



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE **FROM:** Councilmember Raul Peralez

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: May 27, 2021

Approved:

Date: 05/27/21

SUBJECT: Resolution Remembering the victims of the Valley Transportation Authority Rail Yard Mass Shooting on May 26, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Direct City Staff to bring forth a resolution for the City Council's approval remembering the victims of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Rail Yard mass shooting that occurred on May 26, 2021.

BACKGROUND

On May 26, 2021 at 6:30am, an armed VTA employee opened fire during a morning meeting at the VTA and took the lives of nine other VTA employees before ending his own life. This senseless and cowardice act of violence cut short the lives of nine public servants who worked to improve the quality of life in our community, they were:

- Abdolvahab Alaghmandan, 63
- Adrian Balleza, 29
- Jose Dejesus Hernandez III, 35
- Alex Ward Fritch, 49
- Lars Kepler Lane, 63
- Paul Delacruz Megia, 42
- Taptejdeep Singh, 36
- Timothy Michael Romo, 49
- Michael Joseph Rudometkin, 40

While the world may remember how they left, we should instead celebrate the lives that they led. They were fathers, brothers, family members and close friends who answered the calling of public service and worked to ensure that our valley kept moving. I ask that we never forget them and memorialize them starting with a council resolution that we know will exist in perpetuity. A statement from the City of San Jose that they shall never be forgotten can begin to help bring solace to their grieving families during this time of anguish.