
FW: Climate Advisory Commission Recommendation Letter

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 5/22/2025 2:21 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (222 KB)

CAC Recommendation 052225_FINAL.pdf;

From: Balis, Anne <Anne.Balis@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 2:18 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Climate Advisory Commission 5 <CAC5@sanjoseca.gov>; Karen Nelson [REDACTED] Climate Advisory Commission 8 <CAC8@sanjoseca.gov>; Benabente, Julie <Julie.Benabente@sanjoseca.gov>; Vargas, Leticia <Leticia.Vargas@sanjoseca.gov>; Williams, Lina <Lina.Williams@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Climate Advisory Commission Recommendation Letter

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached recommendation letter from the Climate Advisory Commission on the Climate Smart Budget. Please note they request for this to be included as public comment at the following meetings:

- **June 9** – Final Public Hearing: 2025 2026 Proposed Operating Budget
- **June 10** – City Council Meeting, Mayor's June Budget Message
- **June 17** – City Council Meeting, Budget

Thank you, and let me know if you have any questions.

Anne Balis

Climate Smart Supervising Environmental Services Specialist

Environmental Services Department

San José City Hall

200 E. Santa Clara St. | San José, CA 95113

www.SJEnvironment.org



May 22, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor, City Council, and City Manager

From: Climate Advisory Commission

Re: Climate Smart in City Budget

June 9 – Final Public Hearing: 2025 2026 Proposed Operating Budget

June 10 – City Council Meeting, Mayor's June Budget Message

June 17 – City Council Meeting, Budget

Dear Honorable Mayor, City Council, and City Manager:

As federal action on climate change is gutted, local governments must step up and do their part. The Climate Advisory Commission is alarmed and perplexed by the reduction of funding to the Climate Smart Program shown in the City of San José's [Proposed Operating Budget for 2025-26](#). While the shift from the Environmental Services Department to the Energy Department will allow for Energy Department coverage of staff costs, non-personnel funding is currently only shown at a base level of approximately \$126,000, compared to previous years with \$300-400,000 in non-personnel funding. This proposed reduction comes after non-personnel funding to Climate Smart was already cut by approximately one-third in 2024-25 from the previous fiscal year.

Such cuts are a false economy. Climate action, and the investment needed to make it work, is not optional. It is a necessity. The City of San José has already acknowledged this fact in its declaration of a climate emergency 6 years ago. Why would we now plan to cut funding used to counteract a declared emergency? Studies are clear that the financial cost of rapid decarbonization right now is dwarfed by the economic damages we will suffer if the climate crisis is allowed to progress. More pressingly, every delay in this investment is a lost opportunity to avert human suffering and environmental destruction. It need not be stated that San José and our region are increasingly vulnerable to climate change-driven natural disasters including flooding and wildfires.

Further, the Climate Smart program has been incredibly successful thus far in working towards our climate targets despite already limited funding resources. Climate Smart's non-personnel funding has allowed the program to pursue increasingly broad community engagement to bring all residents on board and support everyone to work together on steps toward climate mitigation and adaptation that we must all pursue. This progress can be seen most directly in the Climate Smart Challenge, which has now engaged more than 1,500 households and prevented the release of 500 tons of CO₂. Continued funding to maintain and expand impactful efforts is critical, especially since less than 5 years remain before our target date for carbon neutrality, 2030.

Climate Smart's funding is only a minuscule portion of the overall City budget, and these reductions do not make significant progress in addressing the budget deficit. Even an increased \$450,000 in Climate Smart non-personnel funding makes up just 0.008% of the proposed City budget for the next fiscal year. Meanwhile, the drastic reductions in funding would only make up 0.9% of this year's projected budget shortfall of \$35.6 million. Do we really want to significantly diminish the ability of our City to tackle one of the most pressing crises facing its residents and the world, just to alleviate less than one percent of this year's budget deficit?

San José's actions now will have an effect on climate efforts well beyond our one city. San José's climate budget is already significantly lower than comparable cities. Other municipalities like San Diego and Seattle average about 24 staff positions and \$16 million annually dedicated to climate work, compared to Climate Smart San José's staff of 8 and annual budget of less than \$1 million. Despite these constraints, we have made great progress and been a model to other cities. Initiatives such as our ambitious carbon neutrality goals, wildly successful community choice energy provider, and energy-efficient building reach codes have been first-of-their-kind for a major U.S. city and rapidly adopted by other local governments.

As the capital of Silicon Valley, the nation's twelfth largest city and a leader in innovation, other cities follow our lead. As many other local governments across the state and country face budget shortfalls, they will learn from San José's example. We must ensure that this is not a resignation that financial difficulties must result in diminished climate investment and stalled action, but instead an affirmation that sustained climate action and investment at the local level is possible, beneficial to residents, and necessary. Accelerated action and investment in our City are ever more important now in the context of federal backsliding on climate policy and blocked federal funding sources.

Thus, the Climate Advisory Commission advises in the strongest terms that non-personnel funding to Climate Smart San José be maintained at a very minimum of 2024-25 fiscal year levels of approximately \$450,000. **Indeed, merely restoring funding is not enough. We can only even come near to achieving our necessary climate targets by *increasing* investments.** Given the gravity of the climate crisis and our City's obligation to its residents to address it, an increase in this funding to at least 2023-24 levels of \$621,000 would be highly merited and is our strong recommendation. Finally, we recommend that a sufficient base level of non-personnel funding, well over its current sum of about \$126,000, be determined and established for Climate Smart that will serve as minimum baseline funding to preferably be increased in future years. In consultation with City staff, the contents of our climate plans and targets, and community members and advocates, we advise that this more permanent block of funding be established to ensure that bold climate action at the City level continues uninterrupted, as it must, for years to come.

In this budgetary decision, the City is both symbolically and actually determining a great deal about the prospects for a stable climate future for all its residents. Every year that passes, action and investment on climate change has less and less impact. These are the last few years when our actions truly continue to make a difference. Thus, our utmost efforts must be applied right now.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and we look forward to seeing climate action to preserve the future of all our residents prioritized in this year's budget.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mani Bekele, Commission Youth Representative

On behalf of the San José Climate Advisory Commission

FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 5/22/2025 1:55 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Nina Heldt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 1:29 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs
Importance: High

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Dear Mayor Mahan, D3 Councilperson and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops


These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

I have personally attended the fitness and wellness classes and they have helped me physically, mentally and also provided socializing opportunities. I have made friends in the neighborhood.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Nina Heldt



D3 home owner

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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Date Fri 5/23/2025 7:52 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Deborah Anderson [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 7:12 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: RE: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Dear Mayor Mahan, Carl Salas, and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

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- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

As a longtime participant/family member/community supporter, I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are.

Without City funding, "my mother would lose access to the only senior day program where she feels safe and understood," and "many of my neighbors would become more isolated and at risk for mental and physical health issues."

Sincerely,
Deborah Anderson



District 3

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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Date Fri 5/23/2025 7:52 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Pete Anderson [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 7:28 PM

To: Pete Anderson [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear City Clerk and District Officials,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

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As a longtime participant/family member/community supporter, I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are.

Without City funding, “my grandmother would lose access to the only senior day program where she feels safe and understood,” and “many of my neighbors would become more isolated and at risk for mental and physical health issues.

Sincerely,
Pete Anderson

[REDACTED]

Neighborhood Assn. (District 3)

[REDACTED]

FW: Prioritize funding for Older Adult Health & Wellness Programs

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

Date Fri 5/23/2025 7:53 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Carolyn Kameya [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 9:13 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Prioritize funding for Older Adult Health & Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilperson Mulcahy, and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José. Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

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- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

As a longtime participant and community supporter, I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are. Without City funding, my father would lose access to the weekly program that he looks forward to and keeps him going.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Kameya
[REDACTED]

San Jose, CA 95126
District 6

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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Fri 5/23/2025 8:20 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Julie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 8:05 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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My name is Julie Kimiyo Hubbard, I worked at Yu-Ai Kai for 16 years as the activities coordinator, I retired six years ago but still volunteer at Yu-Ai Kai on a regular basis, as a lunch server, several of their events and I help at the in-door farmers market.

I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are. Without City funding, My friends mother would lose access to the only senior day program where she feels safe and understood and many seniors who rely on the meals on wheels program would become more isolated and at risk for mental and physical health issues.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Julie Kimiyo Hubbard [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/27/2025 7:42 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Chris Mildebrandt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 10:29 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilperson Solis, and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK) to respectfully urge your continued support for the Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW) programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care, including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

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We respectfully request that you prioritize continued and stable OAHW funding to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the culturally competent care and connection they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Chris Mildebrandt
Nutrition Program Volunteer
District 3

FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/27/2025 7:42 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kristina Kozen - [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 24, 2025 11:18 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan and City Clerk,

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As a longtime community supporter and having family that utilizes these services, I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are. Without City funding my parents would not receive the benefits they do from the programs in which they love and enjoy. This includes extended family members including 3rd cousins and my parents' dear friends.

We respectfully request that you prioritize continued and stable OAHW funding to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the culturally competent care and connection they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,

Kristina Kozen
Supporter and Japantown Community Member



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FW: Funding for Senior Centers

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

Date Tue 5/27/2025 7:43 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: S McClure [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, May 24, 2025 10:41 PM

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

Subject: Funding for Senior Centers

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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs Inbox

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/27/2025 7:43 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Lori Ayako Kozer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 25, 2025 1:54 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs Inbox

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

I am writing on behalf of Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK) to respectfully urge your continued support for the Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW) programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support for the most vulnerable in our community.

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We respectfully request that you prioritize continued and stable OAHW funding to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the culturally competent care and connection they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,

Lori
Supporter and Japantown Community Member



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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/27/2025 7:43 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Barbara Isa [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 25, 2025 5:48 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

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Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Barbara Isa,

[REDACTED]

San Jose, CA 95121



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FW: Support for Older Adult Health & Wellness Programs – Yu-Ai Kai

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

Date Tue 5/27/2025 7:44 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Alejandra Aquino [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 10:29 AM

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

Subject: Support for Older Adult Health & Wellness Programs – Yu-Ai Kai

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilperson, and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK) to respectfully urge your continued support for the Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW) programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides culturally and linguistically appropriate services to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally sensitive manner, YAK serves as a trusted and accessible support system for some of our most vulnerable community members.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than services—they are lifelines. They promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and connection for our elders.

As a longtime family member, I have seen firsthand how critical these programs are. My mother, who has Alzheimer's, has been under my full-time care since the beginning of the pandemic. These programs have made a tremendous difference in her life—helping her stay active, social, and mentally engaged. I've witnessed how much it lifts her spirits to participate and how it helps her maintain a sense of self amidst the challenges of her disease.

My mother speaks very little English, and it's difficult to find programs she can comfortably take part in. Yu-Ai Kai has gone above and beyond by providing a Spanish-speaking staff member of Japanese descent, which has made all the difference. Because of this, my mother has been able to fully engage in activities, make connections, and feel understood—something that's incredibly rare and valuable for someone in her situation. My Mother truly loves it!

Yu-Ai Kai also provides healthy, balanced meals that have been amazing for her overall well-being. These meals help manage her cholesterol and blood pressure, and ensure that she's getting the proper nutrition she needs to stay strong and stable.

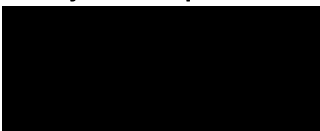
Her doctor has emphasized how essential physical activity and proper nutrition are—not just for her cognitive health, but also for managing chronic conditions. The structure, accessibility, and encouragement she receives through OAHW-funded programs make it possible for her to live with dignity and joy and remain connected. Few places offer such a welcoming and understanding environment for someone living with Alzheimer's, but Yu-Ai Kai does.

