

8/19/25 agenda item 4.2

no matter that

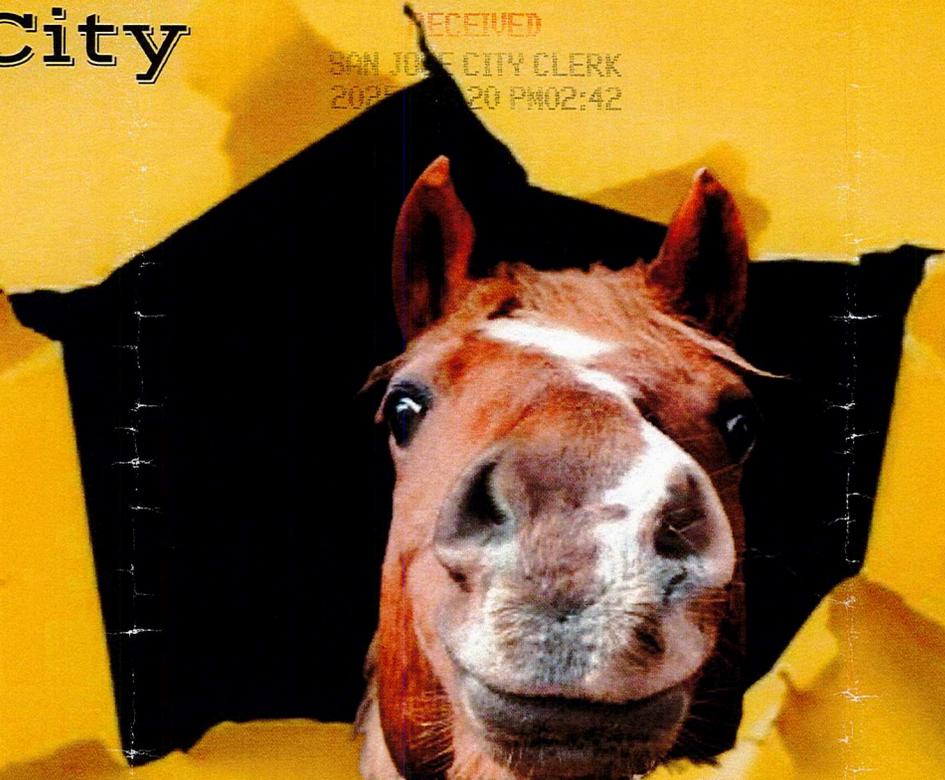
**SanJose City
2025-26
budget
shortfall
= \$35.6
million**

no matter that

**2026-27
budget
shortfall
= \$52.9
million**

RECEIVED
SAN JOSE CITY CLERK
2025 AUG 20 PM02:42

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SAN JOSE CITY CLERK
2025 AUG 20 PM02:42



**LET'S GET THE
POLICE SOME HORSES!!!**



if ongoing costs for **2** horses cost \$280K in 2011-12*
why would such costs for **6** horses be only \$120K in 2025-26? **

“*It costs \$280,000 to maintain the Mounted Unit for one year - and that's only two officers on horseback, down from eight years ago.”

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/san-jose-mounted-police-faces-budget-cut/2095418/>

see also MOU between City and Friends of Mounted United 12/15/2010 690276 HMU Friends MOUJM

** Joseph memo for council agenda 8/1925 item 4.2 page 4

“The HMU will utilize officers on a *voluntary, overtime* basis, with compensation drawn from unspent walking beat overtime funds allocated to the Central Division. Due to *sustained challenges in staffing walking beat shifts*, these funds remain underutilized”

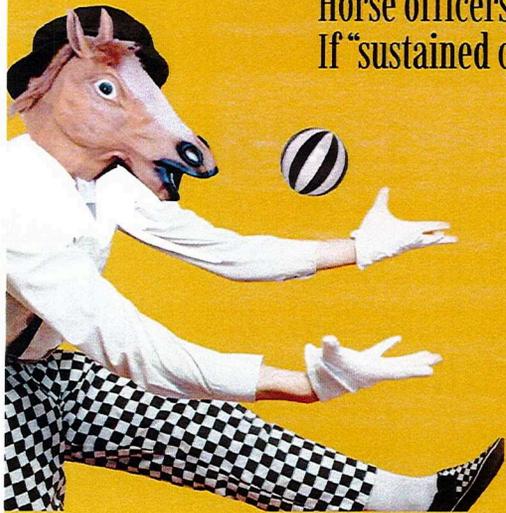
You're going to pay the horse officers at overtime rate to take horse out of stall, brush, clean hooves, tack-up, put into trailer, transport to location, remove from trailer, "patrol," put into trailer, transport to stables, remove tack, brush, water, return to staff? OH - Who is mucking the stalls?

