



# Memorandum

**TO:** Honorable Mayor &  
City Council

**FROM:** Toni J. Taber, MMC  
City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** The Public Record  
January 15, 2026 – January 22, 2026

**DATE:** January 28, 2026

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## **ITEMS FILED FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD**

### **Letters from Boards, Commissions, and Committees**

#### **Letters from the Public**

1. Letter from Blair Beekman, dated January 15, 2026, regarding: sj.Blair Beekman. Thursday, January 15, 2026.....Future Govt/Philanthropic/NGO Funding. BestPractices. The open public process.
2. Letter from Andy Yang, dated January 17, 2026, regarding: Asking the City of San Jose to consider 2nd Amendment Sanctuary merits.
- 3-6. Four letters from the public, dated January 20-21, 2026, regarding: My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design.
7. Over 30 letters of substantially the same language were received on January 20, 2026, regarding: Symbols of Identity and Belonging at San Jose City Hall. One example is enclosed. You may contact the City Clerk's Office to view all letters received.

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Toni J. Taber, MMC  
City Clerk



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sj.Blair Beekman. Thursday, January 15, 2026.....Future Govt/Philanthropic/NGO Funding. Best Practices. The open public process.

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From b. beekman [REDACTED]

Date Thu 1/15/2026 2:30 PM

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Dear BAUASI, Approval Authority, SF Bay Area local govts & communities,

I moved to San Diego, from my childhood home, of the SF Bay Area, in 2022. I divide my time, with community advocacy work, in both San Diego, and in the SF Bay Area. From this, to note, SANDAG, in San Diego County, currently develops & facilitates, many of the same types, of local & regional transportation projects as the MTC, in the San Francisco Bay Area.

At the most recent, SANDAG BoD public meeting, this past Friday, January 9, the SANDAG CEO, Mario Orso, offered a very interesting concept, that they are looking for future endowments, from large, local philanthropies, to help fund, their future SANDAG projects & programs. This may be much the same, as what BAUASI, is currently considering, in how to better develop, new funding streams, with local non profits & NGO's. SANDAG should be developing, these new philanthropic funding ideas & questions, with their usual, regular good practices, of their very open & accessible, SANDAG public meeting process.

I worry, BAUASIs own creative ideas, in future funding patterns, may be much inhibited or limited, overall, at this time. As BAUASI may have issues, of intentionally or unintentionally restricting, the ideas of future public participation, in the BAUASI administration process. SANDAGs take, on the future of funding issues, reminded myself, of regular good practices, good flexibility & choices. I hope BAUASI

& Approval Authority, can feel the same. And that BAUASI & Bay Area community, does not have to lock ourselves out, intentionally or unintentionally, in how to more clearly address good ideas, that the open public process can provide - in the future questions, of govt, philanthropic, & ngo funding relationships.

New govt. funding opportunities & patterns, should always be considering, good forms of public oversight, public input, and public auditing. And to more openly consider, the people or agencies, to be involved - how much money will be involved - and for what projects. Open democracy & public oversight, simply can be, a straightforward, clear & understandable process, within government accounting & auditing practices.

I feel open participatory democracy & public oversight, in a post 9/11 world, can simply offer, our better human reasoning. And in how to better consider & work towards, more genuine concepts, of peace & positive sustainability, with less harm toward others - in the future of government/community decision making. It would also be sad to think, that with all the additional help, thoughts, ideas, and good advice, the public process can offer BAUASI, at this time - if BAUASI cannot see, at this time, in how much the BAUASI public process, can help with, more clear better decision making, overall.

In this difficult time, of local & national security issues, I am hoping, there can continue to be, much open dialogue, good coordination, and positive conversations, with many local Bay Area communities, in the coming months, on this type of subject matter, subjects of openness. It is also my hope, there can be much positive conversation, with the many visiting dignitaries, and many fans & friends, of Super Bowl 60, and of the upcoming world cup soccer games, in the Bay Area, this summer, as well.