And when my mother feels good, it makes my life easier too. Being a caregiver is an enormous responsibility—physically, emotionally, and mentally. These programs offer a kind of support that extends beyond the seniors themselves. They also give caregivers like me moments of relief, peace of mind, and the strength to continue doing this work with love.

We respectfully request that you prioritize continued and stable funding for OAHW programs, ensuring that San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the culturally competent care and connection they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to equity and wellness for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Alejandra Aquino



FW: Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW) Support for Yu-Ai Kai

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/27/2025 7:44 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Michael Sera <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 4:57 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW) Support for Yu-Ai Kai

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

Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilmember Candelas and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

My Mom was a participant of the YAK Senior Day Care services and she enjoyed the interaction with the other community members. We have also engaged in several collaborative events with YAK and they serve as a major anchor in the community. As a longtime participant/family member/community supporter, I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are. Without City funding, my mother would lose access to the only

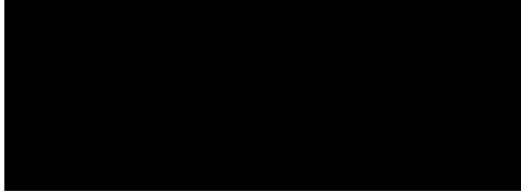
senior day program where she feels safe and understood, YAK is the only facility where she can speak Japanese and feel at home.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,

Michael Sera



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FW: Prioritize funding for older adult health & wellness!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/27/2025 7:45 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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

From: Carolyn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 7:53 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize funding for older adult health & wellness!

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. Learn more<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>]

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Mayor Mahan and the City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK) to respectfully urge your continued support for the Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW) programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

Health education to prevent chronic disease Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors Fitness and wellness classes Peer support groups Senior empowerment workshops These programs are more than just services—they are lifelines that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

As a fourth generation Japanese American, the nutrition program has helped many members of my community, including my parents who are in their 80s and rely on the nutrition program for Japanese bento lunches five days a week. My mother has been attending the Yu Ai Kai arts and craft group for over a decade every Thursday morning. She also improved her computer skills while taking an iPad class. She also stayed in shape by taking

line dancing classes at the Akiyama wellness center.

I also had the pleasure of working as a front desk receptionist at the Yu Ai Kai and witnessed firsthand the importance of the senior day program. This program gives physically and mentally vulnerable seniors with positive social connections with the activities and meals provided at the center. The social worker and wellness nurse were available throughout the day to support these seniors and their families navigate through end of life challenges.

We respectfully request that you prioritize continued and stable OAHW funding to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the culturally competent care and connection they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Wilbur
Supporter and Japantown Community Member

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Date Tue 5/27/2025 1:43 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Tamar Semerjian - [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 1:31 PM

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

Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Dear Mayor Mahan and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

As a former resident of Japantown, I know the impact that YAK and their programming offer to the community. As a faculty member at San Jose State University, I know that programs such as Enhance Fitness, and other fitness classes help keep our community healthy. With our SJSU students, I helped implement several of these programs, and years later, members of the San Jose community continue to attend Enhance Fitness classes, which results in a reduction of falls, and helps maintain the independence of our seniors. Cutting this funding will have significant

negative impacts on the lives of San Jose residents, and will increase health care costs and result in increased falls in the community. These types of cuts are shortsighted, and will result in higher health care costs and emergency room visits if these vital services are not provided.^A

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

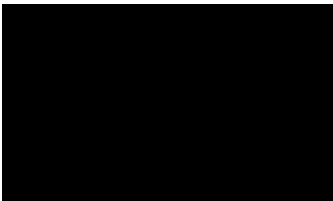
Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,

Tamar Semerjian

YAK Wellness Advisory Council Member

Tamar Z. Semerjian, Ph.D.
Chair & Professor



I respectfully acknowledge that SJSU is located on the traditional land of the Muwekma Ohlone people.

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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/27/2025 2:36 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Lucille Boone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 2:29 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Carl Salas and City Clerk

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

I am aware that several Older Adult and Wellness Programs funded by the city in District 3 , including the fitness classes I attend at the Akiyama Center, will be impacted.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Lucille Boone



District 3

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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Date Tue 5/27/2025 2:46 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: chris minato [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 2:46 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Pam Foley, and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José. Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

My grandmother and her sisters used Yu-Ai Kai services for years. Kenko living series and enhanced fitness give seniors the knowledge and exercise to keep seniors living longer, more fulfilling lives. **DO NOT DEFUND OAHW.**

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

The point of government is to serve the people and seniors and older adults are your constituents too.

Chris minato
District 9

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FW: Urgent Need to Preserve \$526,434 in Funding for Older Adults Health and Wellness (OAHW) Services

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

Date Thu 5/29/2025 8:58 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Charlene Miyashita [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:27 AM

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

Subject: Urgent Need to Preserve \$526,434 in Funding for Older Adults Health and Wellness (OAHW) Services

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May 29, 2025

Re: Urgent Need to Preserve \$526,434 in Funding for Older Adults Health and Wellness (OAHW) Services

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Kamei, and Honorable Councilmembers:

The Save Our Seniors (SOS) coalition writes with deep concern over the proposed elimination of \$526,434 in funding for the Older Adults Health and Wellness (OAHW) program, which supports critical services for San José's most vulnerable older adults. As documented in the attached fact sheet, these cuts will directly harm an estimated [insert total number] older adults, many of whom are low-income, non-English speaking, isolated, and medically fragile.

The nine nonprofit community-based organizations currently funded through OAHW provide a broad array of services essential to the health, independence, and dignity of older residents. These include:

- Free legal aid to over 350 older adults at risk of eviction, exploitation, or loss of independence
- Culturally appropriate nutrition programs serving more than 500 non-English-speaking older adults
- Mobile dental and lung health services for those who cannot otherwise access care
- Evidence-based health and fitness programs, reaching hundreds of older adults with chronic illness or mobility limitations
- Technology literacy, case management, and Medicare counseling, all offered in culturally and linguistically competent formats

The elimination of these services would not only increase food insecurity, housing instability, and isolation—it would also lead to higher long-term public costs through increases in emergency room visits, protective service interventions, and institutional care placements. For many seniors, these programs are not optional—they are a lifeline.

We urge the Council to consider the human impact of these proposed cuts. The older adults served by OAHW programs are your constituents, your neighbors, and often the very people who built San José. These services ensure they can age with dignity, remain connected to their communities, and avoid costly medical crises or institutionalization.

We respectfully ask the Council and Mayor's Office to restore full funding for the OAHW program in the FY 2025-2026 budget.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the scope of these impacts and offer specific data and stories from seniors directly affected by these potential cuts.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

SOS Supporters

Charlene Miyashita

(My Mom and Dad, former residents, now deceased of San Jose used Yu Ai Kai's services in the past and I have older friends who use these services now.)


Mountain View, CA 94041

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FW: Please Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Date Thu 5/29/2025 12:36 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Nancy Hikoyeda [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 11:55 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; David Cohen Councilmember San José District 4 <district4-sanjoseca.gov> [REDACTED]

Subject: Please Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan, D4 Councilmember Cohen, and City Clerk:

I am writing on behalf of Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK) to respectfully urge your continued support for the Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW) programs/grants funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support for some of the most vulnerable in our community.

YAK's OAHW programming includes: (1) Physical and mental health education to prevent chronic disease; (2) Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors; (3) Fitness and wellness classes; (4) Peer support groups; and (4) Senior empowerment workshops. These programs are more than just services—they are lifelines that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

As the YAK Wellness Consultant and former coordinator of the city-funded Kenko (Healthy) Living Series (KLS), I have witnessed the effects of the 50+ expert speakers who have presented evidence-based health/wellness information to over 3,000 YAK participants over the years. The various topics have ranged from preventing chronic conditions to nutritional information, dementia, stress reduction, and awareness of social isolation and scams, to name a few. These lectures have provided knowledge, skills, and changes in health behaviors as evidenced by the stellar KLS evaluations.

These city-funded programs are essential and help to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors will continue to receive the culturally competent care and connection they need to live independent, safe, healthy, and dignified lives. Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hikoyeda, DrPH, MPH

Specialist in Ethnogeriatrics



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FW: Saving the Yu-Ai Kai Programs

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

Date Thu 5/29/2025 7:50 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (63 KB)

Letter to Mayor & Sylvia Arenas & Clerk re- YAK 5-29-25.pdf;

From: Lori Smith <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 5:02 PM

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

Subject: Saving the Yu-Ai Kai Programs

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Hi Mayor Mahan, Councilperson Sylvia Arenas & City Clerk

Please see my attached letter regarding keeping funding for the Older Adult Health & Wellness (OAHW) grants that support Yu-Ai Kai.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful consideration & the opportunity to share & voice our opinions.

Best regards,

Lori (Hashimoto) Smith

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

May 29, 2025

Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilperson Sylvia Arenas, and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

Since my 105 year old Dad passed away last July, my 100 year old Mom has been living by herself in the ADU behind our home. She became very quiet & mostly slept every day at her place. We checked out & joined the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Day Program in October. It has been such a blessing to see Mom engaged, socializing & connecting with the volunteers & participating in all their activities! It is wonderful to see glimpses of Mom's old personality & self, waking up & looking forward to going to Yu-Ai Kai twice a week. I have also greatly benefited from the 8 week Zoom Caregiver Support group through Yu-Ai Kai.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,

Lori (Hashimoto) Smith & Esther Hashimoto (Mom)

Participants

[REDACTED]

District 1

FW: Urgent Request: Preserve Key Equity Positions in SJPd and DOT

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

Date Fri 5/23/2025 7:53 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Stephanie Jayne <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 7:34 PM

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

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

Subject: Urgent Request: Preserve Key Equity Positions in SJPd and DOT

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

I write as a San Jose resident and a former City employee to urge you to retain the racial and social equity leads in two of San Jose's largest departments--SJPd and the Department of Transportation--for another year until those departments can identify ongoing funds to support those positions.

As a former employee in the City's Office of Racial Equity, I have immense respect for the excellent work that team has been doing for the past 8+ years to realize the City's goal to create a just and equitable San Jose where everyone can prosper and thrive. But this small department cannot carry the entire load. It is essential that every City department-- at the very least those such as Police and Transportation that have an outsized impact on the community--have staff in their department helping to lead this work. This is where the proverbial rubber hits the road. These are the people who help their departments implement their racial equity plans; teach their colleagues how to identify and avoid potential adverse impacts of well-intentioned programs and procedures; and suggest ways for teams to work more constructively with the community to achieve better outcomes. Their work is even more critical in the current environment, when the City and

County are seeing major budget cuts and many of its communities are under siege.

In May 2024, the City unanimously adopted a Racial and Social Equity Ordinance and the Equity Values and Standards Policy which "reinforced the City of San Jose's commitment to creating the conditions in which all people can thrive and have opportunities to live well in San Jose." It also fortified the importance of collective responsibility - among elected officials, City Administration, boards, and commissions - to make decisions that move the City towards equity.

I was and remain proud of the City of San Jose and the City Council for making that commitment. Now is not the time to pull back. Please retain these essential workers for the City's sake as well as the diverse communities it serves.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Jayne
District 3 Resident

--

Stephanie Jayne, MPP
Consultant, International Development / Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Date Fri 5/30/2025 1:45 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Allan Hikoyeda <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 12:43 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: 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>

Subject: Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilmember Cohen, and City Clerk:

I am writing to seek your continued support for the Older Adult Health and Wellness programs funded by the City of San Jose. In particular, as a community member of Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK), I urge you and the council to consider the scope of the services provided to and the benefits for our older adults.

