

May 3, 2021

David Sykes  
City Manager, City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

Dear Mr. Sykes,

As leaders of community-based organizations committed to advancing racial justice in Silicon Valley--and members of the Race Equity Action Leadership coalition--we stand in solidarity with the April 27, 2021, memorandum from the Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet and NAACP of SJ/SV announcing the exit of members from the Reimagining Community Safety Advisory Group.

We share the concerns articulated in the memo, including the sincere frustration at the inefficient and ineffective process, harmful facilitation, and lack of clarity in the focus of the body from the onset. Those of us serving on the Advisory Group will also halt our participation in the current formation of the process.

We endorse the proposal of reengaging in a community-led process that centers the voices of community members directly impacted by the criminal justice system, with clear goals and a shared analysis of the problems we are collectively trying to solve. We look forward to partnering in good faith with the City to develop a more effective structure that moves this critical work forward.

Sincerely,

Poncho Guevara, Sacred Heart Community Service  
Darcie Green, Community Health Advocate  
Sparky Harlan, Bill Wilson Center  
Maritza Maldonado, Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment  
Mimi Nguyen, Vietnamese American Roundtable  
Teresa Alvarado, Morado Consulting  
Shiloh Andrade Ballard, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
Gloria Baxter, LCSW, Lighthouse of Hope  
Rhonda Berry, Our City Forest  
Zahra Billoo, CAIR San Francisco Bay Area  
Bob Brownstein, Working Partnerships USA  
Heather Cleary, Peninsula Family Service  
Veronica Goei, Grail Family Services  
Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez, MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana  
Kyra Kazantzis, Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN)  
Richard Konda, Asian Law Alliance  
Camille Llanes-Fontanilla, SOMOS Mayfair  
Erin O'Brien, Community Solutions  
Mayra Pelagio, Latinos United for a New America  
MyLinh Pham, Asian American Center of Santa Clara County  
Susie Rivera, Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)  
Carlos Rosario, Santa Clara County Black Lawyers  
Josh Selo, West Valley Community Services  
Pete Settlemayer, City Year San José  
Shelley Swan, Carry the Vision  
Eva Terrazas, Uplift Family Services  
Wisa Uemura, San Jose Taiko  
Quyen Vuong, International Children Assistance Network (ICAN)