As SANDAG, in San Diego, is beginning to define, their new philanthropic funding plans & ideas, I feel it is very clear, they will be doing this, in their usual, regular good practices, as an open, accountable, public process.

SANDAGs, recent ideas, and its public process, can make for good reference points, at this time - for BAUASI, and for the SF Bay Area community, in how to better develop, our Bay Area future. And as I have been trying to write, for months now - BAUASI, should be looking to other cities, for good examples, in how the practices of open democracy, should simply have, an important role, in helping to define, the future choices & direction, of the community/govt process.

sincerely,  
blair beekman



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**Fw: Asking the City of San Jose to consider 2nd Amendment Sanctuary merits**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Date** Tue 1/20/2026 8:35 AM

**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** Andy Yang [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, January 17, 2026 10:05 AM

**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Asking the City of San Jose to consider 2nd Amendment Sanctuary merits

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Hello everyone,

my name is Andy Yang 楊安迪, I am simply a 24 year old ethnic Chinese citizen living in Sunnyvale who goes to San Jose multiple times weekly.

I read recently that the San Jose City Council has passed a unanimous resolution banning all Immigrations Customs Enforcement (ICE) entities and personnel from using any city property for their operations. Might I commend Peter Ortiz for his public statement and actions that righteously serve the will of the people of San Jose, I was cheered up reading the post recent from the instagram account @peterortizd5

My inquiry is simple: I ask the City Council and all relevant power in the San Jose government to strongly consider making San Jose a "2nd Amendment Sanctuary" by at very least, allowing anyone who lawfully possesses armaments in their homes (regardless of type or form factor) to open carry or concealed carry without additional permits or licensing.

My reasoning begins with the idea that there is no way for a Black Panthers style community defense network to be practically formed against Federal intrusion, if we face "friendly fire" from our own local

police departments.

Law enforcement across all agencies in California are still legally under orders to enforce the 1967 Mulford Act signed by Ronald Reagan (R), which effectively bans all non government individuals from open carry (and the recent hotly debated court decision ruling the Mulford Act unconstitutional, still does not allow common citizens to legally open carry); and that severe restriction adds on top of the significant legal burdens imposed by the concealed carry permit processes across the state of California and local cities.

Martin Niemoller wrote "First they came" in 1946 to warn against each groups' inaction and betrayal of other oppressed groups leading to the eventual victory of an oppressor conquering everyone. I fight for abortion rights, women's rights, LGBTQ rights [et.al](#) despite being a cisgender straight Asian male, because I know if I do nothing to defend them, I am certainly going to become a target of their opponents in the foreseeable future.

Us pro 2A people who are jointly opposed to ICE and their unjust campaigns are tired of facing betrayal from groups such as 50501 California who continue to zealously summon legislation and government force (notorious example; via the recently enacted statewide AB 1127) to disarm their pro 2A allies, and we never forced others (e.g. gun control crowd) to own armements or shunned them for choosing to be unarmed and nonviolent.

I am aware of many people's fears and concerns against civilian (non government) individuals and groups wielding armaments, I often discuss these issues with my audience on my instagram page @alphayangkee to educate myself further.

We can civilly and intellectually agree and/or disagree with each other, and I am open to changing my mind contingent on effective claim -> evidence -> reasoning oriented discussion.

Even if the City Council disagrees or otherwise does not act or discuss further on the matter of repealing weapons restrictions within San Jose city limits, I still appreciate at least the intellectual and civic consideration (even a mere "thought experiment") for this viewpoint, especially factoring in how controversial and emotionally provoking this topic has been for decades in this country.

Thank you. 多謝

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**Fw: My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Date** Tue 1/20/2026 1:22 PM

**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** Hugo Gordon Bettencourt [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 1:19 PM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Rocha, Vincent <Vincent.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov>; Ferguson, Jerad <Jerad.Ferguson@sanjoseca.gov>; Flores, Michelle <michelle.flores@sanjoseca.gov>; Sandhir, Manira <Manira.Sandhir@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahamood, Reema <reema.mahamood@sanjoseca.gov>; Maurer, Laura <Laura.Maurer@sanjoseca.gov>; Lee, Jason <Jason.Lee@sanjoseca.gov>; Tapia, Leonel <Leonel.Tapia@sanjoseca.gov>; Moody, Doug <doug.moody@sanjoseca.gov>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design

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Dear Councilmember Candelas, Mayor Mahan, & Planning staff,

I support the creation of a more vibrant, sustainable, and affordable development at Pleasant Hills.