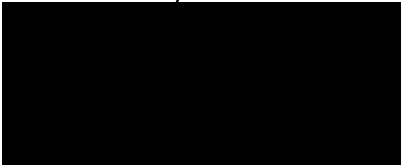
My primary experience with senior services has been with Yu-Ai Kai. The agency provides bi-cultural and linguistically appropriate services to seniors in San Jose's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care, including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. Yu-Ai Kai is a trusted, accessible source of essential services for the most vulnerable in our region. These include: health education to prevent chronic disease, culturally tailored day services for frail seniors, fitness and wellness classes, peer support groups, and senior empowerment workshops. These programs are lifelines for our elders by promoting physical health, emotional well-being, and a sense of community.

My mother benefited from Yu-Ai Kai's Older Adult Health and Wellness programs towards the end of her life. As I age during my senior years, I have enjoyed and appreciate the various offerings as well.

While I appreciate that budget constraints push all San Jose residents to tighten our fiscal belts, the Council's retention of stable Older Adult Health and Welfare programs is a modest cost with positive benefits for a vulnerable demographic in our community. I would ask that the City continue providing leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults. Thank you for your consideration of this email.

Sincerely,

Allan Hikoyeda



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FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Date Fri 5/30/2025 3:32 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: vicky tsai <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 2:27 PM

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

Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

[Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilperson and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José. Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

As a longtime participant/family member/community supporter, I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are. Without City funding, my sister would lose access to the only senior day program where she feels safe and understood.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,

Vicky Tsai, Yu-Ai Kai member

FW: Grant Funding for YuAiKai Wellness Programs

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

Date Mon 6/2/2025 7:50 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: yogosak [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 4:54 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Grant Funding for YuAiKai Wellness Programs

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I am writing to request that the grant for Yu-Ai-Kai's EnhanceFitness grant be continued.

For several months, I have participated in the EnhanceFitness Program at this center. My fellow participants are primarily small-boned senior women. This is the group that is most prone to osteoporosis, a disease that leads to reduction in height and bone strength. My mother had the disease and lost 9 inches of her stature toward the end of her life. She also suffered from broken bones that limited her mobility. Several of the women from our class have stated that staving off the effects of this disease through exercise and weight bearing is their goal.

Osteoporosis causes great pain to the sufferer and puts a burden of care on a family. Continuing EnhanceFitness, which allows participants to be pro-active in maintaining their health, serves not just the individual but the community. Please take these facts into consideration as you contemplate grant reductions.

Thank you.

Alice Gosak Gary, age 83
[REDACTED]

FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 6/2/2025 7:52 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: LINDA TSUKAMOTO [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2025 12:11 PM
To: District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilman Ortiz, and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Linda Tsukamoto
District 5

FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 6/2/2025 7:54 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: susan yamamoto [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 1, 2025 8:21 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan & Ms. Toni Taber

I am writing on behalf of Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK) to respectfully urge your continued support for the Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW) programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support for the most vulnerable in our community.

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- Health education to prevent chronic disease
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- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are lifelines that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

As a longtime participant/family member/community supporter, I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are. Without City funding, my extended family and friends would lose access to the only senior day program where they feel safe and understood. It has provided valuable respite care for their caregivers who are balancing work, family and their own health.

We respectfully request that you prioritize continued and stable OAHW funding to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the culturally competent care and connection they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives. Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Susan Yamamoto
40+ Year Dedicated Supporter and Volunteer

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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

Date Mon 6/2/2025 7:54 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Jackie Maruhashi <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, June 1, 2025 11:06 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Prioritize Funding for Older Adult Health and Wellness Programs

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilperson Mulcahy, and City Clerk,

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José. Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our OAHW programming includes:

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- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

As a longtime participant and community supporter, I have seen firsthand how essential these programs are. Without City funding, my friends would lose access to the only senior day program where they feel safe and understood. Without this program, participants would become more isolated and at risk for mental and physical health issues. I, myself, rely on Yu-Ai Kai's many programs to keep fit, socialize, and eat nutritious, well-balanced and delicious meals.

I respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Maruhashi

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

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FW: June 9th City Council: Final Budget Hearing: Support the People's Budget.

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

Date Mon 6/2/2025 8:02 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: brlakatos [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 7:59 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>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: June 9th City Council: Final Budget Hearing: Support the People's Budget.

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My name is Rhonda Lakatos, and I live in and am a voter from District 6. I am a member of Stone Church of Willow Glen and a supporter of SURJ and Silicon Valley De-Bug. I believe budgets are moral documents and I want our City's budget to support all people in the best ways.

I have volunteered with organizations who help people who cannot afford the high cost of housing in our valley and also those who help folks who have mental health issues. Do NOT move forward with the implementation of the so-called Responsibility to Shelter policy and its criminalization of homelessness—instead, focus on public safety by funding TRUST for 24/7 coverage and protecting all in our community.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Lakatos

[REDACTED]

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FW: June 9 Budget Hearing letter

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

Date Mon 6/2/2025 7:51 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (128 KB)

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers.pdf;

From: davide [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 5:26 PM

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

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

[REDACTED] 'Gabby Chavez-Lopez' [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: June 9 Budget Hearing letter

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Attached please find my letter for the public record.

All you leave behind are memories -- make them good ones

PLEASE NOTE: This message, including any attachments, may include privileged, confidential and/or inside information. Any distribution or use of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system. Thank you.

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers for the June 9 Budget Hearing:

Below is a Letter to the Editor of the Mercury that I submitted and that was published on March 25, 2025. It shares the story of one of my unhoused neighbors who has been living on the street for more than ten years.

I know many of my unhoused neighbors whose stories didn't fit into 150 words. Respecting their privacy, they will go unnamed here.

A man in his 50s spends most of his mornings in front of Five Wounds Church. He eats at St. Isabel's Kitchen, a church ministry. He is mentally challenged and polite. He is disheveled and dirty.

Another man in his 30s used to eat at St. Isabel's Kitchen. He was talkative and jovial. He's now addicted to opioids. He was caught preparing to shoot up in the Five Wounds Church parking lot.

Another man in his early 40s who has been addicted since his teens is rarely coherent. He wanders the streets at all hours talking to himself. He has a long rap sheet that includes assault.

Then there are those whose names I don't know. The Latino man who loiters on the sidewalk on Alum Rock Ave between 34th and Hwy 101. The mentally ill woman running into traffic and screaming at customers entering our neighborhood café. Another mentally ill woman with a history of loitering at the local 7-Eleven cursing at customers, hurling racial epithets at minorities.

My troubled unhoused neighbors should receive the mental health and drug rehabilitation services that they need to reintegrate into society. If arrest or its threat is necessary to compel them into treatment or rehab, then please approve that policy. The crisis before us demands drastic measures and not just throwing up our hands and giving up because the problem seems too big. The status quo is not acceptable.

Likewise for those who repeatedly refuse offers of interim housing and a path to permanent housing. Measure E may be used for "affordable housing for seniors, veterans, disabled, and low-income families; and helping families who are homeless move in to shelters or permanent housing." Measure E can and should be used for interim housing. And our unhoused neighbors should be compelled to use that interim housing on the path to permanent housing.

Regards,
Davide Vieira

Letters to the editor

Use Measure E funds to find housing now

My neighbor has been living in her pickup for more than a decade after she was injured on the job and unable to pay rent. She has been on a Section 8 list for most of that time.


She is in her 70s and suffers from serious health problems and has undergone one surgery while living on the street. When she was more able-bodied, she would collect leftovers from local lunch programs and second-hand clothing from other sources. She would distribute these daily to our neighbors living along our creeks.

Compassion would be getting my neighbor indoors, not waiting for an apartment to be constructed for her. Why do we insist on making the perfect the enemy of the good? Use Measure E funds to get people like her indoors in any way we can.

— *Davide Vieira, San Jose*

FW: ADLG 2025-2026 SJ Budget Memo

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 6/2/2025 7:52 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (1 MB)

ADLG 2025-2026 SJ Budget Memo.pdf;

From: Greg Peck - ADLG <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 8:37 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>; Cranford, Sandra <Sandra.Cranford@sanjoseca.gov>; Flores Shelton, Andrea <Andrea.FloresShelton@sanjoseca.gov>; Quevedo, Matthew <Matthew.Quevedo@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: ADLG 2025-2026 SJ Budget Memo

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Hello.

The All District Leadership Group (ADLG) is a consortium of leaders from active San Jose leadership groups, representing the neighborhood associations in San Jose. Please read the attached memo, which outlines comments on important issues affecting all of our neighborhoods.

Respectfully,
Greg Peck
Chair
All District Leadership Group

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All District Leadership Group

Council Districts

D1 - D2 - D3 - D4 - D5 - D6 - D7 - D8 - D9 - D1

The Honorable Matt Mahan, Mayor of San José
and Members of the City Council

sent via email

May 30, 2025

SUBJECT: ADLG Comments on 2025-2026 SJ Budget

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

San Jose faces another year of economic issues challenging the development of the 2025-2026 budget. These issues include homelessness, public safety and a potential budget shortfall.

We need to have positive outcomes as a result of our budget expenditures.

The All District Leadership Group (ADLG) is a consortium of leaders of the active San Jose leadership groups. The purpose of the ADLG is to strengthen two-way communication between neighborhoods and government agencies and representatives, and to build a stronger sense of community within all districts in the City of San Jose.

ADLG members have attended public City budget meetings. They have also solicited input from their neighborhood associations. The following comments summarize our findings and conclusions regarding budget priorities:

- **Ending Unsheltered Homelessness** — Neighbors have placed homelessness as their number one priority. ADLG supports the City's efforts to house and provide supportive services for the over 4,000 unsheltered homeless in San Jose. We ask for an increased budget for shelters, outreach programs and supportive services.
- **Cleaning Our Neighborhoods** — Requires expanded enforcement of existing laws and ordinances and coordination between Beautify SJ, Code Enforcement and SJPd.
- **Improving Community Safety** — Increasing efforts to recruit qualified police officer candidates, continuing to encourage lateral hiring and exploring ways to retain and rehire experienced officers to mentor and augment existing staffing. Additionally, the TRUST program should be adjusted so as to increase opportunities to assist those suffering from severe behavioral health issues. Additionally, we urge the city to allocate funds toward law enforcement presence, and emergency response improvements to include traffic enforcement.

- **Support for City Parks, Parks Services and the San Jose Public Library** — support and maintain these essential elements that add to this city's quality of life and that support the distinct characteristics of this city.
- **Growing Our Economy** — San Jose must continue to invest in attracting new businesses to grow revenue from property taxes, sales taxes and business fees to fund essential services our community relies on.
- **Building More Housing** — This issue is a top concern for the San Jose community in annual surveys. San Jose must continue to streamline the building permit process to expedite the building of new housing, expanding affordable housing and ADU's.

Sincerely,

Greg Peck, Chair, All District Leadership Group

D 1 – Gary Cunningham
D 2 – John Leipelt
D 3 – Joan Rivas-Cosby
D 4 – Linda Locke

D 5 – Gudal Gonzalez
D 6 – Larry Am
D 7 – Alie Victorin
D 8 – Pat Waite

D9 – Bobbi Pena-Atak
D10 – Vasundhara Tadimeti
Member At Large – Jim Carter

cc: City Clerk, City Manager, and PRNS Director.

