



Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
SUBJECT: RETROACTIVE REQUEST FOR TRAVEL
DATE: 12/12/17

APPROVED:

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION: Retroactively authorize travel for Mayor Sam Liccardo and Khanh Russo, the Mayor's Director of Strategic Partnerships to Paris, from October 20 - 24, 2017 to attend the Mayor's Innovation Studio and CityLab.

Authorization for: Mayor Sam Liccardo and Khanh Russo

Location: Paris

Meeting Date: October 20 - 24, 2017

Source of Funds: Bloomberg Philanthropies

Purpose:

Hosted by key City of San Jose partners such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, Aspen Institute and the Atlantic, this annual gathering brings together mayors from around the world, along with urban experts, business leaders, artists and activists to discuss global trends and how cities can confront our common challenges. Bloomberg Philanthropies paid for the hotel and airfare, at no expense to the public.

I attended to accomplish several objectives. First, I was invited to speak on a panel regarding disruptive innovation, involving our work around "smart city" infrastructure and the imminent launch of autonomous vehicle pilots in San Jose. I was joined on the panel by Ricky Burdett, Director, LSE Cities and Professor of Urban Studies, LSE; Rohit T. Aggarwala, Head of Urban Systems, Sidewalk Labs; Steve Buckley, Northeast Regional Manager for Planning Environment and Traffic for WSP USA; and Cheryl Chung, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Second, I sought to deepen our partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, which has been a substantial funder, adviser, and partner on several key initiatives of ours, including the use of behavioral insights (as we've employed across a variety of city functions, ranging from reducing illegal dumping to increasing revenues to our animal care services), the use of data and technology to improve city services, and our "City of Service" initiative to drive both volunteerism and service-year opportunities that are assisting various efforts of ours, ranging from mentoring youth in our San Jose Works program, to BeautifySJ. We are also engaged with Bloomberg and their partners regarding our Sustainability Plan and climate change issues. I also had a private meeting with former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, in which we discussed our partnership on these and potentially other issues, such as gun control and public health.

Third, whether speaking to this global audience or meeting with key leaders at the convening, these interactions have enabled me to engage philanthropic funders, advisers, and technology partners who can further our efforts. For example, after discussing our sustainability efforts with several McKinsey executives working with C40 Cities, they've engaged with us to help us understand further explore ambitious actions we can identify in our Sustainability Plan.

Fourth, meeting with the roughly three dozen mayors from major cities throughout the globe enables me to learn from their experiences, and to exchange best practices. I have developed relationships with many of my colleagues in other cities—particularly major U.S. cities—similarly focused on Bloomberg-related initiatives regarding climate change, the use of data, technology, and equity. We routinely borrow ideas and share lessons-learned.

The first part of the conference, the Mayors Innovation Studio, focused on public-private partnerships between cities and disruptive-tech companies. We discussed what works, what doesn't, and how cities can work together better toward their shared goals. Topics included: Harnessing the Power of Disruption, moderated by Molly Turner, Lecturer, Haas School of Business at University of California, Berkeley; Bridging the Gap: Emerging Relationships Between Cities and Disruptive Tech, moderated by Jennifer Bradley, Director, Center for Urban Innovation at the Aspen Institute; Together4Climate, moderated by Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and Chair of C40; and Driving Carbon-Free Streets, moderated by Antha Williams, Environmental Program Lead, Bloomberg Philanthropies.

I missed much of the remainder of the conference due to my need to fly back to San Jose for a Council meeting.