



# Memorandum

**TO:** REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Angel Rios

**SUBJECT:** REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

**DATE:** October 4, 2021

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Appoint the following individuals to the Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee:
  - a. Ma. Ines Ortega Barrera as a representative of the Cadillac/Winchester neighborhood
  - b. Rosa Cordova as a representative of the Santee/Phelan neighborhood
  - c. Rita Birrueta as a representative of the Valley Palms/San José Apartments neighborhood.
2. Receive information in response to committee member questions from the September 29, 2021 Advisory Committee meeting.

## **BACKGROUND**

In June 2021, a coalition of community organizations submitted a proposal to the City for establishing a Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee. The proposal envisioned a community-led process that would replace the process initiated by the City in spring 2021. In a memo dated June 18, 2021, the City Administration recommended that the City Council adopt the coalition proposal with some minor alterations (this memo is included as Attachment A.) At the June 22, 2021 City Council meeting, the Council approved the recommendation and established the Advisory Committee.

The coalition proposal envisioned that the membership of the Advisory Committee would be appointed by community organizations and proposed a list of organizations who would make these appointments. The City Council approved this list as part of its action on June 22, 2021, with additional direction to ensure that the Advisory Committee included representation from historically underserved neighborhoods in San José. Specifically, the Council directed that at least six members of the Advisory Committee should live within either a Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Hot Spot Area or a Project Hope Neighborhood. Hot Spot Areas and

Project Hope Neighborhoods are vulnerable neighborhoods identified by the City as part of the following programs:

- The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force is a collaborative effort between government, service providers and the community to provide youth prevention and intervention services as a means to promote public safety in San José. Hot Spot Areas are designated as a means of targeting services to neighborhoods most in need. This program is run out of the City's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department.
- Project Hope is a neighborhood organizing program also run by the City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department. The purpose of the program is to develop neighborhood leadership and organization in vulnerable neighborhoods, which often overlap with Hot Spot Areas.

A full list of Hot Spot Areas and Project Hope Neighborhoods, along with maps of each area, is included as Attachment B.

As noted above, the City Council directed that a total of six individuals on the Advisory Committee should live within these areas. Individuals appointed by the community organizations listed in the coalition proposal can count towards the six if they live in one of the areas. If additional committee members were needed to reach the total of six, the Council directed that the City Manager's Office solicit interest from neighborhood leaders in Hot Spot Areas and Project Hope Neighborhoods and propose additional committee members from these areas for appointment to the Advisory Committee. Consistent with the spirit of a community-led process, the Council directed that while the City Manager's Office would propose the appointments, the Advisory Committee would take action to appoint these additional members by a vote of the Committee.

## **ANALYSIS**

This memo carries out the above direction by proposing the appointment of three additional members who live within Hot Spot Areas or Project Hope Neighborhoods, to bring the total of members living within these neighborhoods to six. These appointments are discussed in greater detail below. In addition, staff has taken this opportunity to provide some additional background information on the establishment of this process that may assist in answering some of the questions asked by Committee Members at the September 29, 2021 Reimagining Community Safety Community Advisory Committee meeting.

## **Proposed Appointments**

After community organizations finished appointing members to the Advisory Committee, staff worked with coalition leaders to determine how many of the appointed members lived within a Hot Spot Area or Project Hope Neighborhood, and determined that members currently serving on the Advisory Committee live in the following three Hot Spot Areas:

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- Washington/Alma
- 10<sup>th</sup> and Williams St.
- Julian St.

Three additional members are needed to reach the total of six directed by the City Council. Staff in the City Manager's Office worked with program staff in the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department to solicit interest from neighborhood leaders within designated areas. Three eligible residents, listed in the below table, expressed interest in serving on the Advisory Committee.

Name	Neighborhood	Background and Interest
Ma. Ines Ortega Barrera	Cadillac/Winchester	Ms. Barrera is engaged in promoting public safety in her neighborhood. She advocates for resources for her neighborhood and opportunities for youth as a way of promoting safety.
Rosa Cordova	Santee/Phelan	Ms. Cordova been a community leader in her neighborhood for many years and is interested in pursuing changes to police policies.
Rita Birrueta	Valley Palms/San José Apartments	Ms. Birrueta is a promotora and is active with the Valley Palms Neighborhood Association.

Based on their record of leadership in their neighborhoods and desire to engage on the issue of public safety, staff is recommending these three residents for appointment to the Advisory Committee. As noted above, the full Advisory Committee must approve the appointment of these new members.

### **Additional Background Information**

At the September 29, 2021 Advisory Committee meeting, members asked a number of background questions about the Advisory Committee process as established by the Council. Many of these questions are answered in the June 18, 2021 staff memo included as Attachment A; however, given the length of this memo staff has pulled together some key information for the committee's convenience. Questions and responsive information are included below.

*What is the timeline for the Advisory Committee process?*

The coalition's proposal anticipated a six month timeline for the Advisory Committee. Based on this proposal, staff included a proposed schedule for the Advisory Committee on page 7 of the June 18, 2021 memo. The schedule anticipated that the Advisory Committee would finalize its recommendations in March of 2022 and present those recommendations to the City Council in April of 2022. As part of its action at the June 22, 2021 City Council meeting, the Council clarified that the April 2022 date was not a hard end date for the Advisory Committee—the Committee could continue its work beyond that point if necessary—but asked that the Committee bring forward a first round of recommendations to the City Council by that time.

*Can the Advisory Committee forward individual recommendations to the City Council in advance of a final report?*

Yes, the Advisory Committee can forward individual recommendations to the City Council at its discretion.

*What is the budget for the Advisory Committee?*

The recommendation on page 13 of the June 18, 2021 memo establishes a \$125,000 budget for the Advisory Committee. These funds can be used for consultant services or for translation. The Advisory Committee may decide what type of consultant services it would like to acquire. Staff will support the Committee in procuring such services consistent with the City's procurement rules.

*Are videos of past meetings and prior meeting agendas available on the City Website?*

Yes, meeting videos are available on the City's [meeting video website](#) and prior agendas are available on the [City Clerk's agenda website](#).<sup>1</sup>

Additional background on the formation of the Advisory Committee can be found in the June 18, 2021 memo. Staff is happy to provide any additional information or clarification as may be helpful to the Advisory Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> The entire web address for the video website is as follows: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/news-stories/watch-a-meeting#watch>

The entire web address for the agenda website is as follows:

<https://sanjose.legistar.com/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=46412&GUID=9C85E4B9-BCB8-4DE2-95F6-44E92266B5E1&Search=>

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**COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

ANGEL RIOS  
Deputy City Manager

For questions, please contact Angel Rios, Deputy City Manager, at (408) 535-3585.

Attachments:

Attachment A: June 18, 2021 staff memorandum

Attachment B: Mayors Gang Prevention Task Force Hot Spot Area Maps and Project Hope Area Maps