Horse officers can just show up on voluntary basis?

If "sustained challenges" to staffing walking beats exist, why would getting horses fix that challenge?

“The horses will be housed in the Department's stables facility, It is *anticipated* that the facility is in good condition and will not need any additional funding for capital improvements at this time.”

Why not send a professional to the stables to make an assessment of current condition instead of relying on anticipation?



“Recent *evaluations* to enhance uniformed police presence in Downtown San José have highlighted the reinstatement of the HMU as a strategic, highly effective solution, and cost-efficient program.”

Why not provide a copy to evaluations showing cost-effectiveness to council and public?



“Reinstating the HMU [supports] officers’ ability to quickly respond to incidents that may otherwise go unchecked.”



What is time estimated between requesting a mounted unit and response of the mounted unit on scene?

“Beyond enforcement, the HMU is a unique and effective tool for positive community engagement.”

What about the the city converting an SJPD patrol car into a cruise-ready piece of art?
Can't you use that in parades, festivals and special events?

San Jose builds bridge between police and lowriders. San Jose Spotlight 9/20/23

A 2023 study by the NIH showed that mounted police officers experience significantly higher injury rates compared to their non-mounted counterparts.

Do we really need more worker compensation cases?
Will additional city funds be needed to cover insurance for program?
Int J Environ Res Public Health 2023 Jan 9;20(2):1144. doi: 10.3390/ijerph20021144.



THE REAL QUESTION



WHY WAS THE CITY PROVIDED WITH SUCH A DOCUMENT?

Provides more propaganda than critical facts

Written in cryptic bureaucratic style

Does not seem to be within high standards set by Offices of City Manager, Budget or City Attorney

 The unit was disbanded in 2018 “due to budget & staffing constraints.” Are budget & staffing levels better now?

 What is the projected wage cost of 24 officers working “voluntary” overtime for this program?

 Where else could unspent walking Central Division beat overtime funds be allocated?

 Given projected budget shortfall, should unspent funds be used or saved?

FW: City Council Agenda Sept 16 Item 4.1. Letter of Support for Mounted Units

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 9/15/2025 8:11 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (78 KB)
SJDA_MountedUnit.pdf;

From: Gumby Marques <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 4:54 PM
To: Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Yamamoto, KiyomiH <Kiyomi.Yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; brisa.rojas@sanjoseca.gov; White, Amber <Amber.White@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Gomez, David A <David.A.Gomez@sanjoseca.gov>; Lomio, Michael <Michael.Lomio@sanjoseca.gov>; Barriga, Jessica <Jessica.Barriga@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: City Council Agenda Sept 16 Item 4.1. Letter of Support for Mounted Units

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Hi-

Please find attached a letter of support from the SJDA for City Council Item 4.1 for Mounted Units. Bring the horses back to Downtown San Jose!

Best!

Gumby

--



Gumby Marques
Interim CEO
San Jose Downtown Association



sjdowntown.com





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San Jose Downtown Association

28 N. First Street, Suite 1000
San Jose, CA 95113

sjdowntown.com
408.279.1775



Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the San Jose Downtown Association, I am writing to express our strong support for the reinstatement of the San Jose Police Department Horse Mounted Unit.

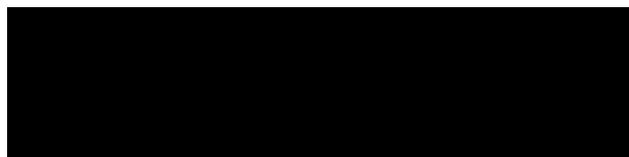
The presence of Mounted Police would increase the vibrancy of Downtown San Jose by increasing liveliness and novelty and offer a unique way for law enforcement to interact with the public. I would say this is especially true of children, but I also have to admit to a getting a thrill every time I have seen a Mounted Unit come by my storefront and when possible, I always made it a point to engage with the officers.

