueled a dangerous rise in impersonations of officials, leading to increased attempts to abduct, sexually assault, rob, and harm innocent people](#) and this poses a great threat to our public safety. How is the public supposed to know that they are having an encounter with someone from a legitimate law enforcement agency, if those people won't show their faces or display or share their badge information? Furthermore, masking/identity concealment ultimately puts legitimate law enforcement officials at greater risk.

ICE has been indiscriminately targeting brown-skinned people by ICE (the vast majority of people currently in ICE custody have absolutely no criminal record, according to a [recent report by CBS News](#)). Regardless of what the conservative SCOTUS ruled, indiscriminately targeting people based on their skin color or language use without any actual probable cause is, in fact, racial profiling and has historically been considered unlawful. It's also deeply racist and cruel, especially when we consider that immigration law is CIVIL law (meaning being undocumented is the same level of "crime" as jaywalking). This country's dehumanization of brown-skinned folks is prolific, unabashed, and emboldened by a racist and xenophobic wannabe dictator. It's also the reason there are alarming [reports of human rights violations](#) at ICE facilities and why [the US is on a human rights watch list](#).

Under the current fascist regime and with SCOTUS' recent green light, ICE is effectively operating as the American Gestapo for non-white people in this country. When we couple ICE's deep, flagrant racism with masking/concealment policies, we have a "law enforcement" agency that is made up of people who outwardly hate brown-skinned folks and get to hide any and all of its actions--like verbally attacking and kidnapping and torturing brown-skinned people--behind a shield of anonymity.

I am Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian), so I will never truly understand or agree with the US' absurd immigration policies--nobody can be "illegal" on stolen and illegally occupied land. But I am also a brown-skinned person who lives in San Jose, and although I may be a US citizen, I know I'm at a real risk of being targeted by ICE, like my friends and colleagues and neighbors who are similarly not white. Our skin color and the language(s) we speak and the type of jobs we work and our immigration statuses ARE NOT CRIMES. We should not be constantly in fear of masked agents hunting us down solely based on their racism. That is not even remotely just.

I implore the City Council to approve this No Secret Police Memo and take real steps to establish local ordinance that bars the use of facial coverings/identity concealment (save for the few examples that were outlined in the memo) by law enforcement.

I'd like to also add a request that whatever formal ordinance is pursued, that it includes clear and escalating penalties for violation. We know the reason why these type of policies are important now more than ever: ICE is behaving like a masked American Gestapo. The current Presidential administration has also said that--despite California successfully passing SB627--it would disregard the masking policies entirely, suggesting that they do not respect state's and local laws. I would like San Jose to consider (and incorporate into any final ordinance proposal) what specific steps/actions it will take for violations, if enacted—including issues fines and filing lawsuits against agencies like ICE that may disregard established policy.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my testimony. Please do the right thing and approve this memo so that we can make San Jose a safer community.

Respectfully,
Kylie B.

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FW: Support Item 3.5 City Council Meeting 9/30/25

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/30/2025 8:12 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (508 KB)
September 30 (1).pdf;

From: Dolores A [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:03 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Item 3.5 City Council Meeting 9/30/25

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Dolores Alvarado | Chief Executive Officer

408 N. Capitol Ave. San Jose, Ca 95133



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September 30, 2025

San Jose City Council

city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov

**Subject: Support Item 3.5 - Ordinance Prohibiting Law Enforcement Officers from
Concealing Their Identities in the City of San José**

Dear Members of the San Jose City Council,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for Item 3.5 in today's agenda. My name is Dolores Alvarado, CEO of the Community Health Partnership (CHP). CHP is an association of community health centers throughout Santa Clara County. In 2024, our 9 non-profit health centers, including the 5 in this city, served 369,840 individuals resulting in nearly one million service encounters. The vast majority being Medi-Cal recipients living in poverty at 200% FPL.

I am writing to urge you to direct City Staff to develop a strong ordinance that prohibits all law enforcement officers from concealing their identities in the City of San José. The proposed ordinance further requires SJPd to report when they respond to an incident involving a federal agency conducting immigration enforcement activity in San José. We must uphold full transparency of all officers and prioritize safety for everyone.

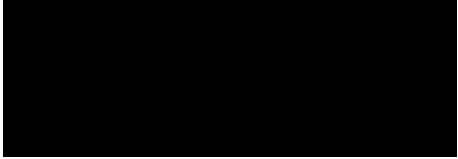
Secret policing is incompatible with democracy. Masking by law enforcement is a new and intentional tactic to create an environment of fear in our populations. When officers operate under masks, it erodes public trust in our government, opens opportunities for impersonators to harm our neighbors, and leaves our immigrant communities vulnerable to abuse of power.

Ordinance 3.2 restores the most basic principle of public safety: if someone claims authority over you, you have the right to know who they are and what agency they represent. We deserve a city where law enforcement is visible, is accountable, and respects our constitutional and human rights. Our communities need protection now!

California recently signed new laws: SB 627 prohibits the concealment of law enforcement and SB 805 requires visible, clear identification. We urge the San Jose City Council to follow the state's courageous direction and direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to the City Council for adoption as soon as possible. Federal enforcement will expand significantly in October; we are counting on you to take critical and urgent action.

We respectfully urge you to direct the City Attorney to create an ordinance to uphold full transparency and require all law enforcement to be clearly identifiable while performing their duties. Our City of San José will not allow law enforcement to hide behind secrecy when immigrant lives and civil rights are at stake, and we owe it to our communities to protect our constitutional rights of safety.