For over half a century, as San Jose has grown from its agricultural roots to a major metropolis, it has predominantly built single family homes in sprawling, car centric neighborhoods. This last century style of development is responsible for much of the region's housing crisis and transportation issues.

To be a successful city in the next century, San Jose can't continue this pattern. It needs to do something new.

Unfortunately, the current proposal for redeveloping Pleasant Hills repeats our past mistakes. It is a low-density proposal straight out of 1950. If the City approves this proposal as is, it would do little to address worsening traffic, rising carbon emissions, duller neighborhoods, a lack of affordable housing, and continuing displacement of our loved ones from this region.

You can change that.

You can go to the developer and say, "This design isn't what we need. Let's start again."

That's what I'm urging the City to do.

San Jose is way behind on building housing. I agree with Catalyze SV, Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice & Empowerment, Transform, San Jose YIMBY, and Greenbelt Alliance that the only way we're going to solve our housing crisis is if major sites like Pleasant Hills include a lot more housing. Pleasant Hills should include over 6,000 homes.

For context: Pleasant Hills is 113 acres. Downtown West by Google is 84 acres and proposed up to 5,900 homes. The Miro housing project across from San Jose City Hall is 28 stories at 444 units per acre.

If Pleasant Hills built one-quarter of Miro's density and heights — about 7-story buildings — we could get 6,000 homes using less than half of the 113 acres on housing.

That leaves a lot of land for amenities like neighborhood parks, shops, and plazas. And creating dense, mixed-use neighborhoods — when done right — can create less traffic than car-centric ones. I want a Pleasant Hills that is a walkable, green, mixed-use neighborhood with a lot more housing, especially affordable housing.

The Pleasant Hills Guiding Principles document contains community feedback that aligns with this perspective. And Catalyze SV has offered 6 alternative designs that better match the community and the City's goals.

Don't settle for a second-rate San Jose. For it to thrive in the future, it needs to transform now.

And for you and San Jose to be truly pro-housing, you need to support as many homes as possible on sites like this one.

Your voice will make a big difference on Pleasant Hills. Please use it.

Tell your colleagues in City Hall and the developer that the current proposal is a bad one, and it's time to overhaul it.

Sincerely,  
HGB





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**Fw: My thoughts on a better Pleasant Hills design**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Date** Tue 1/20/2026 4:21 PM

**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** Lisa Hettler-Smith [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 3:53 PM

**To:** Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Rocha, Vincent <Vincent.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov>; Ferguson, Jerad <Jerad.Ferguson@sanjoseca.gov>; Flores, Michelle <michelle.flores@sanjoseca.gov>; Sandhir, Manira <Manira.Sandhir@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahamood, Reema <reema.mahamood@sanjoseca.gov>; Maurer, Laura <Laura.Maurer@sanjoseca.gov>; Lee, Jason <Jason.Lee@sanjoseca.gov>; Tapia, Leonel <Leonel.Tapia@sanjoseca.gov>; Moody, Doug <doug.moody@sanjoseca.gov>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Fw: My thoughts on a better Pleasant Hills design

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Dear Councilmember Candelas, Mayor Mahan, & Planning staff,