At the same time the horses provide the Police with a commanding presence which can prove a deterrent to crime. The elevated view can provide a unique vantage point especially useful for crowd control and horse can go where motorized vehicle sometimes cannot.

The reinstatement of the San Jose Police Department Horse Mounted Unit would also be a strong show of civic pride in downtown San Jose, which encourage visitors and residents alike to come to downtown which should provide a sizable economic impact to the area.

We are very grateful for the generous donation from the San Jose Police Foundation to provide both the equipment, horses and training necessary to make this program a reality and strongly urge this Council to authorize the City Manager to accept this wonderful gift on behalf of Downtown San Jose

Best regards



Alan "Gumby" Marques
Interim CEO of the San Jose Downtown Association

FW: Item 4.1: OPPOSE- Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 9/15/2025 1:53 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Fox Tale [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 1:41 PM
To: 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>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 4.1: OPPOSE- Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit

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RE: Public Safety Item 4.1: Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council,

We are writing to OPPOSE the fiscally irresponsible and performative proposal of “Public Safety Item 4.1: Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit.” The City of San José is facing a shortfall of millions of dollars in the next fiscal year, we are potentially losing hospitals, and other vital community services—this is a ridiculous proposal.

“By 2009, as the City of San José faced serious fiscal constraints, City administrators projected annual savings of approximately \$1.4 million from eliminating the HMU.” - noted from Councilmember Kamei and Ortiz Memo

As a small business in Downtown San José, this ridiculous proposal offers no value to downtown businesses and is purely a PR stunt that does nothing to solve or reduce crime. **Break ins for small businesses generally happen during the early hours before opening, when there are no crowds. When the horses will not be on patrol.** We don't need horses to patrol our streets, urban parks, or protests; we need people trained in care, de-escalation, and human dignity, and we need the city to allocate funds toward *helping* it's people, not harming, disappearing, and scaring them.

Logistically, Mounted Horses are an incredibly flawed way to catch a thief. Police are never supposed to get off the horse unless they have a safe place to tie him, away from vehicle and pedestrian traffic. In a downtown this is a rare find. Beyond this, horses are put under immense stress being subjected to loud, heavily trafficked areas. It is incredibly problematic for the health and well being of the horses (and in turn, the officers- Most injuries — 64.9% — happened while simply trying to manage the horse) as loud trucks, honking, buses,

shouting, or even the presence of San Jose's Lowriding Community (which we are proud of and respect for being there) and all of the other sounds of downtown- will be a constant stress for the day to day.

Building a rapport with kids and tourists isn't enough of an excuse to bring this to our streets. We recommend the city instead invests in supporting some of our independent and local equestrian groups to regularly visit neighborhoods. But let's not forget the practical realities of maintaining a horse-mounted police unit. Horses produce an estimated 25-30 pounds of waste per day, which would need to be cleaned up by someone. Who would be responsible for this task? Would it be the SJPd, or would it fall on the already-overburdened Groundwerx team, who are struggling to keep our streets clean as it is? This is just one example of the many logistical and environmental challenges that come with this initiative.

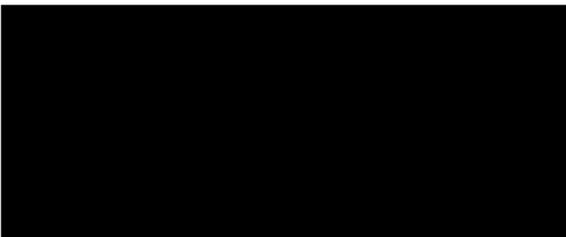
Instead of wasting city resources and taxpayer dollars on Horse Mounted Patrols that again—DO NOTHING to solve or reduce crime for small businesses when it happens—we could/should be looking at how we might replace programs like the Downtown Streets Teams that has been recently ended, affordable housing, making use of the incredible amount of abandoned spaces and providing wrap around services for our vulnerable and unhoused communities- all things that offer much more value than a Mounted Patrol Unit.

