



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Matt Mahan  
Councilmember Peter Ortiz  
Councilmember Domingo Candelas

**SUBJECT: BEAUTIFYSJ  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
BLIGHT  
REDUCTION  
STATUS REPORT**

**DATE:** November 9, 2023

**APPROVED:**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Accept the BeautifySJ Neighborhood Blight Reduction Status Report for 2022-2023.
2. Direct staff to negotiate a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the City to allow for City entry upon VTA property and reimbursement for blight response and abatement. Return to Neighborhood Services and Education Committee (NSE) in early Spring 2024 and to Council by June 2024 with an update on negotiations.

## **DISCUSSION**

Thanks to our hardworking BeautifySJ team, we've achieved remarkable progress addressing blight across our City. Much of this progress can be attributed to our close collaboration with key partners, including Caltrans, Union Pacific Railroad, Valley Water, and the County of Santa Clara. These partnerships provide our BeautifySJ teams prompt access to other publicly owned property in San José and reimbursement or cost-sharing to remove blight faster than any agency could alone.

Notably, VTA is the only prominent public agency in San José that doesn't have an established agreement with the City to abate blight, yet VTA does not have the in-house or contracted staff necessary to rapidly respond to blight on their property. As a prime example of an opportunity for partnership, photos shown below of the new sound walls along 680N at the Alum Rock offramp, the McKee Road 680S onramp and near Foss Avenue exemplify the magnitude of blight on VTA-managed property and the need to tap into BeautifySJ team's efficient response times to quickly remove graffiti, trash, and debris.



Staff is directed to confer with VTA to establish an agreement wherein VTA will reimburse the City for providing blight abatement services on VTA-owned or managed property, mirroring similar agreements with other public agencies.