



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Johnny Khamis
District 10

SUBJECT: ACTIONS RELATED TO THE
2020 U.S. CENSUS

DATE: November 14, 2018

Approved

Date 11/14/18

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager, via the San José Office of Immigrant Affairs, to

- 1) Translate the 2020 U.S. Census forms into the Vietnamese and Mandarin languages.
- 2) Make the translated forms available on the City website and do outreach to Vietnamese and Mandarin-language press outlets to publicize the availability of U.S. Census forms in these languages.

BACKGROUND

The 2020 U.S. Census is fast approaching, and will be primarily administered electronically. However, the Census Bureau currently has plans to send out the forms only in English and Spanish. San José is one of the most diverse, multicultural cities in the United States. 56.9% of our residents speak a first language other than English. Aside from English, the most common spoken languages in San José are Spanish (220,040 speakers), Vietnamese (96,213 speakers), and Mandarin Chinese (61,222 speakers).¹ Without translation into their native languages, some immigrants may struggle to participate in the decennial Census. With Federal or State funding programs where funds are distributed based upon population, less participation would mean that San José would receive less in Federal or State assistance for housing, law enforcement, and other essential community needs. Making the Census forms available in Vietnamese and Mandarin will help increase participation in the U.S. Census in San José and ensure that the City continues to receive its fair share of Federal and State funding for programs where population formulas are utilized for the distribution of funds.

For questions please contact Shivani Basnet, D10 Council Assistant, at (408) 535-4982.

¹ <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/san-jose-ca/>