

May 11, 2020

Mayor and City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San José, CA. 95113

RE: May 12, 2020 City Council Agenda Item 8.4 - Actions Related to Temporary Sheltering Operations and Services for COVID-19 Emergency Response

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

During this incredibly challenging time, you have been tasked with making difficult choices and decisions rather quickly. Much of what has been decided has had little community input, as changes were evolving and needed to be made in real time. This certainly may work in the short term but can have catastrophic effects going forward into the future.

This is all in reference to the Happy Hollow Parking lot. While this may have been adequate in the short term, this simply is not sustainable going forward. Here are the concerns:

- (1) Yerba Buena High School is nearby and we do not want to place any of our children close to people who are affected with the virus.
- (2) When the County signals that it is time for Happy Hollow to open, we need to be ready to do so. Moving trailers will take time and delay the start date.
- (3) When Happy Hollow is not open, it is up to the city to pay for the upkeep of the park and the animals.
- (4) Normally, Happy Hollow is the #2 tourist attraction in our city and pays for its operational costs with attendance and parking fees.
- (5) The Parks and Recreation Commission and the surrounding residents have not been given pertinent information about the trailers, parking lot or the site.
- (6) Parking is an ongoing challenge at the park and taking a lot offline will ultimately affect attendance and therefore revenue.
- (7) The Happy Hollow Park and Zoo foundation oppose the ongoing use of this lot for the trailers.

When life returns to the "new normal" this gem of a park and zoo will be a place of healing and happiness. Happy Hollow Parking lots are not an appropriate place for any long-term solutions to the homelessness issue due to risks to children and families who visit or live near the park. It's time to make a concrete plan going forward that will trigger removal of the trailers, so that Happy Hollow can open when the County deems it safe.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daphna Woolfe, Chair  
George Adas, Vice-Chair  
Lawrence Ames, Commissioner  
Trami Cron, Commissioner  
Rudy Flores, Commissioner  
Andre Morrow, Commissioner  
Kelly Snider, Commissioner  
Parks and Recreation Commission

CC: Avi Yotam, Acting Deputy Director, PRNS  
Toni Taber, City Clerk, Office of the City Clerk