

## Fw: Support the Return Together ordinance

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 5/24/2021 8:23 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Albertina Rivera [REDACTED] >

**Sent:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 8:01 PM

**To:** District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>

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

**Subject:** Support the Return Together ordinance

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo and Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco,

As a constituent of District 5, I am writing to thank the City Council for considering the Return Together ordinance, and urge you to vote YES to a strong local policy with no carve-outs.

Even as vaccine distribution is beginning to bring us hope of emerging from this public health crisis, tens of thousands of our neighbors remain laid off due to the pandemic and do not know when they will be able to go back to work. The only way we can fully recover is if we all recover together.

Building on the new State law, the proposed Return Together ordinance is a lifeline for San Jose workers in the most affected industries. Hotel, event and hospitality workers are among the hardest hit by COVID-related layoffs, and face many more months before they may be able to return to work. One year after the initial shelter-in-place-orders, hotel employment in the San Jose metro is down 52%, more than any other industry.

Workers in these industries are overwhelmingly people of color, immigrants, and women, who are already hit hardest by COVID-19. Now, many of these workers, especially immigrant women, fear that when hotels and event centers re-open, longtime workers may be left out – people who have committed decades of their life to those jobs may be excluded from returning to work.

By passing a local policy, we can expand on the recent California law by adding a private right of action that empowers people to stand up for their rights in the workplace. We also need to ensure there are no loopholes — like bankruptcy carve outs — that would exclude the workers who most need these protections. I urge you to vote YES without delay so we can all Return Together.

Sincerely,

Albertina Rivera

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