CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: **SEE BELOW**

DATE: September 6, 2018

Approved: Sam Liccardo MM

Date: 9/6/18

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 15th ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR EVENT AS A CITY SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENT, TO EXPEND CITY FUNDS AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT DONATIONS OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES FOR THE EVENT

RECOMMENDATION

1. Retroactively approve the Ethiopian New Year event to be marked on September 15, 2018 as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds.
2. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses or community groups to support the event.
3. Place the item on the September 25, 2018 Council Agenda for action.

BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2005, the City Council adopted Resolution 72517, which required Councilmembers to submit a memorandum to the Rules Committee regarding proposed City Council sponsored Special Events and the proposed use of any funds in Special Event Accounts.

On Saturday, September 15, 2018, our local Ethiopian Community, led by the Ethiopian Community Services (ECS) agency, will host the annual Ethiopian New Year celebration at Arena Green in downtown San José. This one-day celebration will feature ethnic food, dancing, cultural celebrations and children's activities. Over 25,000 Ethiopians and their children now call Santa Clara County home. The majority of the Ethiopian community members reside in San José and were forced to flee Ethiopia in the 1980's due to the political turmoil affecting Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Community Services, Inc. agency was established in 1991 to enhance the quality of life for our Ethiopian community. ECS supports an integrated and sustainable Ethiopian community that is part of the community fabric of San José and a further reflection of our commitment to being a Welcoming City. The Ethiopian New Year event is an opportunity to showcase Ethiopian culture and raise awareness for the non-profit ECS as they continue to provide services to our community.

ANALYSIS

Approval by the Rules and Open Government Committee and the City Council of the event will ensure compliance with the Council's prior direction regarding Council Special Events. In compliance with existing fundraising disclosure requirements, Mayor Liccardo will report any cash or in-kind donations received for the event in his Disclosure of Fundraising Report. Approval of this memorandum will enable the Mayor, the City departments and the Office of the City Clerk to proceed with the event. If cash donations are received, the Office of the City Clerk will deposit the funds to the City's Gift Trust fund and follow the City's normal cash collection procedures. Subsequently, the City Clerk will return to the City Council for necessary actions involving the receipt and appropriation of funds consistent with the Special Events resolution and standard City procedures.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Mayor Liccardo will issue an information memo detailing the results of the events.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

This action does not meet the criteria set below; however the Office of the City Clerk will post the item on the City's Website for the 09/25/2018 Council Agenda.

COORDINATION

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

CEQA

Not a project.

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk

For questions, please contact Toni Taber, City Clerk, at (408) 535-1260.