

**MINUTES OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

Consistent with the California Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, Resolution No. 79450 from the City of San José and the Santa Clara County Health Officer's March 16, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the City Council meeting was not physically open to the public. Public comments were accepted via eComment, email, by phone/Webinar or online.

The Committee meeting was teleconferenced from remote locations and convened at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, Chair; Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, Vice Chair; Councilmember Maya Esparza, Councilmember David Cohen (1:33 p.m.), Members.

ABSENT: Jimenez. (Excused)

STAFF: Deputy City Manager, Angel Rios, Jr.; Senior Deputy City Attorney Karin Murabito; Paul Pereira, Mayor's Executive Officer; City Clerk Toni Taber, and Deputy City Clerk Ruth Krantz.

(B) REVIEW OF WORK PLAN

1. Public Life Annual Report. (City Manager's Office/Office of Cultural Affairs/Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the Public Life Annual Report was deferred to the May 20, 2021 Neighborhood Services and Education Committee meeting. (3-0-2. Absent: Cohen, Jimenez.)

2. Education & Digital Literacy Strategy Annual Report. (Library)

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco and carried unanimously, the Education & Digital Literacy Strategy Annual Report was dropped per the April 7, 2021 meeting of the Rules and Open Government Committee, with an informational memo to be provided by staff. (3-0-2. Absent: Cohen, Jimenez.)

(C) CONSENT CALENDAR

None provided.

(D) REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

**1. Office of Immigrant Affairs Activities and Welcoming San Jose Plan 2021-2024 Report.
(City Manager's Office - Office of Racial Equity)**

Zulma Maciel, Director, Office of Racial Equity offered the presentation.

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas noted that a member of the committee has asked for deferral of this item. Senior Deputy City Attorney Karin Murabito advised that public comment be heard, and committee members may then vote on whether to defer further discussion and action to the May meeting of the NSE. The floor was opened for public comment.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto extended gratitude for the Office of Immigrant Affairs and Office of Racial Equity. He offered historical context, noting the Mexican population is indigenous to the United States and the suffering endured. (2) Blair Beekman spoke on offering wider community availability and better translation and integration processes. (3) Brian Darby acknowledged the disenfranchisement of indigenous people and other cultural inequities.

Senior Deputy City Attorney Karin Murabito noted that the current agenda notes a cross-reference of this item to the April 20 Council meeting, but if the will of the committee is to cross-reference to a later Council Meeting this should be included in the motion. Discussion followed with the consensus to bring this item back to the Committee for the May 2021 NSE meeting and cross-reference to Council for a later date.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the report of the Office of Immigrant Affairs and Welcoming San José Plan 2.0, 2021-2024 was deferred to the May 2021 meeting of the NSE with a cross-reference to a future City Council Meeting. (4-0-1. Absent: Jimenez.)

2. Food Insecurity Among Youth, Families, and Seniors Report. (EOC Food Branch)

Jill Mariani, Deputy Director Food and Necessities Branch of the EOC, provided a presentation.

Public Comments: (1) Paul Soto shared historical atrocities and personal reflections. (2) Blair Beekman spoke to the next stage of our lives with COVID.

Jill Mariani and Deputy City Manager, Angel Rios, Jr. responded to questions from the Committee regarding food insecurity and leveraging food funding, interagency assistance and staffing for food distribution. Councilmember Sylvia Arenas asked for some slides that are San José specific, identifying where we need to focus for the upcoming summer months.

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2. Food Insecurity (Cont'd.)

Action: The verbal report regarding hunger in San José and an overview of City programs and partnerships addressing food insecurity among youth, families, and seniors was accepted. (4-0-1. Absent: Jimenez.)

3. Youth Programming, Scholarships and Fee Activity Funding Report. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Interim Deputy Director, Andrea Flores Shelton, and Interim Division Manager, Hal Spandenberg provided the report.

Public Comments: Blair Beekman spoke to Fremont school system practices and COVID-19 variants.

Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco left at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Staff and Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, John Cicirelli responded to questions.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember David Cohen and carried unanimously, the report on Youth Programming, Scholarships and Fee Activity Funding was accepted. (3-0-2. Absent: Carrasco, Jimenez.)

4. City Council Policy Priority #18: Smoke Free Housing Status Report. (Planning, Building and Code Enforcement)

Deputy Director, PBCE, Rachel Roberts and Division Manager, PBCE, Rita Tibaldo provided a presentation.

Public Comments: Paul Soto spoke to the historical context of tobacco as a product of slave labor. Carol Baker read a letter from the Tobacco-Free Coalition of Santa Clara County; Vanessa Marvin, also representing the Coalition, indicated that residents of condo's and duplexes would not be protected. Margo Sidener, CEO of Breathe California and Sheila Phan, further indicated the lack of protection and flaws with the ordinance as written, and Thao Vu with Breathe California spoke to protection for those experiencing second-hand smoke. Caller '5140' asked that the City focus on other things and criticized issues of enforceability. Sean Kali-rai spoke to consumption of cannabis and needs for medical purposes.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember David Cohen, and carried unanimously, the status report on City Council Policy Priority #18: Smoke-free Housing. was accepted. (3-0-2. Absent: Carrasco, Jimenez.)

5. Timelines for Identifying Improvements to Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together Grant Program Oversight and Accountability, and the Community Crisis Response Protocol. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Jon Cicirelli summarized the report provided, indicating his department expects to report back to this committee at its September or October meeting regarding any changes to be made in the protocol, processes and recommendations.

Public Comments: (1) Caller '5140' asked to fix bathrooms in parks. (2) Susie Rivera (Youth Voice Initiatives and Fresh Lifeline for Youth) noted support in general for the memo, but suggested a reformulation in the strategic direction. (3) Celina Chun, Alum Rock Counseling Center, echoed comments from Ms. Rivera and asked that entire CEO community be brought to the table. (4) Paul Soto spoke to needs of impacted youth. (5) Toni Welch-Torres, Uplift Family Services & BEST providers, indicated noted importance of evaluation process and need to work directly with families. (6) Blair Beekman suggested open public policies and joining forces with ACLU and Council on American–Islamic Relations (CAIR).

Councilmember Maya Esparza moved approval of staffs' recommendations, asking to realign this with budget and audit processes, with direction to staff to examine how we can fill that gap as we move beyond COVID. She recommended an MBA be provided that can provide oversight, accountability and coordination to effectively utilize resources both internally and externally. She additionally requested that an update be provided to the NSE Committee in August with particular emphasis on coordination with schools.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember David Cohen and carried unanimously, the staff's report regarding the timelines for identifying improvements to Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together Grant Program oversight and accountability and the Community Crisis Response Protocol, as directed by the Neighborhood Services and Education committee on March 11, 2021 was accepted, with this to be returned to the budget process with direction to staff to return with an MBA as indicated in her motion and a report back to the NSE Committee in August 2021. (3-0-2. Absent: Carrasco, Jimenez.)

OPEN FORUM

1. Blair Beekman spoke to the good works of the Council on American–Islamic Relations (CAIR), a Muslim civil rights and advocacy group.
2. Paul Soto addressed censorship and the decapitations of Native American populations.
3. Caller "5140" addressed unsanitary conditions in park restrooms and aggressive tactics by park police.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

draft

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas
Neighborhood Services and Education Committee

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