Sincerely,



Dolores Alvarado

Chief Executive Officer

FW: City Council Meeting – September 30, 2025 – Agenda Items 3.4 and 3.5

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/30/2025 8:35 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kyra Kazantzis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:28 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Wilcox, Leland <Leland.Wilcox@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Reed, Jim <Jim.Reed@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Arreola, Kiara <Kiara.Arreola@sanjoseca.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov>; Gvatua, Alexander <Alexander.Gvatua@sanjoseca.gov>; lynn.lee@sanjoseca.gov; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; aaron.zeelig@sanjoseca.gov; Danino, Shawn <Shawn.Danino@sanjoseca.gov>; Gomez, David <David.Gomez@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Yamamoto, KiyomiH <Kiyomi.Yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Kylie Clark <[REDACTED]> Gianella Ordonez <[REDACTED]> Shannon Zhang <[REDACTED]>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: City Council Meeting – September 30, 2025 – Agenda Items 3.4 and 3.5

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Members of the City Council and the City Manager:

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) and our 170+ nonprofit members, we respectfully submit comments on agenda items for your September 30, 2025, meeting. SVCN advances the role, voice, and capacity of the nonprofit community in Santa Clara County so it can be a force for positive social change and support the creation of equitable, vibrant, and thriving communities. In this spirit, we offer our perspective to assist the Council in understanding the impact of City policies and initiatives on the nonprofit ecosystem and the communities we collectively serve.

Item 3.4 – City Council Focus Area Semi-Annual Status Report

We appreciate the City's efforts to strengthen accountability and transparency through a new framework and dashboards.

However, it's surprising and disappointing that in the "data-driven" city, the new framework neglects a major objective of the City, articulated by voters in Measure I and incorporated into City ordinance, which is to advance equity. The proposed measures do not include meaningful

equity indicators. While the dashboards reference workforce development, this is in the context of business-centric priorities only rather than community-oriented priorities. The City should be measuring well-being in our community, including specific goals like wealth-building, ability to manage unexpected income disruptions or health emergencies, and improvements in pay and wealth disparity – particularly in impacted communities like the Black community. If the dashboards and scorecards evaluated broader equity and quality-of-life measures, we would have transparency into whether San José is becoming a more just and livable city, especially for its lower-income residents.

Moreover, the proposed measures of priority to address homelessness omits important indicators. For example, whether the city is reducing evictions or displacement is not measured. In another example, the only throughput measure to permanent housing among formerly unhoused residents is from safe parking to affordable housing (the target is 20%!). Related, the housing focus area scorecard doesn't grade the City's production of affordable housing (only overall housing production).

The framework also does not reflect measurements of the consequences of the City's new policies relating to arresting unhoused "trespassers" and encampment sweeps—or, perhaps more accurately, unintended consequences—such as increased instability, mental health impacts, loss of employment, loss of property, deeper homelessness, or arrest records and incarceration. Without these indicators, the City cannot fully evaluate whether its approaches are with its stated goals or ... its values. The community asked for this kind of report back during the budget hearings in May and June and we were reassured that the City would be assessing the activities and results of these policies. As our Mayor as pointed out, you can't manage what you can't measure.

We recommend strengthening the Focus Area framework by:

- Expanding homelessness metrics to capture the full consequences of enforcement actions and measure the City's prevention efforts (e.g. number of evictions, level of displacement, number of people housed in affordable housing including throughputs from City encampment sweeps).
- Incorporating equity indicators such as racial wealth gaps, cost of living, and affordability pressures across the Focus Areas. Explicitly aligning dashboard measures with the City's racial justice and equity commitments, affirmed by the voters in Measure I.

We also support Councilmember Campos's recommendation to integrate McKinney-Vento data to better track youth and family homelessness and to strengthen childcare infrastructure as part of the City's long-term equity strategy.

Item 3.5 – Ordinance Prohibiting Law Enforcement Officers from Concealing Their Identities in San José

The Immigrant Protection and Empowerment Network (IPEN) have worked in partnership with Councilmembers Ortiz, Kamei, Cohen, and Campos to bring this important ordinance forward. SVCN and REAL Coalition strongly support it. If adopted, it would provide protections for San José residents that go beyond newly signed state legislation, ensuring transparency and accountability in law enforcement practices. We particularly support the requirement that SJPD

report responses to federal immigration enforcement activity, as this will help maintain trust between immigrant communities and local government.

We also urge the Council to consider the following:

- **Constitutional rights:** Masking by law enforcement creates fear, undermines trust, and chips away at residents' ability to know who is sworn to protect them.
- **Community safety:** Masks open the door to abuse, impersonation, and public confusion, putting immigrant communities at greater risk.
- **Accountability:** Without visible identification, it is nearly impossible to hold officers or agencies responsible for misconduct.
- **Local leadership:** San José has a proud legacy of protecting its residents; adopting this ordinance demonstrates bold leadership and a clear stand for the rights and safety of our community.

We appreciate the City's leadership in advancing policies that strengthen trust, equity, and safety in our community. SVCN and our nonprofit community value the opportunity to partner with the City in shaping systems that better serve residents—especially those most impacted by displacement, inequity, and exclusion. We look forward to continued collaboration with you to ensure San José is a place where all people can thrive.

Sincerely,

Kyra Kazantzis | CEO

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

 svcn.org | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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