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From: Tamiko Rast []

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 2:21 PM

To: Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Nguyen, Mindy <Mindy.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Tran, David <david.tran@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Equity Fund

Dear Raul,

We are writing in support of the establishment and funding of an Equity Fund in San Jose. In our own neighborhood, within clear view of San Jose's City Hall, we continue to struggle with having basic safety needs met.

Over the course of a decade, we have filed complaints, filled out surveys, written directly to representatives, and met with City staff about multiple pain points in Japantown on topics ranging from pedestrian safety to traffic mitigation.

In the heart of Japantown, on North 5th and Jackson Streets, are "bulb-outs" on each corner that were so poorly designed that cars drive up onto them on a daily basis, flattening tires, damaging rims, bottoming cars, and causing pedestrians to jump backwards in fright. We were told, years ago, that its design engineering was flawed, but there was no funding to fix it. Now, despite the fact that tens of thousands of people cross these very corners on a yearly basis, the curbs are crumbling and causing a major safety hazard.

To access the Japantown/Ayer VTA light rail station, one must walk down Jackson Street along its stamped concrete street crossings, filled with uneven asphalt patches — and then must avoid the notorious 2nd/Jackson Street corner, where drivers frequently confuse the 2-way stop for a 4-way stop.

Or one may cross from the Buddhist Church parking lot on 5th Street to the temple, along a pathway that hasn't improved in lighting or visibility since a senior Church board member was hit and seriously injured several years ago.

But funding was finally allocated on North 6th and Taylor Streets, where multiple fatalities occurred before a traffic study was conducted.

We have made our own improvements along this main corridor with our own labor and little to no funding. Our neighborhood has not seen any return of funding from our parking meters in 30 years, and only a year ago were given the opportunity to start applying for a portion of those funds. Our district, comprised of small businesses, does not have paid staffers to help us apply for grants or stay in front of a City audience. Yet we continue to thrive because of personal

commitments of time and energy to our multigenerational, small business, historic retail district, and are receiving national recognition for our friendliness...it makes one wonder how much better things could be with just a little bit of help.

With numerous senior housing complexes, two preschools, multiple churches, and thousands of apartment units within our small neighborhood, we have a distinct need to keep our community safe. The fact that we continue to ask about the same issues, year after year, and are consistently told that funding doesn't exist, speaks to a greater problem of equity and distribution of funding within our City.

Best regards,
Tamiko Rast
Roy's Station, Rasteroids Design
Japantown

TO: HON. MAYOR SAM LICCARDO

FROM: ERNESTO BEJARANO

ALUM ROCK UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUBJECT: EQUITY FUND

CC: HON. RAUL PERALEZ, HON. MAYA ESPARZA, HON. SERGIO JIMENEZ, HON. SYLVIA ARENAS, HON. CHARLES JONES, HON. LAN DIEP, HON.DEVORA DAVIS, HON. PAM FOLEY, HON. JOHNNY KHAMIS, HON. MAGDALENA CARRASCO

Mayor Liccardo,

As an individual with a lifelong commitment to East San Jose both professionally and personally, I would like to first thank you for your support during the past year in ensuring that working families in the Alum Rock School District get the leadership and governance that they deserve.

From the thoughtful comments that you provided in written form at several ARUSD Board Meetings, as well as your words at the student walkout, I am sure that you are very aware of the challenges that face students and families on the East Side. These realities are no secret to anyone who knows San Jose.

Too often, the multitude of socioeconomic challenges confronting East San Jose families are insurmountable, which perpetuates stagnant growth, development, and economic success in our community. However, it is very clear that, given just a sliver of opportunity, East Siders can thrive and be great assets to our city.

From an education perspective, our students have shown that all they need is an opportunity. Last year four of our ARUSD students were given an opportunity to be exposed to an education at your alma mater, Bellarmine College Preparatory. Those four boys have now been accepted into Bellarmine and will be attending next year. Additionally, no less than three girls from our district have been accepted to and/or are currently enrolled and thriving at Presentation High School and Notre Dame High School.

These students are a microcosm of what is possible if residents in East San Jose have the same resources and opportunities as those that are available to communities in more affluent parts of San Jose. The proposed Equity Fund would "level the playing field", such that all residents in our great city have the ability to succeed based on their merits, and are not condemned to fail based on their limited opportunities. In the long run, this strategy would be beneficial not only to residents in East San Jose and other "challenged" areas of our city, but indeed for the social, economic, and overall well-being of the entire city. Please consider adopting the recommendation for an Equity Fund on 6/11/19 as, "A rising tide lifts all boats."

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ernesto A. Bejarano, MSW