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COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

July 28, 2020

Members of the San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing in support of a memo by Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, as agendized on July 28 council meeting, in response to Mayor Sam Liccardo's revised Strong Mayor Proposal. I also want to reiterate my support for the memo introduced by Councilmembers Magdalena Carrasco and Maya Esparza, as stated in a letter submitted on June 29.

While it is encouraging that community opposition has slowed down the drive to impose a strong mayor system on our city, we still need to ensure that the people of San Jose have the ability to participate in any discussion related to fundamental structure changes of our city government.

I believe the proposed solutions in two memos, one by Councilmembers Carrasco and Esparza, and one by Councilmember Arenas, provide the necessary transparency and accountability we need. Additionally, I believe moving the mayoral and council elections to presidential election years will increase turnout and promote voting in underserved and underrepresented communities. I also strongly support a transparent process as outlined in Councilmember Arenas' memo to create a review commission that would submit findings and recommendations based on robust public process and independent research.

I urge your support of these two memos when they comes up for a vote. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kansen Chu', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

KANSEN CHU
Assemblymember, 25th District