Finally, it must be discussed that the use of horse-mounted police is not only a relic of the past, but it also perpetuates harm and trauma in our communities. Mounted units aren't just outdated – they're ineffective and traumatic, especially in Black, Immigrant and Indigenous communities. The sight of a horse-mounted police officer can evoke feelings of fear, anxiety, and intimidation, rather than safety and security. Their presence is rooted in slave-era practices. In this current political climate in which mass deportations are sweeping and devastating our communities and Immigration Enforcement Agencies have been permitted to use racial profiling, I am deeply concerned that this program would further marginalize and oppress our immigrant and minority communities. We do hope that this is not the intention of our city's leaders. We must prioritize policies and practices that promote trust, accountability, and social justice, rather than perpetuating systemic racism and oppression.

If the point is to reduce/deter crime, we SUPPORT Councilmember Kamei and Councilmember Ortiz's memo to direct the City Manger to come back with other options.

Sincerely,

Wendy & Felipe
Fox Tale Fermentation Project





Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

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FW: Oppose Mounted Police in San Jose!

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date: Mon 9/15/2025 3:55 PM
To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: E A [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 3:54 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Oppose Mounted Police in San Jose!

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Please send a message to the Mayor and City Council against this agenda item 4.1 before 8am tomorrow.

Hello Mayor and City Councilmembers:

I am writing as a voter and taxpayer and resident of Downtown San Jose for the last 11 years who is vehemently opposed to mounted police officers, the police are already scary enough you don't need to add horses into the mix because that can be dangerous to both the public and officers riding the horses. This I believe is being used as a way to entice fear to the Black and Native communities in both recent times and historically.

The timing of this I find very interesting since Governor Newsom announced he'd be sending in state troopers in September to clear out unhoused encampments. Mayor, it seems like you both are competing for the adoration of Trump criminalizing and harassing folks however you can, instead of actually living out democratic values and actually investing in solutions that actually work.

I'd also like to oppose the 7% Police raise amounting in \$7.7 million dollars annually. This is an unprecedented time, with the passage of H.R. 1 which will result in the slashing of Medicaid, food stamps, and housing funding. The police receive 27% of the entire budget that's \$1.485 Billion Dollars. They do not need a cent more!!

So, I ask that each one of you vote with common sense in mind and stop siphoning money from the community and putting it into the police.

Thank you!

4.1 [25-976](#)

Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit.

Recommendation:

(a) Approve the reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit as a collateral, part-time operation using existing funding for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

(b) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to accept a donation from the San José Police Foundation of six horses, two trucks, two horse trailers, uniforms, officer training, and miscellaneous tack and gear valued at approximately \$390,000.

CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, Organizational and Administrative Activities, resulting in no physical changes to the environment. (Police)

[Deferred from 8/19/2025 – Item 4.2 (25-840)]

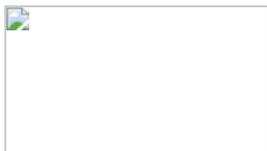
Attachments

[Memorandum](#)

[Memorandum from Kamei & Ortiz, 9/12/25](#)

[Resolution](#)

[Letters from the Public](#)



Thank You!
Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano
she/her/ella/GRRLL!
Artist/Creative
Expand TRUST in SJ//INVEST IN COMMUNITY
Political Ambassador, Afro UPRIS/Black Political Representation Needed in SCC!
Choir, Member of Urban Sanctuary
Unhoused Response Group, Housing Justice Advocate

Downtown Resident of District 3: St. James/Julian Neighborhood

Values: Honesty, Kindness, Compassion, Courage, Justice

"be a light
that doesn't cast shadows
on anyone

have a smile
that shines
for everyone

and create a happiness
that can be taken by
no one"

~ellen everett

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FW: Public safety item 4.1

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 9/15/2025 4:01 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: brian parkmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:01 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Public safety item 4.1

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Hello council members,

I am writing this letter to oppose public safety item 4.1. I vehemently disagree with the decision to reinstate the mounted police unit. It is a waste of time and energy that could be used in other areas such as housing.

Thank you for your time,
Brian Parkman
District 6

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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FW: City Council 9/16 Public Opposition Letter to Item 4.1 (Reinstation of Mounted Police Unit)

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:12 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Aidan McFann <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 6:02 PM
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: City Council 9/16 Public Opposition Letter to Item 4.1 (Reinstation of Mounted Police Unit)

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Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to you today in opposition to Public Safety Item 4.1 which will appear on your bill tomorrow, Tuesday, September 16th.