I support the creation of a more vibrant, sustainable, and affordable development at Pleasant Hills. For over half a century, as San Jose has grown from its agricultural roots to a major metropolis, it has predominantly built single-family homes in sprawling, car-centric neighborhoods. This last-century style of development is responsible for much of the region's housing crisis and transportation issues. To be a successful city in the next century, San Jose can't continue this pattern. It needs to do something new. Unfortunately, the current proposal for redeveloping Pleasant Hills repeats our past mistakes. It is a low-density proposal straight out of 1950. If the City approves this proposal as is, it would do little to address worsening traffic, rising carbon emissions, duller neighborhoods, a lack of affordable housing, and continuing displacement of our loved ones from this region. You can change that. You can go to the developer and say, "This



design isn't what we need. Let's start again." That's what I'm urging the City to do. San Jose is way behind on building housing. I agree with Catalyze SV, Transform, San Jose YIMBY, Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice & Empowerment, and Greenbelt Alliance that the only way we're going to solve our housing crisis is if major sites like Pleasant Hills include a lot more housing. Pleasant Hills should include over 6,000 homes. For context: Pleasant Hills is 113 acres. Downtown West by Google is 84 acres and proposed up to 5,900 homes. The Miro housing project across from San Jose City Hall is 28 stories at 444 units per acre. If Pleasant Hills built one-quarter of Miro's density and heights — about 7-story buildings — we could get 6,000 homes using less than half of the 113 acres on housing. That leaves a lot of land for amenities like neighborhood parks, shops, and plazas. And creating dense, mixed-use neighborhoods — when done right — can create less traffic than car-centric ones. I want a Pleasant Hills that is a walkable, green, mixed-use neighborhood with a lot more housing, especially affordable housing. The Pleasant Hills Guiding Principles document contains community feedback that aligns with this perspective. And Catalyze SV has offered 6 alternative designs that better match the community and the City's goals. Don't settle for a second-rate San Jose. For it to thrive in the future, it needs to transform now. And for you and San Jose to be truly pro-housing, you need to support as many homes as possible on sites like this one. Your voice will make a big difference on Pleasant Hills. Please use it. Tell your colleagues in City Hall and the developer that the current proposal is a bad one, and it's time to overhaul it.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hettler-Smith



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**Fw: My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design**

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**From** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Date** Wed 1/21/2026 8:34 AM

**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 8:04 AM

**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** FW: My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design

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**From:** Sandhana Siva [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:28 PM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Rocha, Vincent <Vincent.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov>; Ferguson, Jerad <Jerad.Ferguson@sanjoseca.gov>; Flores, Michelle <michelle.flores@sanjoseca.gov>; Sandhir, Manira <Manira.Sandhir@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahamood, Reema <reema.mahamood@sanjoseca.gov>; Maurer, Laura <Laura.Maurer@sanjoseca.gov>; Lee, Jason <Jason.Lee@sanjoseca.gov>; Tapia, Leonel <Leonel.Tapia@sanjoseca.gov>; Moody, Doug <doug.moody@sanjoseca.gov>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design

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Dear Councilmember Candelas, Mayor Mahan, & Planning staff,

I am a student at San Jose State University. Both housing, transportation, and environmental crises are imminent in our city.

For these reasons, I support the creation of a more vibrant, sustainable, and affordable development at Pleasant Hills.

For over half a century, as San Jose has grown from its agricultural roots to a major metropolis, it has predominantly built single-family homes in sprawling, car-centric neighborhoods. This last-century style of development is responsible for much of the region's housing crisis and transportation issues.

To be a successful city in the next century, San Jose can't continue this pattern. It needs to do

something new.

Unfortunately, the current proposal for redeveloping Pleasant Hills repeats our past mistakes. It is a low-density proposal straight out of 1950. If the City approves this proposal as is, it would do little to address worsening traffic, rising carbon emissions, duller neighborhoods, a lack of affordable housing, and continuing displacement of our loved ones from this region.

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San Jose is way behind on building housing. I agree with Catalyze SV, Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice & Empowerment, Transform, San Jose YIMBY, and Greenbelt Alliance that the only way we're going to solve our housing crisis is if major sites like Pleasant Hills include a lot more housing. Pleasant Hills should include over 6,000 homes.

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The Pleasant Hills Guiding Principles document contains community feedback that aligns with this perspective. And Catalyze SV has offered 6 alternative designs that better match the community and the City's goals.

Don't settle for second-rate San Jose. For it to thrive in the future, it needs to transform now.

