



# Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Mayor Sam Liccardo

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR TRAVEL

**DATE:** 6/8/18

**APPROVED:**

**DATE:** 6/8/18

**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept travel payments and authorize travel for Mayor's staff, Shireen Santosham, to Washington, D.C. from June 26-27, for the Brookings Institution's Center for Technology Innovation event "Women in Civic Tech."

Authorization for: Shireen Santosham, Chief Innovation Officer, Mayor's Office

Location: Washington, D.C.

Meeting Date: June 27, 2018

Source of Funds: Brookings Institution

Purpose: Shireen Santosham to be designated as a City of San José representative the Brookings Institution's Center for Technology Innovation event "Women in Civic Tech."

Shireen is the Chief Innovation Officer on the Mayor's team and has been working with key staff in the City Manager's Office to further the City's Smart City and innovation initiatives. Through this work, San José has emerged as a leader in the civic tech space.

The aim of the event is to share the story of civic technologists who have leveraged new digital technologies to enhance open government, spur community action, and combat inequality. While women are underrepresented in many technological occupations, they have increasingly made inroads into the field of civic tech. Not only does this trend provide an example of inclusion and diversity in the workforce, it also enables women to bring their unique experiences and perspective to the development of transformative technology solutions.

Shireen will share the San José experience in leading on innovation and technology as well as commitments by the city to close the digital divide and welcome diversity in our tech workforce to an audience of 150+ thought leaders, government officials and national press. The other panelists include representatives from the Internet Association and the Case Foundation and will be moderated by Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee, a current fellow at the Brookings Institute.

This event will help to raise the national profile of San José, offer the opportunity to interact with donors, and build relationships with national policy makers.