

# 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,

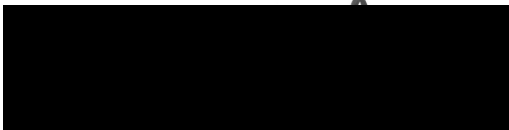
Working Partnerships USA would like to express its support for Councilmember Raul Perez's proposal to improve public engagement in virtual meetings of the San Jose City Council and its Committees.

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 Perez. 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 Perez 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 Perez 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*

blair beekman. sj city council. August 11, 2020. Item 3.4

BB

b. beekman <[REDACTED]>

Reply all

Mon 8/10/2020 7:43 PM

To:

Agendadesk

[External Email]

Dear community of San Jose, and city govt,

I have heard, you have figured out, the problems & issues with Zoom.

And that a Vietnamese language label, will start to soon be displayed, on the Zoom app, when looking for Vietnamese translation, with sj city govt. sponsored, virtual meetings.

With Zoom, probably feeling, a certain competition, from a new Google virtual meeting space, on its Gmail.

This seems, it can develop, a good logic and motivation, for Zoom, to work on this issue.

But to respect, the good efforts, in learning how to solve, these previous issues, may be an example, of how we can all get stuck, in ideas, plans, formulas, and structures, from the past.

And that seems, we can never get out of.

But with good intentions, and practical reasoning, we can work to solve problems, with the structural models & ideas, of our past, that can obviously be, uncomfortable and illogical, to work with.

A good luck, in listening for, what can be, good practical logic and reasoning.

And a good luck, in all of our future efforts, to learn how we can break out of, and create good examples, of obviously badly reasoned, societal ideas & structures.

And a thank you, we soon may be able to say, again, ' English, Spanish, and Vietnamese language interpretation, is available ', at the same time, in the future, of most all, sj govt. community meeting sponsored events.



And that it can be safe, at the same time, to give mention, to the many other languages, spoken in San Jose, as well.

This is learning to invite, a more natural, practical thinking. And a more, individual, yet participatory style, of community democracy.

Good luck, in what this can develop, for the future of San Jose.

sincerely,  
blair beekman