And for you and San Jose to be truly pro-housing, you need to support as many homes as possible on sites like this one.

Your voice will make a big difference on Pleasant Hills. Please use it.

Tell your colleagues in City Hall and the developer that the current proposal is a bad one, and it's time to overhaul it.

Sincerely,  
Sandhana Siva

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**Fw: My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design**

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**From** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Date** Wed 1/21/2026 4:56 PM

**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 4:54 PM

**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** FW: My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design

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**From:** J'Carlin [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 4:53 PM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Rocha, Vincent <Vincent.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov>; Ferguson, Jerad <Jerad.Ferguson@sanjoseca.gov>; Flores, Michelle <michelle.flores@sanjoseca.gov>; Sandhir, Manira <Manira.Sandhir@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahamood, Reema <reema.mahamood@sanjoseca.gov>; Maurer, Laura <Laura.Maurer@sanjoseca.gov>; Lee, Jason <Jason.Lee@sanjoseca.gov>; Tapia, Leonel <Leonel.Tapia@sanjoseca.gov>; Moody, Doug <doug.moody@sanjoseca.gov>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** My thoughts on a Better Pleasant Hills Design

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Dear Councilmember Candelas, Mayor Mahan, & Planning staff,

I support the creation of a more vibrant, sustainable, and affordable development at Pleasant Hills. The car-centric single family in isolated neighborhoods style of development is responsible for much of the region's housing crisis and transportation issues. To be a successful city in the next century, San Jose can't continue this pattern. It needs to do something new. I have designed a higher density urban village proposal that reflects the golf course history of Pleasant hills. Note that higher density near the Eastridge shopping mall and transit center will benefit the whole area with increased purchasing power and reduced traffic.

I agree with Catalyze SV, Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice & Empowerment, Transform, San Jose YIMBY, and Greenbelt Alliance that the only way we're going to solve our housing crisis is if major sites like Pleasant Hills include a lot more housing. Pleasant Hills should include over 6,000 homes. For context: Pleasant Hills is 113 acres. Downtown West by Google is 84 acres and proposed up to 5,900 homes. The Miro housing project across from San Jose City Hall is 28 stories at 444 units per acre. If Pleasant Hills built one-quarter of Miro's density and heights — about 7-story buildings — we could get 6,000 homes using less than half of the 113 acres on housing. That leaves a lot of land for amenities like neighborhood parks, shops,

and plazas. And creating dense, mixed-use neighborhoods — when done right — can create less traffic than car-centric ones. I want a Pleasant Hills that is a walkable, green, mixed-use neighborhood with a lot more housing, especially affordable housing.

The Pleasant Hills Guiding Principles document contains community feedback that aligns with this perspective. And Catalyze SV has offered 6 alternative designs that better match the community and the City's goals. Don't settle for a second-rate San Jose. For it to thrive in the future, it needs to transform now. And for you and San Jose to be truly pro-housing, you need to support as many homes as possible on sites like this one. Your voice will make a big difference on Pleasant Hills. Please use it. Tell your colleagues in City Hall and the developer that the current proposal is a bad one, and it's time to overhaul it. Sincerely,

Carlin Black  
Retired Urban Planner

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**Fw: Symbols of Identity and Belonging at San Jose City Hall**

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**From** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Date** Tue 1/20/2026 12:38 PM

**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

 5 attachments (3 MB)

Abigail McManus 01 07 2026.pdf; Andrew Siegler 12 26 2025.pdf; Alison George 03 19 1957.pdf; Abigail McManus 01 07 2026 (1).pdf; Alison George 03 19 1957 (1).pdf;

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**From:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:32 PM

**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: Symbols of Identity and Belonging at San Jose City Hall

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** E A [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:15 PM

**To:** District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Symbols of Identity and Belonging at San Jose City Hall

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Dear Mayor and City Council:

Now more than ever with the attacks from the federal government on our rights and existence it is extremely important that the city take extra steps to ensure that our community feel like we belong. My suggestion is that we have hundreds of flags around City Hall representing our diverse communities and identities. This would not only ensure that folks feel seen and welcome but also be something that attracts visitors from near and far. It would add color and likely be a major attraction to Downtown, the heart of San Jose. My favorite part of this city.

