



September 6, 2019

San Jose City Council
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San José, CA 95113

RE: Vacancy on the San Jose Planning Commission

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers Jones, Carrasco, Esparza, Peralez, Foley, Jimenez, Diep, Davis, Arenas and Khamis:

The Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers Association writes in regards to the recent vacancy on the San Jose Planning Commission. We previously wrote in support of the recommendations proposed by Councilmembers Carrasco and Esparza to reform the City of San Jose's Planning Commission to increase diversity, inclusion, and community representation. We now urge that the Council take this opportunity to promote those ideals by filling this vacancy with an individual of a diverse background.

Consistent with the Councilmembers' recommendations, we support appointing a resident of East San Jose who understands the community's unique cultural and economic perspective, since East San Jose is currently not geographically represented on the Planning Commission. This is especially important considering the extensive development planned for the Alum Rock area. We would encourage the Council to consider a representative the residents of East San Jose can relate to, as one of their own, upon which a level of trust can be established.

We hope that in filling the vacancy, the Council will select a competent, diverse leader, who is culturally sensitive and willing to protect the interests of all communities in San Jose.

Sincerely,

Aaron Flemate, 2019 President on behalf of
Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers
Association

Micael Estremera, 2019 Vice President on
behalf of Santa Clara County La Raza
Lawyers Association

Enedina Cardenas, 2019 Secretary on behalf
of Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers
Association

Daniel Zazueta, 2019 Treasurer on behalf of
Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers
Association