



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Ortiz
Councilmember Torres

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 12, 2024

Approved:  

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION FROM ADMINISTRATION ON PROPER
PROCESS FOR MANAGING ACCESS TO VIET HERITAGE GARDEN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Direct the City Manager to issue an informational memo clarifying a transparent and equitable process for San José residents to reserve the Viet Heritage Garden for public flag-raising events.

BACKGROUND

Over the past month, there has been increased concern throughout the City over the perceived politicization of City amenities, particularly the Viet Heritage Garden. While the Garden is not yet available for unfettered public access, it has been made available to community groups that have historically been able to hold cultural events such as the monthly Freedom Flag raising.

Recently, there has been conflict between several community organizations and a Council office over the future of these events, leading to public concern and confusion over whether a single Council office is improperly running a separate reservation system for the Garden. It is important moving forward that the Administration clearly outlines a fair, transparent, and equitable reservation process that reflects the diverse Vietnamese community.