The arguments the Police Department are utilizing to pass this measure are, to be put kindest, misinformed, and to be put more harshly, deliberately promoting ignorance to the truths of this matter.

First of all, the funds and maintenance required of any mounted unit to a PD are lofty, which is concerning for a City which is facing a deficit of millions, one which is taking a great deal of active effort from all of our hard working city officials to keep as low as possible. Even at the current deficit of 35 million, tourism is only going to continue to be impacted by issues of geopolitics, national politics, and an increasingly inflated economy. The Police attempt to alleviate these fears by promising to introduce the mounted unit on excess funds already in their program, and having City Council discuss budget next year. However, ongoing costs of the program are significantly greater than the initial cost of introduction, and this appears a sorry attempt to betray the trust of Council Members such as yourself in order for concerns of budget. Once established, it will be easier to brush aside concerns of budget over the program, which will only balloon more and more, as the city faces greater financial difficulties. In addition, the figures promoted by the PD are inherently nonsensical. The Mounted Unit was dissolved LESS THAN A DECADE AGO for a reason, and one strong reason was it's great cost. In the years since, our economy has inflated greatly, owing to trade disputes, a nationwide pandemic, and a great loss of jobs for our citizens. However, the PD insists the cost now will be less than half the cost of a Mounted Unit 1/3 the size of the one being currently pitched was in 2012.

They wish to use the neglected infrastructure of their stables, without assessment from a professional, yet another cost they will not have to foot the bill for and will attempt to strong arm the city into paying when the time comes next year for its discussion on city budget. It wishes to use a system of voluntary overtime, paid out of the beat budget, which will be both more expensive than officers assigned to the unit, and less efficient for the promoted reasons the PD insists a mounted unit will be necessary (an

ease in regular patrol). Beyond that, mounted units require a strong bond between officers and the horses in order to be safe and effective for officers, horses, and civilians. The current plan will keep officers from developing this bond, leading to more danger from the already unpredictable and temperamental horses.

The PD insists that a presence of mounted units will promote unity of the city, and diminish crime rates. What they do not mention is the result on downtown traffic for those on foot or in motor vehicles, incredible cost and displeasure of maintaining city streets from Horse waste, which will fall on an already overburdened community works team (unless PD officers are expected to be paid to clean up waste, which only skyrockets the 'voluntary overtime' more), fear that younger citizens and pets may have to the mounted units, incredible risk that horses serve to citizens and officers AND themselves, and most importantly- how ineffective they are in de-escalating, diminishing, and confronting crime.

Mounted Units are bulky, and officers cannot disembark as easily as they can motor vehicles or even waking beat officers to pursue culprits on foot. The 'greater vantage point' of officers In horse back makes misunderstanding and poor observation of citizens more likely, resulting in time, effort, and money wasted on false leads or suspicions, which erodes the public's trust in officers of the law. It intimidates civilians, owing to a long history of misuse of mounted units against minority groups (of which embodies the majority of residents and tourists to San Jose, and many of its business owners) and has historically been ineffective as a method of peace keeping. If officers are unable to pursue or correct crime on foot or in cars, the access granted by horses are little, and only introduce more concerns and ineffective procedures to the process.

Mounted units are inefficient, expensive, dangerous, cruel to the animals involved, labor intensive, disliked and distrusted by the majority of our cities citizens, and a foolish, incendiary decision for our city during a time of financial concern and eroding trust in governments to preserve the rights of citizens.

Thank you, and I hope you will vote with clear judgement and the thoughts of all of your citizens peace in mind

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FW: OPPOSE Item 4.1 on 9/16/25 agenda

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:13 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Andrew Siegler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 6:47 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: RE: OPPOSE Item 4.1 on 9/16/25 agenda

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Mayor & Councilmembers,

I can't believe I even have to write this letter.

Do not approve horses for SJP. This is simply a massive waste of money.

Funny how back in March-thru-June there was no money to do anything to help the community, such as expanding the TRUST SJ2 team to 24/7, but now you suddenly have money for mounted police? In 2025? What, are you bringing back Frontier Village?

