



COUNCIL AGENDA: 04/27/2021
FILE: 21-903
ITEM: 3.8

Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas
District 8

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 26, 2021

Approved

Date

Sylvia Arenas

4/26/21

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES ALLOCATED
BY THE SAN JOSÉ CITY COUNCIL TO THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Adopt the Recommendations in Staff Supplemental Memo dated 4/23/21.
- 2) Direct the City Manager and City Clerk to report back to Council during the budget process regarding the resources that would be needed for any special commissions in the upcoming fiscal year, as part of the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Process.
 - a. Include the resources identified in staff's Supplemental Memo.
 - b. Consult with the Charter Review Commission to document and incorporate their feedback into the budget proposal.
- 3) Immediately begin the process for securing outside legal counsel and take any necessary RFP or RFQ procedural steps to avoid further delay.

BACKGROUND

San Jose's City Charter Review Commission has been given the most serious task the Council can assign any group of community representatives: study and propose changes to the very structure of our local municipal democracy. This task proved to be a contentious issue for the Council to come to a consensus.

As a result, the Council passed this work to the commission, after months of contentious and robust Council discussions. In passing this work to the Commission, we hoped that a sustained and detailed study in a more contemplative and less political environment would produce final recommendations that were thoughtful, well researched, and would provide a basis for a ballot measure that can guide our city government structure for decades into the future. A proposed

change to our city government structure cannot be made without transparency and a thorough and thoughtful community engagement process, where all residents, regardless of English language proficiency, can participate and provide feedback.

The Commission is requesting resources for community engagement, communications, and translation and interpretation. Community engagement – across cultural and language barriers – is crucial for something that can only move forward with not just the support of Council, but the support of San Jose voters. Waiting until proposed changes go to the ballot for extensive community engagement would be too late for this entire effort to be inclusive. The history of major California cities is filled with the ashes of failed changes to municipal structures that didn't have wide community consensus.

If we're hoping that this Commission will be able to provide a product to council that we can use to build the future of our city, we need to provide them the resources they need to do the detailed analysis as well as proper community engagement.