



*City of San José Youth Commission*

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March 5, 2019

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The San José Youth Commission is proud and enthusiastic to support the Mayor’s and Vice Mayor’s policy priority nomination, Reducing Gun Violence. (*Rules committee Agenda:2-27-19. Item: G.2*)

As mentioned in the Memorandum, we as a nation currently find ourselves in the midst of a tragic epidemic of gun violence that affects everyone, but most particularly our youth. As communities across the country are ravaged by horrific shootings, school and otherwise, the Youth Commission believes the policies proposed are a good and proper start to addressing this issue.

Time passes and as with most things, the technology of firearms has developed rapidly, yet gun laws have failed to keep up and properly evolve. As the generation whose future the constantly increasing lethal technology of guns will most affect, the Youth Commission believes that it is paramount that the laws and policies regarding such things be adequately updated to meet the challenge of 21st century. Innovative solutions such as Video and Audio Recording Transactions of gun sales as proposed in the Memorandum, are the kind of modern solution needed to ensure a safe future for our youth. While youth are one of the demographics most affected by gun violence, they also contribute to the issue. The Youth Commission supports the proposed efforts to crack down on “straw purchasing” of firearms in San Jose. We think this is a vital step in keeping our youth safe.

The policies suggested in the Memorandum also address another major issue facing young people in San Jose and all over the country: suicide. Since many youths use a firearm to take their lives, having less guns accessible is better. The Youth Commission believes that providing suicide prevention literature at the point of purchase of firearms is a proactive step in raising awareness about the impact the purchase of a gun can have.

As the Capital of Silicon Valley and the innovation center of the world, the Youth Commission believes that the City of San José should be a leader in policy making and particularly in gun safety and purchase regulation. The policies proposed in the Memorandum help to protect the youth and communities and ultimately the future of San José.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

The San José Youth Commission

March 5, 2019

Regrading: City Council Policy Priority Nomination: Family Friendly City.

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The San José Youth Commission wishes to express our support for the memorandum proposed by Councilwoman Arenas to integrate family legislation into the “Age Friendly City Initiative,” and to thereby modify the name to “Age and Family Friendly City Initiative.” We agree that families are the fabric tying the community together and the foundation upon which youth can grow. It is imperative that the crisis facing San Jose families, including issues such as lack of affordable housing and low student enrollment, is addressed and viewed as one of the top city-wide legislative priorities.

Therefore, it makes sense to expand the current “Age Friendly City Initiative” to incorporate this effort to aid families in order to maximize the efficiency of a coordinated city-wide response. Taking a comprehensive approach will improve the quality of life for the residents of our city and positively impact the youth in San Jose.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

The San José Youth Commission



*City of San José Youth Commission*

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March 5, 2019

Honorable Mayor And City Council

Subject: Bloomberg Climate Change Award, (November 5, 2018)

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The Youth Commission would like to express its congratulations on the award San Jose received for its fight upon climate change. We, The San Jose Youth Commission would also like to express our sincere gratitude for the steps the City has been taking to make San Jose a more environmentally friendly city.

The implementation of San José Green Vision and the Climate Smart San José has contributed to the improved San Jose. These programs will undoubtedly benefit the City of San José to decrease congestion in our streets, decrease pollution, and ensure the health and wellbeing of our people. In fact, we have already seen many positive changes to the City of San José with more clean energy jobs being produced, a decrease in energy use, and an increase in on and off-road trails which all improves the quality of life of San Jose residents including San Jose Youth.

For these reasons, we maintain that this City deserved the Bloomberg award and we profoundly support further funding and implementation of environmentally friendly policies.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

*San Jose Youth Commission*