See attached petition of other folks in our community who agree.  
Bringing the community to you!

Thank you!

--

Sign Petitions:

Protect Inclusionary Housing Ordinance [REDACTED]

Symbols of Identity and Belonging at City Hall: [REDACTED]

Enhance Civic Participation: [REDACTED]

Here4You Homeless Shelter Hotline: [REDACTED]

Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano  
she/her/ella/GIRRL!

**My personal brand:**

- Creativity**
- Compassion**
- Commitment**
- Consistency**
- Courage**
- Community Centeredness**

Artist/Creative

Expand TRUST in SJ! Mental Health Matters!

Political Ambassador, Afro UPRIS/Black Democratic Club of SCC: Black Lives and Black Permanency Matters!

Chair Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and Homelessness, SCCDP

Choir+ Member of Urban Sanctuary

Build the Bench 2025 Cohort, Member of SVYD

Civic Leadership 2026 Cohort, Silicon Valley at Home

Housing Justice Advocate

Downtown Resident of District 3: St. James/Julian Neighborhood

**Values:** Honesty, Kindness, Compassion, Courage, Justice



"Democracy only works when we work for it. When we fight for it, when we demand it."~Stacey Abrams

Thank you!

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Wednesday, January 7, 2026

## Symbols of Identity and Belonging at San Jose City Hall

I have an idea for outside City Hall and that is to have flags hanging on the side of the building area where there are the long steps. But also throughout the City Hall Plaza. These flags would represent the diverse identities of San Jose and stay up year long. This idea is birthed out of wanting to make sure that we all feel like we belong in this city. Content warning: hate speech: In the summer, I came across the N-word written in the staircase of where I work. It was really disheartening, I felt a sense of betrayal and distrust wondering who in our community would do such a thing. I also remember a White woman yelling the N-word at a young Black woman. The experience was really scary and degrading. Then I remember seeing the Juneteenth flag earlier in the year and the sense of pride I felt. I don't want anyone to ever feel like they don't belong in our community. Especially, given the current federal administration, the rampant white supremacy, transphobia, homophobia, attack on people who are poor, people with disabilities, and immigrants etc. . . I believe it's extremely important to have symbols that honor our diverse identities and heritage to combat all the hate and reflect the beauty of who we all are. Yearlong! If you support this idea, please sign below. Information will be shared with San Jose City Council and Office of Racial Equity.

Tengo una idea para el exterior del Ayuntamiento: colgar banderas a un lado del edificio, donde hay escalones largos, y también por toda la Plaza del Ayuntamiento. Estas banderas representarían las diversas identidades de San José y permanecerían en alto todo el año. Esta idea nace del deseo de que todos sintamos que pertenecemos a esta ciudad.

Advertencia de contenido: incitación al odio: En verano, me encontré con la palabra "N" escrita en la escalera de mi trabajo. Fue realmente desalentador, sentí una sensación de traición y desconfianza, preguntándome quién en nuestra comunidad haría algo así. También recuerdo a una mujer blanca gritándole la palabra "N" a una joven negra. La experiencia fue realmente aterradora y degradante. Luego recuerdo haber visto la bandera del Juneteenth a principios de año y el orgullo que sentí. No quiero que nadie se sienta nunca fuera de nuestra comunidad. Especialmente, dada la actual administración federal, la supremacía blanca desenfrenada, la transfobia, la homofobia, los ataques a las personas pobres, con discapacidad e inmigrantes, etc., creo que es fundamental contar con símbolos que honren nuestras diversas identidades y herencias para combatir el odio y reflejar la belleza de quienes somos. ¡Todo el año! Si apoya esta idea, firme a continuación. Compartiremos información con el Ayuntamiento de San José y la Oficina de Equidad Racial.

Thank You!

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Date	Wednesday, January 7, 2026