



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE **FROM:** Kim Walesh

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: February 1, 2018

Approved

D. D. Syl

Date

2/1/18

SUBJECT: SET A STUDY SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING PUBLIC LIFE IN SAN JOSE

RECOMMENDATION

Set a City Council Study Session entitled *Public Life in San Jose* for Thursday, March 22, 2018 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., in City Council Chambers and approve the draft study session agenda.

PURPOSE

Public life is created when people of diverse backgrounds interact and connect with each other in public spaces, such as parks and plazas, sidewalks, streets, and transit stations. Public life is a defining feature of city life. Research shows that robust public life can create a range of tangible benefits: improved health, safety, social equity, cultural vibrancy, environmental sustainability, economic development, and community cohesion, pride, and identity. Work to create great places alive with community life throughout San Jose is at the heart of San Jose's Envision 2040 Plan.

The last four years, the City, with significant support from the Knight Foundation and other partners, has invested in a series of projects and public space investments intended to enhance public life. Examples include Viva Calle, activation programs in city parks, interactive public artworks like Musical Swings and Sonic Runway, and development of a safer protected bike network. Staff sees opportunity to take these efforts to the next level with a cohesive, strategic approach. By more intentionally integrating and aligning the efforts of City departments and the community, we can maximize the impact of our work to accelerate public life and better leverage our collective resources.

Last November, with support from Knight Foundation and 8-80 Cities, San Jose welcomed Gil Penalosa, a world renown ambassador for public life, to San Jose, where he engaged elected

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Subject: Public Life in San Jose Study Session

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leadership, City staff, and community partners in workshops and discussions regarding the benefits of strengthened public life. The well-attended week-long series revealed strong interest for the City to make public life a priority.

In December, the Knight Foundation awarded Gehl Institute a \$250,000 grant to support a six-month engagement with San Jose. Gehl, headquartered in Copenhagen, is a global expert on how to transform and improve cities by making public life an intentional driver for design, policy, and governance. The project will help San Jose produce a shared public life vision and will provide training and customized technical resources to help city departments and community partners foster public life through existing activities and programs, new public-private partnerships, and community-generated projects.

This proposed study session will include best practices of international cities; an analysis of public life in San Jose, including how we can measure outcomes from public life; opportunities for improving policies to better enable public life; ways to facilitate public life through community partnerships; a draft Public Life Vision; and dialogue to gain perspective and feedback from the City Council.

Representatives from Gehl Institute, Knight Foundation, and community public life partners will participate in the study session along with representatives from eight City departments.

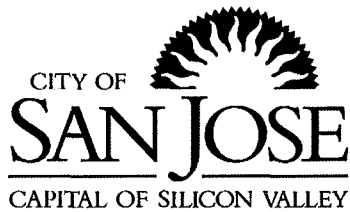
A draft study session agenda is attached for approval.

/s/

Kim Walesh
Deputy City Manager
Director of Economic Development

For questions please contact Kim Walesh, Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic Development, at (408) 535-8177.

Attachment:
Study Session Agenda



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AGENDA

PUBLIC LIFE IN SAN JOSE

**MARCH 22, 2018
1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Purpose

Discuss public life in San Jose and the opportunity to maximize the impact of collective efforts of the City and community partners through a strategic, cohesive approach.

Outcome

Solicit feedback from City Council on the draft Public Life Vision and overall approach.

CHAPPIE JONES
SERGIO JIMENEZ
RAUL PERALEZ
LAN DIEP
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Call to Order and Roll Call

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Council Chambers

- 1. Vision and Strategy to Enhance Public Life in San Jose**
 - (a) Defining Public Life**
 - (b) Best Practices and Tangible Outcomes**
 - (c) Analysis of Public Life in San Jose, Including Measurement**
 - (d) Opportunities to Enable Public Life**
 - (f) Draft Public Life Vision**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Adjourn**