I thought I was getting pranked when someone just told me about this.

Of course, the modern police have their roots in both the plantation overseers and slave-catchers, all of whom were mounted authorities that terrorized Black people for centuries before putting on a slightly different uniform to do the same thing in the modern era.. So, if you're just trying to really underline the fact that the SJP is an operation of white supremacy, then I'd certainly argue there are more cost-effective ways of doing so.

Vote NO on Item 4.1.

Thanks,

Andrew Siegler (he/they)

[REDACTED]

FW: OPPOSE: Public Safety Item 4.1: Reinstatement of the San Jose Police Department Horse Mounted Unit

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:13 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Jess [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 6:49 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: OPPOSE: Public Safety Item 4.1: Reinstatement of the San Jose Police Department Horse Mounted Unit

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

As a collective of San Jose mothers, we are writing to OPPOSE the fiscally irresponsible proposal of "Public Safety Item 4.1: Reinstatement of the San Jose Police Department Horse Mounted Unit." It is disheartening to witness ongoing cuts to our schools, hospitals, arts, and community and family services while more funds are going to policing our community.

We have not only lived in, but also engaged in the art community and other forms of community organizing within Downtown San Jose for the past decade. The addition of police officers, especially a horse mounted unit, does not make us feel safer in our neighborhood. In fact, it makes us feel more unsafe especially as mothers to young children. We ask that you consider re-directing these funds to local equestrian groups and other programs that help our city and families THRIVE.

Sincerely,
For the Mamas

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FW: Oppose SJPD Horse Patrol - waste of money

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:14 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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

From: Rich Saunders <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 8:11 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Oppose SJPD Horse Patrol - waste of money

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

Hello,

My wife Abigale Almerido and I (Richard Saunders) are residents of Japantown and wish our opposition to the horse patrol proposal to be logged. This would be a colossal waste of money that could be used towards programs that would actually reduce crime, such as public housing, shelter beds or drug treatment programs.

If SJPD wants to spend money, perhaps they can put it towards community policing, deescalation training and de-militarization, practices that would actually benefit the residents of the city that they are sworn to protect. Or, subsidized housing so that officers can live where they work instead of facing long commutes or camping in an RV in the police HQ parking lot.

Let's not waste any further time on this ridiculous proposal.

Sincerely,
Richard Saunders and Abigale Almerido

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FW: Item 4.2 Horse Mounted Unit City Council Agenda 9/16/25

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:19 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Robert Gonzalez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:30 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 4.2 Horse Mounted Unit City Council Agenda 9/16/25

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Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to restore the horse mounted unit. While I understand the historical and symbolic appeal of such a unit, the practical and fiscal implications make this an ill-advised move at this time.

- **Lack of Financial Clarity:** The ongoing costs associated with the mounted unit remain vague. Committing to a program without a clear and transparent financial plan is fiscally irresponsible, especially given the city's recent budget constraints.
- **Budget Process Integrity:** After several difficult budget years, it is a disservice to the community to approve ongoing expenditures outside of the formal budget cycle. This proposal feels like a backroom deal and should be weighed alongside all other priorities during the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget process.
- **Public Trust and Safety Concerns:** Many residents still recall the disturbing images of horses trampling protestors in downtown Los Angeles just months ago. Reintroducing mounted patrols risks further eroding public trust, especially in communities already wary of aggressive policing tactics.
- **Overtime Overspending:** The police department consistently exceeds its overtime allocation. While proponents of the mounted unit claim the Police Department has savings within a specific beat, this conveniently ignores the broader pattern of overspending that continues year after year.
- **Better Alternatives Exist:** Electric bicycles and foot patrols offer more cost-effective and community-friendly alternatives. These methods foster direct engagement between officers and residents, rather than creating physical and symbolic distance by placing officers on horseback.
- **No Demonstrated Need:** San Jose recently regained its status as the safest big city in America without a horse mounted unit. This achievement underscores that public safety can be maintained and improved through modern, efficient, and community oriented strategies.

I urge you to reject this proposal and instead focus on initiatives that reflect fiscal responsibility, community trust, and proven effectiveness.