FW: OAHW funding

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 6/2/2025 1:43 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Beth Kile [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 1:35 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: OAHW funding

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

I am writing on behalf of **Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community Senior Center (YAK)** to respectfully urge your continued support for the **Older Adult Health and Wellness (OAHW)** programs funded by the City of San José.

Yu-Ai Kai provides **bi-cultural, linguistically appropriate services** to older adults in San José's historic Japantown. Many of our seniors face significant barriers to care—including limited English proficiency, low income, and social isolation. As the only organization in the region offering these essential services in Japanese and/or in a culturally appropriate manner, **YAK serves as a trusted, accessible source of support** for the most vulnerable in our community.

Yu-Ai Kai's OAHW programming includes:

- Health education to prevent chronic disease
- Culturally tailored day services for frail seniors
- Fitness and wellness classes
- Peer support groups
- Senior empowerment workshops

These programs are more than just services—they are **lifelines** that promote physical health, emotional well-being, and a vital sense of belonging and community for our elders.

San Jose has the honor and distinction of having one of only three Japantowns remaining in the United States. YAK reminds us that while Japantown has a historical designation, it also comprises a living, breathing community of residents who need and deserve support. The city can ensure that this aging population continues to be taken care of.

We respectfully request that you prioritize **continued and stable OAHW funding** to ensure San José's low-income, limited-English proficient seniors can continue to receive the **culturally competent care and connection** they need to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to equity for our older adults.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Kile



District 9

--
Elizabeth Kile
Author of [Haunted San Jose](#)


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FW: ATTENTION MAYOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES: Copy of our request to D2 Councilmember Campos for approval of the Mayor's 2025-2026 Budget

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

Date Tue 6/3/2025 7:39 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (914 KB)

SIGNED letter 6-2-2025.pdf;

From: sgsmail [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 6:40 PM

To: Dang, Tara <Tara.Dang@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>

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

Subject: ATTENTION MAYOR AND COUNCIL OFFICES: Copy of our request to D2 Councilmember Campos for approval of the Mayor's 2025-2026 Budget

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D2 Neighborhood Leadership Council

Board of Directors

John Leipelt, Chairman
Basking Ridge Neighborhood
Association

Carlos Rosario, Vice-Chair
VEPCA Neighborhood
Association

David Wilkins, Secretary
Silver Leaf Neighborhood
Association

Wanda Wong, Treasurer
Basking Ridge Neighborhood
Association

Darryl Ospring, Director
Coyote Creek Neighborhood
Association

Mike Ospring, Director
Coyote Creek Neighborhood
Association

Joe Lopez, Director
Coyote Creek Neighborhood
Association

Vanessa Dao Burbach, Director
Coyote Creek Neighborhood
Association

Steven Spivak, Director
Cottle-to-Lean Neighborhood
Association

Debbie Luu, Director
EGOPIC Neighborhood
Association

Alain Mowad, Director
VEPCA Neighborhood
Association

DATE: June 2, 2025

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND VOTE IN FAVOR OF
CITY OF SAN JOSE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Hon. Pamela Campos

Councilmember Campos:


I write on behalf of the Board of Directors of the San Jose District 2 Neighborhood Leadership Council. We support the Mayor's proposed 2025-2026 Annual Budget. We respectfully request your support of, and your vote for, this budget. In particular, we are asking for your support of, and for your vote for, the following budgetary provisions:

1. "Responsibility for Shelter." We are convinced that our society's obligation to the community must ensure that, *while doing so is in no way a criminal act*, no one in the City of San Jose may live or reside outside, unsheltered in the elements. We feel that our first obligation must be to ensure that all are provided shelter. Furthermore, we feel that we must require managed care, under the law, for all those who need it. For those that refuse shelter thrice offered, and who face forced removal, we understand that individual cases will be managed legally, with compassion and with the sole purpose of restoring all individuals to the status of productive, contributing members of mainstream society.

We understand, of course, that reasoned discussion of this provision is perfectly acceptable and even vital to the community's welfare. However, we feel that much of the debate over this issue, namely claims that "homelessness is being made a crime," is unfounded. We feel that the procedure as described is both legal and supportive. It supports basic human rights and liberties, under the law, while at the same time supporting the goal of uplifting those in need and preserving their human dignity while restoring them to mainstream society.

2. "Pay for Performance." We support the currently established City Council focus areas that the city publishes on its web portal to "hold the City of San José accountable to driving positive outcomes and performance on a very limited number of priorities most greatly impacting the community and to generate actionable and measurable solutions to address these priorities." Accordingly, the results of the Council's commitment to such 2024-2025 priorities as "Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness," are shown on the "City Council Focus Area Scorecards and Dashboards." As with any organization with stated goals and priorities, and especially with the overall health and vitality of the city in mind, we endorse, and ask for your support and for your vote, in favor of "Pay for Performance" as a vital incentive in keeping Council actions and decisions in line with its commitments.

Respectfully submitted,


John Leipelt
Chairman

JL/sgs



D2 Neighborhood Leadership Council

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

For more information, e-mail jleipelt@sbcglobal.net or call: 1-408-722-7217

FW: Support for Responsibility to Shelter and Pay Raises Based on Merit for Council Members

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

Date Thu 6/5/2025 7:41 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Thomas Wilson <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 5:18 PM

To: DISTRICT1@bos.sccgov.org; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District2@bos.sccgov.org; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5@bos.sccgov.org; 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>; comments@whitehouse.gov; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Elva Wilson <[REDACTED]>; Robertmickanen <[REDACTED]>; Sandra Harrison Kay <[REDACTED]>; Ngo, Stephen <Stephen.Ngo@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Support for Responsibility to Shelter and Pay Raises Based on Merit for Council Members

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Honorable Elected Officials,

I'm writing to express my support for Mayor Matt Mahan's budget proposals regarding "responsibility to shelter" and "pay increases for Council Members based on merit."

Because of the continually growing homeless population in San Jose, residents see local government as inefficient and ineffective. The Mayor seeks to counter this by requiring homeless people to come indoors, out of the squalor they typically endure. Success in doing so, and in resolving many other pressing issues, will be more likely if City Council Members work together toward common goals with metrics and measures in place to gauge their progress and performance.

Regardless of ideology, the majority of residents don't believe homeless people should be permitted to live outdoors in squalor in our tax-supported public spaces, such as, parks, waterways and sidewalks. The small percentage of residents that do, should not be the ones influencing policy. Majority rules in our democracy, so, the majority's wishes should be given priority over the small, vocal minority of homeless advocates who support doing business as usual. Their efforts have had little success, their policies are failed, and they are attracting growing numbers of homeless people from other cities and states that no longer tolerate camping in public. The "homeless advocate minority" wants San Jose to be a "sanctuary," even though the City has no resources to provide sanctuary.

Allowing homeless people to avoid any and all responsibility for their own well-being simply condones their behavior and ensures they won't get the help they desperately need. They require mental health and drug addiction treatment to turn their lives around and become self-sufficient. But, as long as they are being enabled to continue practicing their addictions, they will. The Mayor's approach of shifting responsibility-to-shelter onto homeless individuals might be just the solution the public has been waiting and hoping for. Because until now,

very little the City has done has actually helped reduce the number of homeless, and might actually have been counterproductive, as the homeless population numbers continue to rise.

I'm also strongly in favor of tying Council Member merit pay raises to...merit! It would result in better performance and perhaps move the needle on reducing the homeless population. Most of the public is apathetic and disengaged from local politics because they feel their representatives aren't dealing with the homeless in a logical and productive manner. Having clearly stated performance measures, and working towards them, will change public perception and increase respect for local government. The Council should welcome the opportunity to "show their work" to the public!

We can improve the lives of residents, the lives of homeless individuals, and the performance of our elected leaders by implementing new, varied solutions verses doing the same old thing. I believe Mayor Mahan has proposed bold, innovative initiatives that can bring about positive change in the near future. I ask that you support the Mayor's vision and mission, as do I.

Thank you,

Tom Wilson
35+ year homeowner in San Jose

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FW: June 9 City Council Hearing

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Wed 6/4/2025 12:50 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Steve Borkenhagen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 12:05 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Quevedo, Matthew <Matthew.Quevedo@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: June 9 City Council Hearing

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

I strongly support the mayor's proposals to help homeless get the support they desperately need and to tie city council pay to performance.

Our current homeless programs are neither compassionate nor effective. I've witnessed the tragedy of the homeless for the past fifty years while I've lived and worked downtown. Enough is enough. People should NOT be allowed to live in parks and other public spaces. We owe it to them to provide necessary services including mental health support, addiction recovery, and basic TEMPORARY housing.

Everyone should have to perform to be paid. The city council is no exception. 5% is certainly reasonable to achieve REVISABLE goals. Let's try something new.

Sincerely,

Steve Borkenhagen
Downtown Resident and Worker

[REDACTED]

FW: Save Climate Smart San Jose

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 6/5/2025 8:54 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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

From: Casey Cameron <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 8:53 AM
To: District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Save Climate Smart San Jose

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. Learn more <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>]

Dear Councilmember Mulcahey,

I am writing to ask you please to reinstate non-personnel funding for Climate Smart San Jose to bring it up to last year's level. We cannot lose this important program when climate disruption increasingly threatens our community with every season.

Thank you for your consideration,
Catherine Cameron
San Jose, CA 95125

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FW: Sourcewise Advisory Council Letter for FY 25-26 Older Adult Health and Wellness Grant Budget

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

Date Wed 6/4/2025 4:48 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (115 KB)

Sourcewise Advisory Council Letter of Support OAHWG- Signed 6.3.25.pdf;

From: Linda Phillips [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 3:11 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@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: [REDACTED] Bacil, Georgia <[REDACTED]>; Tanya Pavyappilly <[REDACTED]>; Cadena, Milton

[REDACTED]; enice [REDACTED] mike [REDACTED]; elsa [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>; Flores Shelton, Andrea <Andrea.FloresShelton@sanjoseca.gov>; Williams, Olympia <Olympia.Williams@sanjoseca.gov>; De Leon, Maria <Maria.DeLeon@sanjoseca.gov>; Riguero, Petra <Petra.Riguero@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Sourcewise Advisory Council Letter for FY 25-26 Older Adult Health and Wellness Grant Budget

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

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

Attached is the Sourcewise letter of support from the Sourcewise Advisory Council Chair, Marta Artiles in support of the Older Adult Health and Wellness Grant budget for FY 25-26.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Phillips

Director, Community Development

Pronouns: she/her/hers

SOURCEWISE

3100 De La Cruz Blvd, Suite 310

Santa Clara, CA 95054

P: (408) 350-3224

F: (855) 921-1873

mysourcewise.com



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SOURCEWISE
COMMUNITY RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

June 3, 2025

Mayor Matt Mahan and Councilmembers
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Letter of Support for FY 25-26 Older Adult Health and Wellness Grant Budget

Dear Honorable Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers:

I am writing on behalf of the Sourcewise Advisory Council to request that the City Council continue investing in older adults, persons with disabilities and their caregivers by fully funding the Older Adults Health and Wellness grant at \$526,434 for the upcoming 25-26 fiscal year. These grants provide services directly to 4,687 of the city's older adult population in addition to their caregivers or family members, which are preventative and promote safety, health, inclusion, and connection.

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to advise Sourcewise, Santa Clara County's Area Agency on Aging, and its Board of Directors about the needs of older adults and disabled persons in the county. We advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable and those of greatest need within the community and inform the community of resources and services available.

