

WORKING PARTNERSHIPS USA

June 22, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Working Partnerships USA

RE: Support for Item 7.1 Rules 6/24, Improvements to the Public Engagement Process

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

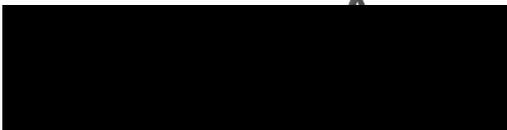
Working Partnerships USA would like to express its support for Councilmember Raul Peralez's proposal to improve public engagement in virtual meetings of the San Jose City Council and its Committees.

During these trying times, we have been inspired and persuaded by so many who are speaking up on critical community issues in the hopes of creating change. In recent months, community members have shown laudable adaptability as they participate in a brand-new format for virtual meetings with elected officials. Nonetheless, many members of the public are still challenged in gaining access to virtual meetings. Improvements are urgently needed to ensure the voices of all residents are heard. Councilmember Jimenez's common-sense proposals will maximize the ease of the virtual public comment process.

Furthermore, Working Partnerships USA urges city leaders to consider additional adjustments to current procedures so that all members of the community who wish to speak at public meetings receive the opportunity to do so. Doing so will only strengthen our local democracy.

We strongly urge your support of this measure.

Sincerely,



Derecka Mehrens
Executive Director

From: Jesse Ortega [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:47 PM
To: City Clerk <████████████████████>
Subject: Agenda Item #7

[External Email]

Dear San Jose Rules Committee:

Please support the memo from Councilmember Peralez. I want my voice heard at City Hall and these improvements will make it easier to participate in the public process.

Thank you for your support in advance,

Jesse Ortega

From: Ryan Jones [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:56 AM
To: City Clerk <████████████████████>
Subject: Agenda Item #7

[External Email]

Dear San Jose Rules Committee:

Please support the memo from Councilmember Peralez. Opinions of all willing constituents should be heard at City Hall and these improvements will make it easier to participate in the public process.

Thanks for your support.
Ryan Jones

From: David Roth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:23 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: agenda item 7

[External Email]

Dear San Jose Rules Committee:

Please support the memo from Councilmember Peralez. I want my voice heard at City Hall and these improvements will make it easier to participate in the public process.
Thanks for your support.

David Roth, San Jose born, San Jose resident

From: Douglas Cajias <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:27 AM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Agenda Item # 7



[External Email]

Dear San Jose Rules Committee:

Please support the memo from Councilmember Peralez. I want my voice heard at City Hall and these improvements will make it easier to participate in the public process.

Thanks for your support.



**PLUMBERS, STEAMFITTERS, PIPEFITTERS
&
HVAC/R SERVICE TECHNICIANS
UA LOCAL UNION 393**

Steve Flores
Business Manager

Eric Mussynski
Assistant Business Manager

June 23, 2020

Re: Support for Peralez Memo (Item #7)

Dear San Jose Rules Committee:

On behalf of the 3,000 members of UA Local Union 393, I am writing to ask for your support for recommendations in the Councilmember Raul Peralez memo. The shift to virtual meetings has been challenging for many people trying to engage in the public process. Some of our members have encountered obstacles when they have tried to speak during public comment at recent San Jose City Council meetings.

We know you want to hear from your constituents and appreciate efforts by the Administration to improve the virtual meeting experience.

Please act now to improve the public engagement process in San Jose.

Sincerely,



Steve Flores
Business Manager

SF:mg/opeiu29/afl-cio



June 24, 2020

Dear San Jose Rules Committee:

Thank you for your leadership during unprecedented economic and health pandemics. We know that you share the goal of ensuring our communities can participate effectively at City of San José's public meetings. We support the recommendations proposed by Councilman Peralez and agree with his efforts to improve the virtual meeting experience. During a time when so many desire to engage in the democratic process and advocate for public policy, we must reduce barriers to participation. Please approve the recommendations in the memo and ensure these changes are enacted by August 2020.

Sincerely,

Alexa Kaskowitz

Angelica Ramos-Allen
President, National Women's Political Caucus
Silicon Valley Chapter

Aurora Solis

Carla Collins
San Jose Unified School District Trustee

Jean-Marie White

Jean Cohen
Senior Fellow, American Leadership Forum

Jessica Blitchok

Kathryn Hedges
Member, PACT and Catalyze SV

Kathy Cordova
Executive Director, Recovery Café San Jose

Marci Gerston
PACT

Mary Helen Doherty
District 3 Resident

Mary Idso

Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee

Sarju Naran

Thomas Ryan Sebastian

Victor Aught III
Urban Sanctuary

Walter Hudson
Urban Sanctuary San Jose/ PACT

Wendy Ho

Liz Gonzalez

**Titles listed for identification purposes only*