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FW: Agenda Item 4.1 - Opposed Mounted Police in San Jose

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:22 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Allegra Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:17 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; peterortiz@sanjoseca.gov; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 4.1 - Opposed Mounted Police in San Jose

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Hello Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to implementing a horse mounted police unit in Agenda Item 4.1 at the City Council meeting this Wednesday, September 16th. As a voter, taxpayer, and resident of District 9, I am concerned that this action is only following the Trump's fascist and authoritarian actions at the federal level. A horse mounted police unit is dangerous to both the public and officers riding the horses. This is a racist tactic as well as these police units have been used to intimidate and enact violence against Black and Native communities in both recent times and historically.

The proposed mounted horse unit and increase of the police budget will not increase the safety of our San Jose community. Our community safety relies on meeting our basic needs of housing, food, clean water, and mental and physical health access.

I am asking you to oppose the proposed 7% Police raise amounting in \$7.7 million dollars annually. The passage of H.R. 1 will result in the slashing of Medicaid, food stamps, and housing funding will greatly affect our community in San Jose and we need to put our city funds towards helping the most vulnerable in our community.

The police already receive 27% of the entire budget amounting to \$1.49 billion dollars. The police do not need more of our San Jose budget or unnecessary resources like a horse mounted unit that will only serve to intimidate our community, not protect it.

Sincerely,
Allegra

FW: Objection to Horse Mounted Units

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:22 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kristin Archdeacon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:25 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Objection to Horse Mounted Units

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I am writing to strongly oppose the reinstatement of horse mounted units by San Jose Police Department. I live in downtown San Jose at 55 S. 14th St. and I frequent businesses in the area as well as work as a social worker at regional Medical Center. I believe horse mounted units will not only cost a large amount of money during hard fiscal times, but it will cause trauma and undue stress for our community members. In addition, the horse mounted units Don't address the needs of the Downtown businesses and neighbors. We need community intervention that is focused on de-escalation, resource linkage, and community building and horse mounted units have proven ineffective in crime prevention as they are on patrol during daytime hours, and they are not able to dismount in a timely fashion to provide assistance.

No on HMU!
Kristin Archdeacon

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FW: Agenda Item 4.1 - Opposal to Mounted Police in San Jose

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:23 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: I.a. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:47 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; peterortiz@sanjoseca.gov; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 4.1 - Opposal to Mounted Police in San Jose

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Greeting Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to implementing a horse mounted police unit in Agenda Item 4.1 at the City Council meeting this Wednesday, September 16th. As a voter, taxpayer, and resident of District 6, I am concerned that this action is only following the Trump's fascist and authoritarian actions at the federal level. A horse mounted police unit is dangerous to both the public and officers riding the horses. This is a racist tactic as well as these police units have been used to intimidate and enact violence against Black and Native communities in both recent times and historically.

The proposed mounted horse unit and increase of the police budget will not increase the safety of our San Jose community. Our community safety relies on meeting our basic needs of housing, food, clean water, and mental and physical health access.

I am asking you to oppose the proposed 7% Police raise amounting in \$7.7 million dollars annually. The passage of H.R. 1 will result in the slashing of Medicaid, food stamps, and housing funding will greatly affect our community in San Jose and we need to put our city funds towards helping the most vulnerable in our community.

I am taking the time to write this because thankfully I was informed that this vote would be taking place. This city government should be ashamed for doing this without properly informing the public to have enough time to consider what is on the table.

The police already receive 27% of the entire budget amounting to \$1.49 billion dollars. The police do not need more of our San Jose budget or unnecessary resources like a horse mounted unit that will only serve to intimidate our community, not protect it.

Listen to your constituents and properly do your jobs to foster equity, housing longevity, and financial redistribution of the wealth you are hoarding.

FW: Letters From Public for 9/16/25 meeting Agenda Item 4.1

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 7:56 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Stephanie Zaleski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 7:49 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Letters From Public for 9/16/25 meeting Agenda Item 4.1

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Hello,

I am a San Jose resident writing in to voice my opposition of Public Safety Item 4.1. Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit.
I support efforts to direct the City Manager to come back with alternatives, such as investing in resources to support the local community.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Zaleski

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FW: OPPOSE item 4.1 on 9/16/25 agenda

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 8:06 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Lori Katcher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:00 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: RE: OPPOSE item 4.1 on 9/16/25 agenda

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Hello Mayor and City Councilmembers,

As a voter, taxpayer and resident of District 6 for 23 years, I am vehemently opposed to mounted police officers. This is a terrible waste of money. There are so many life-giving community needs- permanent deeply affordable housing, Safe RV parking sites, TRUST crisis response teams, protection for our vulnerable community members. In this time of unprecedented federal cuts, please use funding for actual community care, not mounted police.

