

Behavioral Health Contractors' Association

of Santa Clara County
1401 Parkmoor Ave., Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95126

March 2, 2020
Mayor and City Council
City of San Jose

via e-mail

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I write on behalf of the Behavioral Health Contractors' Association (BHCA), a Santa Clara County-wide network of community-based, non-profit organizations providing essential mental health and substance use prevention, treatment, recovery, and supportive transitional housing services to children, adolescents and adults, under contract with Santa Clara County's Behavioral Health Services Department.

Our membership urges you to vote to approve the recommendation in Agenda item 3.3 which establishes a City Council Policy on Suicide Prevention, providing guidance and information related to City employees, City facilities, and city residents.

We are pleased to see it is aligned with the County's Strategic Plan. BHCA member agencies are available to serve as resources when the City moves forward with its goals of increasing knowledge of suicide risk factors and warning signs for suicide, promoting help-seeking among individuals considering suicide, and increasing awareness of sources to reduce stigma associated with seeking help while helping those in need.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical topic.

Sincerely,

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg
Executive Director

Member Agencies

Abode Services
Advent Group Ministries
Alum Rock Counseling Center
Asian American Community Involvement
Bill Wilson Center
Caminar
Catholic Charities
Children's Health Council
Community Solutions
Fred Finch Youth Center
Gardner Family Care Corporation
HealthRight 360
HealthTrust
Home First
Hope Services
Horizon Services
Indian Health Center
Kidango
LifeMoves
Mekong Community Center
Mental Health Advocacy Project
Momentum for Mental Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Parisi House on the Hill
PATH
Pathway Society
Peninsula Healthcare Connection
Rebekah Children's Services
Seneca Kinship Center
Ujima Adult & Family Services
Uplift Family Services

March 3, 2020

Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones
And Members of the City Council
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Subject: Coalition Letter in Support of Agenda Item 3.3. – Suicide Prevention Policy

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Members of the Council:

We are a coalition of elected officials, nonprofits, businesses, educators and community organizations that is in strong support of the suicide prevention policy city staff has developed, per Councilmember Raul Peralez's April 11, 2018 memo that the City Administration green lighted at the March 5, 2019 priority setting session.

We believe that the draft policy that staff has developed appropriately identifies the ways in which the City of San Jose is uniquely positioned to contribute to reducing stigma and saving lives to suicide. The policy identifies four priorities for the city's engagement in suicide prevention:

1. Advance awareness of suicide as a major issue in the city
2. Increase knowledge of suicide risk factors and warning signs for suicide
3. Promote help-seeking among individuals considering suicide
4. Increase awareness of sources to reduce stigma associated with seeking help while helping those in need

In order to promote suicide prevention strategies and resources, the policy proposes a four-part framework: current city employees and retirees; city facilities, including an annual review of all internal procedures in response to a suicide or suicide attempt with city facilities; constituent and resident networks; and, coordination with outside agencies, most notably Santa Clara County.

More people die by suicide each year than in car accidents and it is the third leading cause of death for teenagers in America. In San Jose between 2011 and 2016, 400 people died by suicide—more than the number of people killed by gun violence or in car accidents in the city and representing nearly 50 percent of all suicides in Santa Clara County.

The policy city staff has developed provides the right framework and scope to best leverage the city's resources and broad reach to the city's residents and businesses. When implemented, this policy will both reduce the dangerous stigma that surrounds suicide and save lives. We urge the Council to adopt item 3.3 on the agenda to implement a suicide prevention policy for the City of San Jose.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

State Senator Jim Beall
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Assemblymember Evan Low
Academic Coffee
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Greater SF Bay Area
Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC)
Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center
Crema Coffee Roasting Company
Kaiser Permanente
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Lucille Packard Children's Hospital Stanford
NAMI Santa Clara County
North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association
Santa Clara County Democratic Party
Shasta-Hanchett Neighborhood Association
Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club
Silicon Valley Bank
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Silicon Valley Organization
Silicon Valley Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
Silicon Valley Young Democrats

Proposed City Council Policy 0-45, "Suicide Prevention Policy"

Chavez, Cindy

Tue 3/3/2020 12:55 PM

To:

- The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo;
- District1;
- District2;
- District3;
- District4;
- District5;
- district <6@sanjoseca.gov>;
- District7;
- District8;
- District9;
- District 10

Cc:

- Agendadesk

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[External Email]

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Members of the Council:

I am writing to you in support of the proposed City Council Policy 0-45, entitled "Suicide Prevention Policy". As you know, more people die by suicide each year than in car accidents and it is the third leading cause of death for teenagers in America. Collaboration between the City and the Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Program will both reduce the dangerous stigma that surrounds suicide and save lives. I urge you to adopt this policy. Thank you for your consideration.

Be Well,
Cindy Chavez

Cindy Chavez
County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, District Two
70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110