The Advisory Council operates under the authority of the federal Older Americans Act and the state Older Californians Act. The council is comprised of 25 representatives from each city, county district, a number of county departments and representatives of community groups including Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, African American, Native American, Family Caregivers, LGBTQ+ and more. Council members are actively involved in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Area Plan, which assesses unmet needs and identifies service goals and objectives.

The city has historically supported older adults 50+ through the Health and Wellness Grant Program. Over the years, these grants have supported legal, tax assistance, health education, health and counseling, case management and other services designed to reduce social isolation and support independence.

At a time when budgets are tight, your support is crucial in ensuring that vulnerable populations remain a priority and are protected from budget cuts. We understand the city must make tough decisions, but your assistance can make a significant impact in sustaining these vital services to the community at a nominal cost to the city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martha Ariles

FW: Funding for Older Adults Health and Wellness Grant Programs in 2025-2026 Operating Budget

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

Date Wed 6/4/2025 4:52 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (869 KB)

Budget 2025 AARP.pdf;

From: Debora Ow <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 12:56 PM

To: District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Ameen Khan <[REDACTED]> Debbie Ow <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Funding for Older Adults Health and Wellness Grant Programs in 2025-2026 Operating Budget

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I am an older adult living in San Jose and in district 7. I am a member of AARP, as are 78,000 other residents of San Jose. I am concerned that vital services for older adults will be curtailed or eliminated if the proposed budget cut of \$526,434 is adopted. Older adults are a growing proportion of San Jose and are a vulnerable population. Elimination of these programs could significantly impact many people and lead to very poor outcomes including increased social isolation, reduced access to legal assistance, elimination of language and cultural programs and reduced access to social services and caregiving programs.

Please do not cut the budget for Older Adults.

I would appreciate receiving how you will vote on this issue and why.

I have attached a letter sent from Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester, Regional Director for AARP, San Jose

Thanks.

Debbie Ow

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June 2, 2025

The Honorable Matt Mahan
Mayor, City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Funding for Older Adults Health and Wellness Grant Program in FY 2025-26 Operating Budget

Dear Mayor Mahan:

On behalf of over 78,000 AARP members and older adults and their families in the City of San Jose, I write to express our deep concerns regarding the proposed cuts to the Older Adults Health and Wellness Grant Program in the City's FY 2025-26 operating budget.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people to choose how they live as they age. We work to strengthen communities by advocating on issues that matter most to older adults and their families: health, financial security, livable communities, and personal fulfillment.

The older adult population in The City of San Jose is rapidly increasing. According to the July 2024 US Census Bureau data, 14.1% of the City of San Jose's population, more than 145,000 residents, are aged 65-plus. In the City of San Jose's 2020 3-year Action Plan for AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, it is projected that one in five residents will be over 65 by 2030; by 2060, that figure is expected to grow to more than one in four.

We understand that the City of San Jose is facing immediate and difficult financial constraints, but we are concerned the proposed cuts to the Older Adults Health and Wellness Grant Program will adversely impact critical services for older adults. The program has enabled established and city-approved local nonprofit organizations to provide essential services such as reducing social isolation, legal assistance, and language and cultural programs that connect older adults with access to essential social services and caregiving programs.

The proposed \$526,434 cut in funding support for the Older Adults Health and Wellness Grant Program could effectively eliminate a program that has proven to be an indispensable pillar and

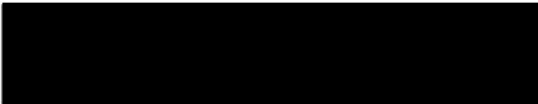
resource for nonprofit service providers and older adult residents alike. Disruptions to services supported by the grant program could lead to significant and unfilled gaps in critical services, ultimately threatening the health, emotional well-being, and quality of life of older adults.

San Jose must continue to meet the needs of all its residents, especially those who are most vulnerable and often overlooked, including older adults. It is imperative to support those who have contributed to making San Jose the vibrant city it is today.

We urge you and the City's elected leaders to find operational and budget adjustments that do not diminish or jeopardize the Older Adults Health and Wellness Grant Program that enables San Jose's older adults to continue to age with dignity and purpose.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership during this critical time in our city.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester.

✓ Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester
Regional Director, San Jose



From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 6/5/2025 7:44 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (466 KB)
Youth Centered MBA's.pdf;

From: Victor Vasquez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 6:14 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Yamamoto, KiyomiH <Kiyomi.Yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Kolander, Grace <Grace.Kolander@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Erica Villa <[REDACTED]>; Andreaonna Jansen <[REDACTED]>; Ashley Guerrero <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] RuizGarcia, Alex <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] org; Arabella Guevara <[REDACTED]>; aundrayam25 <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] lberto Camacho <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] Dontae Lartigue <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] Ramos, Joanna <[REDACTED]>; Jonathan Daniel Gomez <[REDACTED]>; Josh Yang <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] Rivera, Marcos <[REDACTED]>; Milan.Balinton <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Maria Maravilla <[REDACTED]>; Philip Nguyen <[REDACTED]>; Barrientos, Telina <[REDACTED]>; Youth Commission 5 <YouthCom5@sanjoseca.gov>; Youth Commission 7 <YouthCom7@sanjoseca.gov>; [REDACTED] Colsaria Henderson <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] Jessica Cedillos <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Re: MACSA/Youth Centered MBA's

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

Dear Councilmembers,

On behalf of SOMOS Mayfair and our Youth Coalition Partners, I'm writing to share that we are submitting our formal letter of support for MACSA and the youth-centered Manager's Budget Addendums (MBAs). We stand firmly behind these proposals as critical investments in the well-being and future of East San José's youth.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community.

In solidarity,



Victor Vasquez He/Him

Co-Executive Director

SOMOS Mayfair | 1695 Alum Rock Ave. suite 10



Building Community Power in East San Jose to address systemic inequities and build a thriving Mayfair.

www.somosmayfair.org | #ChangeStartsHere |

#SOMOSelCambio

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June 4th 2025

San José City Council

200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of SOMOS Mayfair, the Si Se Puede Collective, the Youth Building Peace Coalition, and the undersigned organizations below, we are expressing our strong support for the Manager's Budget Addendum (MBAS) focused on child and youth development. As a grassroots organization rooted in East San José, we work every day alongside families, children and youth who are seeking healing, opportunity, and justice. We believe this investment marks a critical step toward building a San José where every young person can thrive.

Raza/Latino youth make up a significant and growing portion of our city. According to the *Santa Clara County Latino Health Assessment (2024)*, 41% of the Latino population is under the age of 25—the highest of any racial or ethnic group in the county. Yet our youth face some of the most severe systemic inequities across education, justice, health, and opportunity for Latinos:

- **Preschool enrollment** among Latino children ages 3 and 4 lags at **46%**, compared to **60%** for their white peers.¹
- Only **20%** of Latino kindergarteners are assessed as ready for school, compared to 37% countywide.²
- Just **53%** of Latino third graders are proficient in math, versus 75% of their peers.³
- **Latino high school graduation rates (76%) lag behind** the county average (87%).⁴
- Although **Latino families make up 32% of San José's population, 53% are at risk of displacement**, compared to just 14% of their white counterparts.⁵
- Compared to white families, a higher proportion of **Latino (15%) and Black/African Ancestry (11%) full-time workers live in households with total incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line.**⁶

¹ City of San José Children and Youth Services Master Plan – Final Report, April 2024, p. 27

² Latino Health Assessment Executive Summary, 2025, p. 13

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ City of San José Children and Youth Services Master Plan – Final Report, April 2024, p. 34

⁶ City of San José Children and Youth Services Master Plan – Final Report, April 2024, p. 40



- Among **Latino/Indigenous adults**, **56%** reported experiencing **4 or more ACEs before the age of 18 years**.⁷
- San Jose Latino youth represent 24.7% of San José's population, yet account for **65% of all youth arrests and citations**⁸
- In East San José, ZIP codes 95116, 95122, and 95127 **consistently rank among the highest in juvenile justice involvement and child abuse referrals**.⁹
- **59% of Latino high school students** who identified as **lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and who reported feeling depressed**, which was **higher compared to 26% of Latino high school students who identified as straight**.¹⁰
- In 2022, **30% of Latino adults reported ever experiencing Intimate Partner Violence** since they turned 18 years of age, higher than adults countywide (18%).¹¹
- **128% increase in fentanyl overdose death** rate among Latinos from 2020 to 2023.¹²
- **Latino people are 1.3x more likely** than White people to be **killed by police**.¹³

These are not just statistics. They reflect the lived experiences of the youth we work with every day. Young people in our community continue to voice the urgent need for culturally affirming programs, safe and enriching spaces, leadership opportunities, and access to mental health resources.

The Children and Youth focused MBA proposals are an initial investment in our commitment to children and youth. SOMOS Mayfair is in support of the following MBA's:

1. MBA #17 - Mexican American Community Services Agency CDBG Funding Eligibility

\$500,000 to support facility improvements at the MACSA Youth Center will signal a powerful support to East San Jose Youth and families. Given the dire conditions impacting East San Jose residents and the need for a central hub for services provided by the city and NGO entities.

⁷ Latino Health Assessment Executive Summary, 2025, p. 128

⁸ City of San José Children and Youth Services Master Plan – Final Report, April 2024, p. 45

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Latino Health Assessment Executive Summary, 2025, p. 16

¹¹ Latino Health Assessment Executive Summary, 2025, p. 81

¹² Latino Health Assessment Executive Summary, 2025, p. 17

¹³ Campaign Zero, *Mapping Police Violence: 2024 Fact Sheet*, accessed May 30, 2025,



2. MBA #15 - Children and Youth Services Master Plan Implementation

\$359,000 is ok investment at this time and we respectfully request the City of San Jose to figure out long term sustainability and expansion funding.

3. MBA #7 - San José Youth Empowerment Alliance Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together Resource Allocation Plan

A 3.5% cost of living adjustment as part of the Base Budget, plus a Base Budget increase of \$68,287 to annual costs for the Youth Services Data Management System will sustain the program.

4. MBA #5 - Youth Commission 2025-2026 Budget Priorities

The Youth Commission promotes resources and opportunities available to youth and provides equitable access and support to marginalized youth communities. Youth Commissions \$19,000 for 2025-2026 Fiscal Year is a small investment yet necessary to promote the participation of youth in our democracy.

5. MBA #8 - Expanding Alternative Response and Co-Response to 911 Calls for Service

Provide \$250,000 from opioid settlement funding received in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 to extend the pilot program for the rest of FY 2025-2026. SOMOS Mayfair believes in providing alternative mental health resources to address the needs of Latino youth and their families. Given the fentanyl crisis in the Latino community, we fully support the proposal to save lives.

The support of these MBA's represents an investment in prevention over punishment, in healing over harm, and in the power and potential of our youth. At SOMOS Mayfair, we are committed to building a strong Children and Youth Ecosystem that centers youth leadership, identity, and wellness. We want to also say that we support Immigration support services because they intersect with the needs of Latino youth and children and their families. The MBAS aligns with our vision and gives our city the chance to move from reactive to proactive in how we support our next generation.

We urge you to approve and fully fund the MBAS. Our young people deserve to be seen, supported, and celebrated, not just in words, but in the city's budget and priorities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership.