A direct line can be drawn from police on horseback to slave-catchers, mounted "authorities" who terrorized the Black and Native communities historically, and dressed a bit differently, in current times as well.

I'd also like to oppose the 7% Police raise amounting in \$7.7 million dollars annually. This is an unprecedented time, with the passage of H.R. 1 which will result in the slashing of Medicaid, food stamps, and housing funding. The police receive 27% of the entire budget, which amounts to \$1.485 billion dollars. They do not need more.

Vote NO on Item 4.1.

Thank you!

Lori Katcher, D6 resident
[REDACTED]

FW: item 4.1 city council meeting 9/16 horse mounted unit

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 8:57 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Clyde Lingenfelter [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:48 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: item 4.1 city council meeting 9/16 horse mounted unit

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Hello,

This is absolutely not needed. It's bad enough with the circling helicopter that just burns fuel, but now horses too? How about we get some SJPD to walk the streets first, or ride bikes.

Thanks,
Clyde

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FW: Agenda item 4.1, 09/16/2025

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 9/15/2025 4:19 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kathryn Hedges [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:16 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda item 4.1, 09/16/2025

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Hello Mayor and City Councilmembers:

I am writing as a frequent visitor to Downtown San Jose and former resident for the last 8 years. I am still a member of SURJ Santa Clara County as well.

I am vehemently opposed to mounted police officers. The police are already intimidating enough you don't need to add horses into the mix because that can be dangerous to both the public and officers riding the horses. This, I believe, is being used as a way to incite fear within the Black, Latine, and Native communities in both recent times and historically. It goes right back to the "slave catcher" roots of policing in America as well as the attempted genocide of Native Americans.

The timing of this I find very interesting since Governor Newsom announced he'd be sending in state troopers in September to clear out unhoused encampments. Mayor, it seems like you both are competing for the adoration of Trump criminalizing and harassing folks however you can, instead of actually living out democratic values and actually investing in solutions that actually work.

I'd also like to oppose the 7% Police raise amounting in \$7.7 million dollars annually. This is an unprecedented time, with the passage of H.R. 1 which will result in the slashing of Medicaid, food stamps, and housing funding. The police receive 27% of the entire budget: \$1.485 Billion Dollars. They do not need a cent more! We don't need to add the expense of horses for police, as they must be fed, housed, and groomed daily whether or not they're used in policing that day.

So, I ask that each one of you vote with common sense in mind and stop siphoning money from the community and putting it into the police.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Hedges
[REDACTED]

FW: Police horses during budget cuts

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 2:55 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Katherine Donahue [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 1:58 PM
To: rosemarie.kamei@sanjoseca.gov; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Police horses during budget cuts

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I'm disturbed to learn that you're considering bringing horse mounted police back. Not only is there an ugly history of intimidation and brutality around mounted troops, the city keeps saying we're in a budget crisis and cutting funding to other services.

Do not spend money on horses as some PR stunt when you're cutting library and parks budgets.

Best Regards,

Katherine
District 2 Resident

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FW: OPPOSE Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 9/16/2025 2:57 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Amy Guzules <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:21 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: OPPOSE Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit

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Dear Mayor and Members of the Council,

I am writing to OPPOSE the proposal of "Public Safety Item 4.1: Reinstatement of the San José Police Department Horse Mounted Unit."

The City of San Jose has MANY better things to spend our taxpayer money on instead of the flawed plan to have horse-mounted police patrol the downtown area.

To assert that these police officers can be helpful in preventing crime is absurd and insulting. If the goal is good PR, there are MANY better ways to achieve this goal that won't put the horses, their riders, and the public in potential danger.

DO NOT bring back this outdated, ineffective, harmful relic of the past.

If the goal is to reduce or deter crime, I SUPPORT the memo from Councilmembers Kamei and Ortiz to direct the City Manager to find and present other options.

Sincerely,

-Amy Guzules

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