

Fw: Agenda item 8.1 - Aug. 31, 2021 City Council meeting - letter in support

City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Fri 8/27/2021 3:27 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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From: Marci Gerston <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 2:56 PM

To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Ray Montgomery <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Agenda item 8.1 - Aug. 31, 2021 City Council meeting - letter in support

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

August 27, 2021

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

PACT's Housing Team supports the funding allocation proposed for the \$3 million Community Benefit payment recently made by Google in connection with the Downtown West project and urges the San José City Council to approve the proposed allocation on August 31, 2021.

We endorse the proposed allocation of funds as it addresses some urgent housing needs of our community, including the preservation of affordable housing and dissemination of resources to tenants who are in immediate danger of being pushed out of their homes. In addition to supporting immediate anti-displacement efforts, this allocation supports the long-term goal of community stabilization with funds being used to strengthen the capacity of tenant organizing groups and community land trusts, which have never been more essential. We also appreciate the City identifying alternative funding sources to provide legal services for tenants facing eviction.

We applaud the City Council collaboration around this fund and urge councilmembers to approve the recommended allocation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marci Gerston for the
PACT Housing Team

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Fw: Agenda number 8.1

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 8/30/2021 10:29 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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From: Niousha Farhangi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:59 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda number 8.1

You don't often get email from niousha.farhangi@thefightfor15.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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 Copy of Support Letter: Google...

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Housing | Health | Children & Youth

August 30, 2021

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Agenda Item 8.1: Allocation of Community Benefit Payment from Google

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

The Law Foundation of Silicon Valley write to urge San José City Council to approve the staff recommended funding allocation from the Community Benefit payment on August 31, 2021. These funds would be essential for the protection of working families and people of color in San José, especially those hit by economic impacts of COVID-19. We support this proposal as it aligns with the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy, and the Partnership for the Bay Area's Future that the City participates in.

We've seen and heard firsthand from our clients about the impacts of COVID-19, and the fear of displacement. We've seen a 30% increase in calls since the pandemic began. Many tenants are confused about the moratorium and rent relief options. By designating a significant amount of these early funds toward tenant and landlord outreach around available rent relief, the city could promote the equitable dissemination of resources to these families.

Additionally, we support the proposed allocations for capacity-building grants, a preservation pilot program, and community land trust predevelopment work. In addition to aligning with the Diridon Affordable Housing Implementation Plan as the staff report points out, these funds will also support the City's ongoing work to implement its Citywide Anti-Displacement Strategy. Properly targeted, these funds will strengthen the capacity for the City and its partners to achieve long-term community stabilization goals. Therefore, we believe these funds should be tailored to support the existing work of community organizations who are developing such strategies, such as the South Bay Community Land Trust and SOMOS Mayfair. Strategies to invest in building capacity for organizing and community land trusts has never been more essential to support the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing.

The Community Benefits with the Downtown West project provides a powerful opportunity to shape the future landscape of San José and the wellbeing of valued communities that reside here. We applaud the City Council collaboration and urge you approve the recommended allocation. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Nadia Aziz
Directing Attorney

FIGHT FOR \$15

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

August 27, 2021

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

Fight for \$15 is writing to urge San José City Council to approve the staff recommended funding allocation from the Community Benefit payment on August 31, 2021. These funds would be essential for the protection of working families and people of color in San José, especially those hit by economic impacts of COVID-19.

We endorse the proposed allocation of funds, as they address the urgency of community stabilization and affordable housing preservation. With the uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, working people have added challenges in attaining job security and affordable housing. Mounting stress of paying increasingly back rent and keeping up with our city's already high rents has left some working families in debt and in danger of being pushed out of their communities. By designating a significant amount of these early funds toward tenant and landlord outreach around available rent relief, the city could promote the equitable dissemination of resources to these families.

In addition to supporting immediate anti-displacement efforts, these funds strengthen the capacity for supporting long-term community stabilization goals. Strategies to invest in building the capacity of tenant organizing and community land trusts to support the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing has never been more essential.

The Community Benefits with the Downtown West project provides a powerful opportunity to shape the future landscape of San José and the wellbeing of valued communities that reside here. We applaud the City Council collaboration around this fund and urge councilmembers to approve the recommended allocation. Thank you.

Sincerely, Maria Maldonado