



October 8, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

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The silicon valley organization

RE: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (Council Item 4.1) – SUPPORT

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the San José City Council,

On behalf of The Silicon Valley Organization (The SVO), I am writing in support of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, currently identified as the Public Works Contracting Program and recommendations proposed by the Small Business Advisory Task Force. By way of background, The SVO is the Silicon Valley’s premier business advocacy organization representing nearly 1,200 companies that employ over 300,000 local workers, and we represent our membership as the region’s largest Chamber of Commerce.

The DBE program would be a critical component of the City of San José’s commitment of supporting small and local businesses. Supporting local and small businesses is integral to the economic wellbeing of San José. To meet the needs of the community and the goals of increased participation within our small, local, and disadvantaged communities, a program requires flexibility and adaptability. The principles and recommendations developed meet those requirements in a manner that efficiently uses limited resources, is consistent with state and federal law, and minimizes the risk of legal challenges.

For these reasons, we urge the Council to adopt the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program workplan.

If you have any questions about The SVO’s position, please contact Eddie Truong, Director of Government & Community Relations, at (408) 291-5267.

Sincerely,



Matthew R. Mahood
President & CEO