In support of our young people,



1. **Victor Vasquez**, Co-Executive Directors, SOMOS Mayfair, Si Se Puede Collective, Youth Building Peace Coalition member
2. **Saul Ramos**, Co-Executive Directors, SOMOS Mayfair, Si Se Puede Collective, Youth Building Peace Coalition member
3. **Shawn Gerth**, Executive Director, Veggielution, Si Se Puede Collective
4. **Maritza Maldonado**, Executive Director, Amigos De Guadalupe, Si Se Puede Collective
5. **Nicole Arriaga**, Director of SCC, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
6. **Steve Eckert**, CEO, Alum Rock Counseling Center
7. **Jessica Paz-Cedillos**, Executive Director, School of Arts and Culture at MHP
8. **Veronica Goei**, Executive Director, Grail Family Services, Si Se Puede Collective
9. **Colsaria Henderson**, Executive Director, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence, Youth Building Peace Coalition member
10. **Angelina Rodriguez**, Founding Executive Director, Rose Concrete Coalition, Youth Building Peace Coalition member

FW: Letter to Council

From Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 6/5/2025 1:30 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (85 KB)
SJ Council letter 6-5-25.pdf;

From: Nicholas E. Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 12:15 PM
To: Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Letter to Council

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

Please include the attached letter in Council's meeting packet for next week's regular Tuesday session.

Thank you.

--NA

Nicholas E. Adams
president & ceo
NINICO Communications®
San Jose | Los Angeles
[REDACTED]

NINICO
COMMUNICATIONS®

executive assistant Stacy Santilena
stacy@ninico.com

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June 5, 2025

Honorable Mayor Mahan and City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, California 95113

Dear Honorable Members of the San Jose City Council,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to approve Mayor Matt Mahan's budget message, which outlines a clear, focused, and necessary path forward for San Jose. This proposal is more than a spending plan. It is a values statement that prioritizes accountability, fiscal responsibility, and compassionate solutions to some of our city's most pressing challenges.

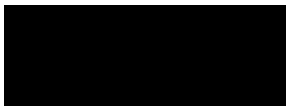
First, the Mayor's call to set reasonable, measurable goals for City departments and tie those goals to pay-for-performance incentives is exactly the kind of leadership San Jose needs. Residents and business owners alike deserve a City Hall that not only works hard but works effectively. Holding ourselves accountable to outcomes is not punitive; it's professional. This is how we build public trust. Second, San Jose faces a \$40M deficit. Ignoring this reality would be irresponsible. Mayor Mahan's message confronts this challenge head-on by prioritizing core services and eliminating unnecessary spending. It's a common-sense approach that reflects the way families and businesses make decisions every day.

Third, the budget rightly supports the Mayor's revised "Responsibility to Shelter" policy. Homelessness is not a static crisis. It is a dynamic, human issue that requires urgent attention and real solutions. By funding enhanced outreach efforts and a data-driven approach to engagement, the city can connect people to shelter and services while also restoring safety and cleanliness to our neighborhoods and business districts.

This budget message isn't about politics, it's about progress. I urge you to support it in full.

Thank you for your leadership and service to San Jose and her people.

Cheers,



Nicholas E. Adams
president & ceo

Fw: REAL response to latest iteration of "Responsibility to Shelter"

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

Date Thu 6/5/2025 4:09 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 2 attachments (369 KB)

REAL response to CSJ Responsibility to Shelter June 5 2025.pdf; San José Services-First Outreach and Housing Strategy (4).pdf;

Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

**Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

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

Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 4:01 PM

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

Subject: Fw: REAL response to latest iteration of "Responsibility to Shelter"

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Matt King <

Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 3:47 PM

To: Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov>; Yamamoto, KiyomiH <Kiyomi.Yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; Rodriguez, Esmeralda <Esmeralda.Rodriguez@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Mauro, Joseph <Joseph.Mauro@sanjoseca.gov>; Castro, Karina <Karina.Castro@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan

<Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Dersh, Alexander <Alex.B.Dersh@sanjoseca.gov>; Gomez, David A <David.A.Gomez@sanjoseca.gov>; Mossing, Mackenzie <Mackenzie.Mossing@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Solivan, Erik <Erik.Solivan@sanjoseca.gov>; Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Matt King [REDACTED]
Subject: REAL response to latest iteration of "Responsibility to Shelter"

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Hello,

Please see attached a letter from REAL and a comprehensive set of recommendations on how to improve camp management and service provisions to unhoused residents.

Distilled version:

1. Unanswered questions and major concerns regarding the proposal
2. Alternative solutions prepared by nonprofit and community partners
3. Essential accountability and transparency measures that are missing from the current proposal.

thank you,

m

Matt King
pronouns: he/him/his
Policy Director
Sacred Heart Community Service
[REDACTED]

I'm often in the eastern time zone and that may affect my response time

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San José Services-First Outreach and Housing Strategy

Summary

In response to proposals criminalizing homelessness, this comprehensive outreach strategy offers a humane, effective alternative rooted in evidence-based practices. By focusing on coordinated outreach, housing solutions, and comprehensive services—including medical respite care—the plan aims to reduce unsheltered homelessness in San José. This approach centers dignity, public health, racial equity, and long-term cost-effectiveness. This proposed strategy, because it is designed to be comprehensive, includes a number of current strategies that the City, County, and partners already employ or are planning. (Community Plan to End Homelessness)

This proposed strategy was prepared by members of the nonprofit Racial Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Coalition—specifically members of REAL’s Housing Justice and Community Safety Workgroups—as well as homelessness shelter and services providers and grassroots allies.

1. Guiding Principles

- **We need more places for people to go.** Expanding shelter options, temporary housing, and long-term affordable housing is fundamental. Without real options, even the best outreach and support strategies will fall short.
- **Enforcement and criminalization are costly and ineffective.** Research shows that punitive approaches do not reduce homelessness and often exacerbate trauma, legal complications, and service avoidance. These methods divert funds from housing and care, yielding poor outcomes and increasing long-term public costs (Prison Policy Initiative, 2021)
- **Housing is a human right and healthcare.** Every San José resident deserves access to safe, stable, and dignified housing. Recognize housing as a fundamental determinant of health, aligning with Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (BHHI) and UCSF’s position that housing reduces hospitalizations and improves long-term health outcomes (UCSF BHHI).
- **Outreach must be non-punitive, person-centered, trauma-informed, and founded in self-determination.** Building trust and supporting long-term

engagement requires consistency, compassion, care, and respect (see Journal of Positive Psychology).

- **Shelter and services should be matched to individual needs.** Responses must be tailored to populations including LGBTQ+ individuals, older adults, people with disabilities, DV survivors, immigrant communities, and vehicle dwellers.
- **Equity and inclusion are essential.** Bias and systemic disparities, including racial disparities, ableism, and anti-LGBTQ+ bias, must be addressed throughout systems of care. For example, Black residents are especially overrepresented in the unhoused population. (Santa Clara LGBTQ+ Study).
- **Data-Driven Decision Making.** Utilize real-time data to inform outreach efforts, resource allocation, and policy adjustments (HUD Exchange).
- **Solutions must be community-informed.** Co-design with people with lived experience of homelessness is critical.
- **Partnerships with the County, CoC, and community-based organizations are foundational.** Elevate partnerships with the County, service providers, faith-based groups, and private entities to co-design and implement solutions. This plan is intended to build on the City and County's strong existing infrastructure, not replace or delay it.

2. Encampment Resolution Framework

Adopt best practices from the BHHI Encampment Resolution Guide, prioritizing structured engagement and supportive exit strategies (UCSF BHHI Encampment Toolkit).

- **Identification and Assessment:** Prioritize sites based on objective health and safety criteria.
- **Planning and Engagement:** Develop individualized outreach plans; ensure multidisciplinary teams offer a continuum of care and housing options.
- **Drawdown and Follow-Up:** Close encampments only after housing or interim solutions are available to all residents, with follow-up support to prevent returns.
- **Property Protections:** Avoid seizure of property unless it is abandoned, dangerous, or constitutes contraband (Austin v. U.S. District Guidelines). Consider adopting elements of the City of Berkeley's Property Storage Policy as a model for San José.
- **Sanitation Infrastructure:** Maintain sanitation infrastructure such as trash receptacles and portable toilets near encampments. These should remain in place for at least three years unless safety conditions warrant removal (City of San Jose Municipal Code).

- **Protection of civil rights:** Any encampment management plan must respect individuals' civil and property rights, including but not limited to the right of people with disabilities to reasonable accommodations.

3. HEART: Multidisciplinary Outreach

HEART (Homeless Engagement, Assistance & Response Team) will serve as San José's **non-law enforcement, trauma-informed outreach response** for urgent situations involving unhoused residents. HEART aims to connect individuals with **housing, health care, harm reduction, and community support**—not criminalization.

Interdisciplinary and Inclusive Response Teams

HEART teams will include:

- **Social workers and case managers**
- **Peer support specialists** with lived experience of homelessness
- **Mental health and substance use professionals**
- **Medical personnel and street medicine providers**
- **Faith-based liaisons** offering spiritual support and community connection
- **Legal aid attorneys** to assist with outstanding tickets, eviction defense, or benefits issues
- **Housing navigators** and shelter placement specialists
- **Crisis de-escalation and trauma-informed care experts**
- **Teams reflective of the demographics of the unhoused population**, with cultural fluency to support Black residents, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, Indigenous people, disabled people, and other marginalized groups

HEART Call Response System

To ensure **equitable, accessible, and dignified support**, San José will launch a **dedicated HEART Response Line** for:

- **Unhoused residents** seeking services or medical help
- **Family members or friends** requesting wellness checks
- **Neighbors or businesses** seeking a humane response to visible need—not enforcement

Key features:

- **Multilingual call, text, and app-based access**
- **Trained civilian triage operators**, not law enforcement
- **Anonymous option** to reduce barriers and stigma
- **Real-time dispatch and follow-up tracking**
- **Seamless integration with County Coordinated Entry, shelter beds, and hotel vouchers**

The HEART response system will be **co-designed** with input from:

- **Unhoused individuals and advocates**
- **County and City TRUST teams**
- **988 and 311 system partners**
- **Continuum of Care providers and case management systems**

Proactive Outreach Strategy

HEART will also conduct **ongoing, proactive outreach**—not just respond to calls.

Teams will:

- Establish **regular presence in known encampments, vehicle dwelling zones, and high-need areas**
- Build **relationships over time** to increase trust and service engagement
- Deploy **targeted outreach to specific populations**.

- Coordinate with **community-based organizations, faith groups, and public health providers that already conduct outreach and provide support to people who live in encampments**

This proactive strategy ensures that those most disconnected from systems—including people without phones or identification—are still seen, respected, and served.

4. Housing & Shelter Interventions

- Rapid scaling of hotel/motel vouchers for immediate relief (Project Roomkey model).
- Prioritize non-congregate shelter with low barriers to entry (no curfews, pet/family-friendly, ADA-accessible). Remove across the board length of stay restrictions that are not tailored to individual needs.
- Expand permanent supportive housing and targeted transitional programs.
- Launch at least one sanctioned Safe Parking site per council district for vehicular shelter residents
- Leverage vacant publicly owned land and preapproved prefab/modular housing models to reduce construction costs and delays (California HCD).

5. Medical Respite Care

- **Definition:** Short-term, accessible residential care for individuals experiencing homelessness who are too ill to recover on the streets but not ill enough to remain hospitalized.
- **Local Implementation:** Expand programs like Santa Clara Valley Medical Center's Medical Respite Program.
- **Standards and Best Practices:** Follow *Standards for Medical Respite Care Programs* by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC).
- **Benefits:** Improve health outcomes, reduce emergency department use, and decrease hospital readmission rates (Health Affairs).

