



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

SUBJECT: Audit of Community Center Reuse **DATE:** October 22, 2018

Approved

Date

10.22.18

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RECOMMENDATION

Accept audit and administration response and:

1. Incorporate the Recreation and Community Services Division to the process of implementing changes that result from this audit and overseeing the City's Community Center Reuse program.
2. Add to next steps a review of whether reuse providers are offering programming that is responsive to community needs and culturally appropriate and report back steps to ensure cultural responsiveness.
3. Incorporate requirements into future plans and contracts that set clear goals and rules for facilities to be fully operational throughout the day.
4. Fully and quickly implement a comprehensive tracking of background checks for all program staff and volunteers.
5. Consider a strategy for requiring reuse providers to make appropriate contributions towards basic wear and tear and maintenance costs - utilizing a sliding scale model and consider allowing either in-kind or dollar contributions.
6. Produce an easy-to-use scheduling platform for the community to utilize open facility space to its maximum capacity and confirm that lead service providers are following city rules in regards to partnering with additional service providers.
7. Present an update on all audit recommendations to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee during the spring budgeting process. In this report to NSE please identify and present any additional resources necessary in order to meet the recommendations of this memo and the findings of the reuse audit.

BACKGROUND

San Jose's reuse program for community centers has a long history that is well documented in the Auditor's report. We appreciate the work of the Auditor and Administration because there are few issues that more immediately affect the lives of children in San Jose neighborhoods impacted by problems related to poverty and discrimination.

Many reuse providers are providing these communities amazing, necessary, and life-changing services. Others can miss the mark.

While we do not have the funding necessary to run official city programming in each reuse site, San Jose has the resources to ensure that when we provide the free use of our community centers, we get real results that improve the lives of families.

The recommendations in this memo support this middle ground, but set expectations for an active middle ground, not a passive one. As a city, we are not a neutral landlord that is giving away free access to blighted properties. We are managing an impressive portfolio of properties. But the comprehensive plan to leverage these sites for the benefit of our community is still missing.

We now know that the City will not soon have the financial resources to reopen all of these centers as full official community centers. That doesn't mean that we don't need a systematic plan that connects resources with the needs of our community.

Our PRNS Department has an amazing staff that is fully capable of this challenge, and we have the resources to make this middle ground work. Let's move forward today.