6. Special Populations and Equity-Driven Programming

Tailor programs for groups with unique barriers including:

- **Address racial disparities:** Black residents make up only 2.5% of Santa Clara County's population but represent 17% of those experiencing homelessness, reflecting deep racial inequities that must be addressed in all homelessness response strategies (Destination: Home).
- **LGBTQ+ individuals:** Expand beds with affirming services and trained staff (Santa Clara LGBTQ+ Study).
- **Farmworkers:** Utilize simplified permitting under recent zoning laws (Santa Clara County Zoning Ordinance).
- **Veterans:** Integrate with VA response and ensure utilization of VASH vouchers and HUD-VASH supportive services (VA).
- **Survivors of Violence:** Increase confidential shelter options and simplify documentation (San Jose Housing Focus Group, 2019).
- **People with Disabilities:** Enforce reasonable accommodations and reduce rules that exclude based on disability-related needs (Fair Housing Act).

7. Health, Safety, and Weather Policy

- Suspend abatements and impoundments during extreme weather (heat, cold, storms, rain) (NOAA HeatRisk Guidance). Work with people with lived experience of homelessness and providers to review weather guidelines to ensure they are appropriate and not causing harm to and modify as needed. (<https://news.santaclaracounty.gov/news-release/county-santa-clara-office-supportive-housing-declares-inclement-weather-episode-2>)
- Right to vehicle habitation where legally parked and zoned, with safe parking sites in each council district.
- Notification and opportunity to relocate vehicles before enforcement (L.A. Vehicle Dwelling Guidelines).
- Free or reduced-cost vehicle retrieval and item access without proof of ownership based on ability to pay.
- Maintain hygiene infrastructure, including mobile showers and 24-hour restrooms (BHHI).

8. Accountability and Transparency

- Establish a **Housing Accountability Commission** of people—including those with lived experience of homelessness—to advise and monitor implementation (Santa Clara HEAP Plan).
- Establish a cross-sector and cross-governmental case planning team to confidentially address challenging situations and evaluate progress.

- Provide a dashboard that informs the public of shelter access, outcomes, comparison costs of programs and approaches, and enforcement actions.

9. Funding and Resources

- The Mayor's Office will establish a position to leverage public-private partnerships for land and services (e.g., Microsoft-Alviso model).
- Assess how the reallocation of funds from policing and carceral budgets could be more effective toward housing and care solutions (Prison Policy Initiative).
- Expand flexible rental and emergency cash assistance (Benioff UCSF Brief).
- Increase state/federal housing funding (ELI support via HCD, HUD).

10. Coordinated Governance and Collaborative Framework

- This proposal is designed to build upon the strong foundation already in place through the City of San José, Santa Clara County, and the Continuum of Care (CoC), including its nonprofit service providers and outreach teams. There is significant work already being done across the region to prevent and end homelessness through inter-agency collaboration, service innovation, and regional planning. Rather than replace or supplant these efforts, this proposal seeks to strengthen, expand, and scale what is working—filling service gaps and accelerating progress.
- The proposal aligns with key goals outlined in the **Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness 2020–2025**, including:
 - Addressing racial and other systemic inequities in housing and service access;
 - Strengthening supportive housing infrastructure;
 - Preventing homelessness through upstream investments and services;
 - Enhancing accountability, transparency, and system coordination.
- [Read the full plan here](#)

Conclusion

San José must reject criminalization and embrace a services-first model rooted in compassion and data. This approach has proven effective at reducing homelessness while maintaining public safety and fiscal responsibility.

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Attachment 1 (Alternatives Proposal):

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Draft, City of San Jose Letter, May 4, 2025

Re: Concerns and Questions related to San José's Proposal on Encampment Code of Conduct and Arrest Authority

Dear San José Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council:

The Housing Justice and Community Safety Workgroups of the REAL Coalition write to express our deep and continuing concerns with the current proposal to amend the Encampment Code of Conduct and enable police enforcement that may include arrest of unhoused residents. While the staff proposal reflects changes from the Mayor's original "Responsibility to Shelter" concept, we believe it remains a harmful and unnecessary criminalization approach. We ask that the City Council not advance any policy that increases punitive enforcement against unhoused residents, and instead adopt a Services-First strategy that builds on the successful housing and outreach work already underway in San José.

This letter outlines:

1. Unanswered questions and major concerns regarding the proposal
2. Alternative solutions prepared by nonprofit and community partners
3. Essential accountability and transparency measures that are missing from the current proposal.

I. Key Concerns and Unanswered Questions

The staff proposal raises a number of critical questions that remain unanswered. We urge the City Council to seek clarity on exactly how the major policy changes proposed will be implemented before taking any action that could result in increased criminalization of our unhoused residents.

A. Enforcement Criteria and Protections

- What specific criteria will determine when someone is arrested? The proposal appears to target “chronic, non-compliant” individuals but offers no clear definitions.
- Given that most unhoused residents are technically trespassing, how will the City determine who gets arrested for trespass?
- The proposal targets people who are violating municipal codes for arrest. The proposal makes it clear that individuals will NOT be cited and released. Many city residents violate municipal codes on a daily basis and are not subject to arrest (e.g., single family homeowners blocking street parking spaces with cones). How will the city comply with the constitutional right to equal protection when targeting unhoused residents for enforcement of the municipal code when regularly not enforcing the code against housed residents?
- Which municipal codes are priorities for enforcement by arrest? This is a list of municipal codes that can be the predicate for arrest that unhoused residents who live outside might be more likely to inadvertently violate:

Violation Type	Municipal Code Section	Default Classification	Typical Enforcement Practice	Notes
Blocking a sidewalk	SJMC §13.24	Misdemeanor by default	Usually enforced as infraction	Property owners must keep sidewalks clear of obstructions.
Not picking up dog waste	SJMC §7.40.010	Misdemeanor by default	Typically cited as infraction	Failing to clean up after pets is a public nuisance.
Improper trash disposal	SJMC §9.10.410	Misdemeanor by default	Enforced as infraction; escalates with repeated offenses	Includes dumping trash on streets, sidewalks, or other public areas.
Property blight	SJMC §17.72.030	Misdemeanor by default	Administrative citations and fines	Covers conditions like overgrown weeds, junk storage, or

				deteriorated structures.
Outdoor furniture (blight)	SJMC §17.72.570	Misdemeanor by default	Administrative citation/fine	Storing indoor furniture (e.g. couches) outdoors in visible areas is prohibited.
Vehicle storage on streets	SJMC §11.36.220	Infraction	Vehicle may be cited or towed	Parking a vehicle on a public street for 72+ hours without movement.
Minor trespassing	SJMC §10.20.140(B)	Infraction (usually)	"Stay Away" notices, warnings, possible citation	Often addressed via San José's STOP program, not arrest.
Public nudity	SJMC §10.12.030	Misdemeanor by default	Enforced as infraction unless repeated	Prohibits exposure of genitals, buttocks, or female breasts in public places.

- How will the City avoid arbitrary or discriminatory arrest decisions? What safeguards exist to ensure enforcement isn't left to undue discretion or subject to bias?
- When will violations of the Encampment Code of Conduct lead to arrest? Since the Code will be amended to add acceptance of shelter offers, will Code violations—such as not accepting shelter—now lead to criminal offenses?
- The Neighborhood Quality of Life Unit of the SJPD is tasked with ordinance "enforcement." What are their training requirements for interacting with unhoused individuals, including people in crisis? How will they be interfacing with City staff and nonprofit providers (and vice versa)?

B. Pathways, Programs, and Capacity

- What pathways does the City intend to follow to refer individuals to services or shelter? Will these be prioritized over arrest and “enforcement”? What procedures are or will be in place to ensure that these options are prioritized?
- The proposal mentions referrals to “CARE Court, drug, alcohol or behavioral health services.” What are the realistic expected outcomes if City staff including police petition to have individuals diverted to CARE Court?
- Is there sufficient capacity if referrals are made to services and shelter? If alternatives like the Mission Street Recovery Station, behavioral health beds, or shelters are full, what will happen to the person?
- Has the County agreed to this plan, including the proposed uses of its facilities such as Mission Street Recovery Station?
- What does a “reasonable opportunity” to relocate a vehicle entail? Will unhoused residents in vehicles be given real options to avoid enforcement?

C. Due Process, Civil Rights, and Impact on Outreach

- How will reasonable accommodation requests be handled? What if someone with a disability cannot comply with the Code of Conduct or refuses shelter for medical reasons? How will the City ensure ADA compliance and due process? How will city staff be trained about these rights?
- Will information collected by outreach workers be shared with police? How will this affect trust and willingness to engage?
- Are outreach workers tasked with helping people avoid arrest? If not, what is their role in this new system?
- Has the City applied its [equity standards](#) as required by the City Charter, and a racial equity lens, and considered how this proposal may disproportionately impact people of color, particularly Black residents who are overrepresented among the unhoused population? What were the outcomes of the application of this lens?

II. Alternative: San José Services-First Outreach and Housing Strategy

As an alternative to the City’s current enforcement-based proposal, local nonprofit leaders have developed the *San José Services-First Outreach and Housing Strategy*, a comprehensive, evidence-based approach rooted in dignity, health, racial equity, and long-term cost-effectiveness.

The strategy (see Attachment 1) emphasizes non-punitive, trauma-informed outreach; expanded housing and shelter options; proactive medical and legal services; and deep coordination with County, City, and community partners. Designed to build upon and strengthen existing efforts, this plan offers a more humane, effective path forward that addresses the root causes of homelessness and prioritizes lasting solutions over criminalization.

III. Accountability and Oversight

If the City Council chooses to move forward with any or all aspects of the staff's proposal—which constitutes a major shift in the city's current policies and procedures—we strongly urge the inclusion of robust oversight and reporting mechanisms. The community deserves clarity on implementation, success criteria, and safeguards against harm.

We ask the Council to:

- Require a public report-back before implementation. The City must release a detailed procedures and implementation plan before enforcement begins, explaining team roles, training, referral pathways, and arrest protocols.
- Consult outreach providers for assistance in refining an implementation plan.
- Define what “success” looks like. How will the City evaluate whether the new approach is working? What are the specific goals and metrics?
- Track and report negative impacts. Metrics should also include harm reduction indicators: number of arrests, demographic disparities, service availability, whether shelter or services were available at time of enforcement, and consequences to individuals who are arrested.
- Require quarterly updates to City Council. The Council should review the impact of this enforcement strategy at regular public hearings.

We believe the current proposal lacks the clarity, safeguards, and service investments needed to truly help San José's unhoused community. We urge the Council to reject punitive enforcement and instead expand access to housing, shelter, and support that actually works.

Sincerely,

Housing Justice and Community Safety Workgroups Racial Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Coalition

Eugene Torres, Family Supportive Housing
Cassandra Magana, West Valley Community Services
Kelly Vasquez, HomeFirst Santa Clara County
Sandy Perry, South Bay Community Land Trust
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Jennifer Hark Dietz, PATH
Kyra Kazantzis, Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
Matt King, Sacred Heart Community Service
Lucila Ortiz, Working Partnerships USA

About REAL Coalition

The REAL community of Silicon Valley based nonprofit leaders and allies has been meeting since June 2020 to use our positional power to advocate for a more racially-just and equitable society; to establish a peer network of leaders committed to fighting white supremacy and systemic racism in ourselves and our institutions; and to hold each other accountable to the promises we made in the Nonprofit Racial Equity Pledge. The REAL coalition is broadly representative of the nonprofit community including human and community services, behavioral health and health, arts and culture, domestic violence, older adults, food security, education, environmental, farming, legal, disability rights, LGTBQ rights, ethnic, immigrant rights, housing and homelessness, criminal justice reform, urban planning, and intermediary organizations, and others. More than 125 organizations have participated in the REAL Coalition.

FW: Letter and Fact Sheet re Elimination of the OAHW Grant Program

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

Date Wed 6/4/2025 12:52 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 2 attachments (101 KB)

CSJ Budget FY26 OAHW SOS Letter.pdf; CSJ Budget FY26 OAHW Grant Impacts Fact Sheet.pdf;

From: Angel Aliano [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 12:19 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>

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Subject: Letter and Fact Sheet re Elimination of the OAHW Grant Program

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and City Council,

Please see a letter from older-adult-serving organizations, their service recipients, and other community members regarding the **proposed elimination of the Older Adults Health and Wellness (OAHW) program**. You will also find a fact sheet covering the impacts of cutting this grant.

Thank you,

Ángel Aliano | Policy + Advocacy Associate

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Web: svcn.org | Twitter: [@SVCN](https://twitter.com/SVCN)

Pronouns: he/him

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SAVE OUR SENIORS (SOS!) FACT SHEET: Vital Services for Older Adults at Risk in San José

Impacts of Eliminating \$526,434 in OAHW Funding to 9 Community-Based Organizations

Prepared for San José City Council and Office of the Mayor | May 2025

Summary:

The proposed elimination of Older Adults Health and Wellness (OAHW) funding threatens critical services that support thousands of San José's older adults—especially those who are low-income, non-English speaking, isolated, and medically vulnerable. The organizations impacted serve a broad cross-section of the city's senior population and offer services that are culturally appropriate, cost-effective, and health and independence promoting.

SERVICES AT RISK IF FUNDING IS CUT

Legal Services

- Provider: Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA)
- Impact:
 - SALA cannot charge fees for services or accept fee generating cases. If grant funding is lost, services are reduced proportionately.
 - Elimination of on-site monthly legal appointment sessions at 4 PRNS operated community centers: Camden, Cypress, Mayfair, Roosevelt
 - Reduction in frequency (monthly → bi-monthly) of appointment sessions at 5 senior centers: Alma, Eastside, John XXIII, Southside, Willow Glen
- Services Lost: Free legal aid for housing issues, elder abuse (physical and financial), public benefits (Medicare, Medi-Cal, Social Security, SSI) , basic powers of attorney for health care and finances, and more
- Consequences:
 - Increased housing instability for older adults facing eviction, needing reasonable accommodations to Age in Place, or whose housing is in jeopardy
 - Increased need for protective services for older adults to prevent physical abuse, financial abuse, or exploitation (including scams)
 - Increased income insecurity for older adults relying on public benefits to meet basic daily needs

- Estimated Impact: Loss of services for 350+ San José clients 60 or older

Mobile Dental & Preventive Health Care

- Provider: Health Mobile, Breathe California
- Impact:
 - Termination of contract for free mobile dental services: Medicare doesn't cover dental care services to seniors, and seniors are in dire need of dental care services due to years of neglect and aging. Health Mobile provides free, complete dental care services at all senior centers throughout San José to all seniors. Seniors cannot afford to go to a dentist as they are on a fixed income.
 - Reduction of complete dental care and oral cancer screening and education on the risks of first and second hand smoking provided by Health Mobile.
 - Loss of free lung health screenings, asthma programs, and air purifier seniors have come to rely on from Breathe California
- Consequences:
 - Reduced access to oral healthcare
 - Potential decline in systemic health outcomes linked to untreated dental issues
 - Increase in preventive lung diseases like Tuberculosis, COPD, asthma, addiction issues to tobacco/vaping
- Estimated Impact: 512 unduplicated older adults throughout San José will no longer be able to access dental care, totaling thousands of appointments.

Physical Health, Exercise & Disease Prevention

- Providers: Yu-Ai Kai, POSSO, KACS, Breathe California, Catholic Charities (Eastside and John XXIII Centers)
- Impact:
 - Yu-Ai Kai may be forced to discontinue evidence-based health workshops (e.g., fall prevention, chronic disease self-management)
 - Discontinuation of physical activity classes provided by KACS, YAK, and POSSO including Tai Chi, stretching, balance, and group walks, as well as evidence-based fitness programs like Enhance Fitness.
 - Loss of physical breathing exercises to strengthen lungs, education about lung diseases and improve breathing for those with lung and heart diseases
- Consequences:
 - Seniors lose access to programming that prevents hospitalization and promotes healthy aging

- Programs may shift to sponsored educational talks rather than proven, interactive classes
- Increase in preventive lung diseases like Tuberculosis, COPD, asthma, addiction issues to tobacco/vaping
- Loss of air purifier coverage
- Estimated Impact: 1,612 older adults across five organizations will no longer receive these services.

Mental Health & Social Connection

- Providers: POSSO, KACS, Yu-Ai Kai, Breathe California
- Impact:
 - Elimination of group activities, recreation, and cognitive engagement (games, dance, art, discussion groups)
 - Loss of culturally relevant social environments that combat loneliness and depression
 - Loss of meeting in groups to discuss lung educational topics
- Consequences:
 - Increased mental health risks, including anxiety and dementia-related conditions
 - Cultural disconnection among immigrant elders
 - Increase in preventive lung diseases like Tuberculosis, COPD, asthma, addiction issues to tobacco/vaping
 - Increase in indoor air pollution
- Estimated Impact: 1,620 older adults across four organizations will no longer receive these services.

Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services

- Providers: POSSO (Portuguese), KACS (Korean), Yu-Ai Kai (Japanese), VIVO (Vietnamese), Sourcewise (bilingual Medicare counseling), Catholic Charities (Eastside and John XXIII Centers)
- Impact:
 - Loss of culturally-appropriate classes, navigation services, and wellness programs if VIVO can no longer offer ESL, tech literacy, and case management for Vietnamese seniors
 - Language barriers will prevent many from accessing alternative city or county services

- Potential discontinuation of Sourcewise's 1:1 Medicare plan assistance to Spanish speaking older adult populations
- Consequences:
 - Seniors unable to enroll in healthcare, find housing help, or receive public benefits
 - Isolation from community events and resources
- Estimated Impact: 621 older adults across four organizations will no longer receive these services.

Technology Literacy & Digital Access

- Providers: POSSO, VIVO, KACS
- Impact:
 - Cancellation of classes teaching basic computer skills, smartphone use, and internet navigation
- Consequences:
 - Seniors lose access to online health resources, telehealth, transportation, and social connectivity
- Estimated Impact: 78 older adults will no longer receive these services.

Case Management & Resource Navigation

- Providers: POSSO, KACS, VIVO, Catholic Charities
- Impact:
 - Cuts to programs helping seniors secure benefits, manage chronic conditions, and access city services
- Consequences:
 - Greater risk of housing instability, untreated health issues, and emergency room visits
- Estimated Impact: 500 older adults across four organizations will no longer receive these services.

Citywide Implications

- As outlined above, these cuts will directly harm an estimated 5,293 older adults, many of whom are low-income, non-English speaking, isolated, and medically fragile.
- These cuts undermine San José's Age-Friendly City goals and exacerbate inequities among low income and vulnerable populations.
- Reductions in preventative services and wellness programming are likely to increase demand for costlier emergency, protective service, and institutional care.
- Seniors in Districts 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10 may be disproportionately affected, but older adults in all districts will be affected.

CSJ Budget FY26 OAHW Grant Impacts Fact Sheet + SOS Letter

June 3, 2025

Re: Urgent Need to Preserve \$526,434 in Funding for Older Adults Health and Wellness (OAHW) Services

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Kamei, and Honorable Councilmembers:

The Save Our Seniors (SOS) coalition writes with deep concern over the proposed elimination of \$526,434 in funding for the Older Adults Health and Wellness (OAHW) program, which supports critical services for San José's most vulnerable older adults. As documented in the attached fact sheet, these cuts will directly harm an estimated 5,293 older adults, many of whom are low-income, non-English speaking, isolated, and medically fragile.

The nine nonprofit community-based organizations currently funded through OAHW provide a broad array of services essential to the health, independence, and dignity of older residents. These include:

- Free legal aid to over 350 older adults at risk of eviction, exploitation, or loss of independence
- Mobile dental and lung health services for those who cannot otherwise access care
- Evidence-based health and fitness programs, reaching hundreds of older adults with chronic illness or mobility limitations
- Technology literacy, case management, and Medicare counseling, all offered in culturally and linguistically competent formats

The elimination of these services would not only increase food insecurity, housing instability, and isolation—it would also lead to higher long-term public costs through increases in emergency room visits, protective service interventions, and institutional care placements. For many seniors, these programs are not optional—they are a lifeline.

We urge the Council to consider the human impact of these proposed cuts. The older adults served by OAHW programs are your constituents, your neighbors, and often the very people who built San José. These services ensure they can age with dignity, remain connected to their communities, and avoid costly medical crises or institutionalization.

We respectfully ask the Council and Mayor's Office to restore full funding for the OAHW program in the FY 2025-2026 budget.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the scope of these impacts and offer specific data and stories from seniors directly affected by these potential cuts.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

SOS Providers and Community Organizations:

Almaden Valley Counseling Service

Michelle Humke

Community Health Partnership

Cathryn Hyde

Amigos de Guadalupe

Jeremy Barousse

Family Supportive Housing

Eugene Torres

Asian Law Alliance

Richard Konda (D3)

Global Majority Consulting

Carmen Brammer (D8)

Breathe California

Tanya Payyappilly

Health Mobile

Mike Reza

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Milton Cadena

Don Taylor

Japanese American Citizens League, San Jose Chapter

Sharon Uyeda (D5)

Japantown Business Association

Tamiko Rast (D3)

**Korean American Community
Services, Inc**
Eunice Chun

La Comida de California
Mary Ruth Batichelder

Latinas Contra Cancer
Kathy Cordova (D6)

**National Association Juneteenth
Lineage California, Inc**
Ellen Rollins

North East Medical Services
Syndey Pon

**Portuguese Organization for Social
Services & Opportunities**
Elsa Oliveira

Sacred Heart Community Service
Poncho Guevara

**San Jose Japantown Lions
Foundation**
Doug Ray

Senior Adult Legal Assistance
Georgia Bacil

Sourcewise
Linda Phillips

TaikoPeace
PJ Hirabayashi

**Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation,
Inc**
Tam Nguyen (D7)
Bao Trieu (D7)

Yu-Ai Kai
Jennifer Masuda

Individual Sign-Ons:

Richard Adler	Patty Egusa	Hang Ho (D7)
Karen Akimoto	Pamella Endo (D9)	Meg Suzuki Hudson
Randy Ando (D1)	Larissa Favela (D3)	Jess Hutchins
Joan Aoki	Guadalupe Friez (D3)	Hong Huynh (D7)
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Mary Bryant (D1)	Jane Harris (D3)	Carolyn Kameya (D6)
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Loreen Kozen	Karen McCreddin (D6)	Linda Ozaki
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Bui Loan (D7)	Larry Namekata	Frances Respicio (D3)
Jane Locascio	Yvonne Namekata	Kari Robinson
Shirley Loffer	Alyssa Nguyen	Sam Saiu (D8)
Huu Luong	Hanh Nguyen	Yosh Sato
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Jim Manning (D8)	Nancy Nguyen (D7)	Catherine Shih
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Patricia K. Masuda (D10)	Van Nguyen	Leigh Suga
	Leslie Ogawa-Boon	Tony Sum

Charles Swineheart
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Victoria Taketa (D3)

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Michelle Tanaka

Richard Tanaka

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Susan Yamamoto (D4)

Wendy Yamanaka

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Vicki Yoshihara