



FW: Using music to solve social problems

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:47 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Hartman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 7:33 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Using music to solve social problems

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

I am a long time resident of San Jose. My father was a city employee in the early 1960s. I started playing with the San Jose Symphony in the 1970s. Since then I have played with a long list of celebrities and have had a great career as a teacher. This year 10% of all the players in the California State Honor Bands were my private students, many of whom live in San Jose.

I know the history of St. James Park. I have family that lives in the area.

I am in love with the idea of using music to solve social problems.

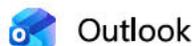
I love the way the Levitt Foundation has worked to improve communities all over the US. I have been a manager at a large corporation and serve on several non-profit boards and I'm not that young. For the Levitt board I am willing to get up early and set up chairs and tables or to make a pitch to potential donors or spend hours doing research or database work.

I strongly urge you to adopt the changes necessary to fulfill this mission to activate the park and the neighborhood.

It's a win win win win!

Scott Hartman
San Jose
Director, Friends of Levitt Pavilion San Jose

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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance. Please Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:48 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: jeff williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 9:16 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance. Please Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

I urge you to adopt the proposed update to San José's historic preservation ordinance, unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2025. This change, required by the Court of Appeal following the 2020 lawsuit by the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, ensures that a private, men-only club cannot control decisions about a public park.

St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Adopting this ordinance will finally clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José, a project 13 years in the making, bringing 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves.

Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,

Jeff Williams

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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:49 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Gavin Hayes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 7:56 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Thanks,
Gavin



Gavin Hayes | Sr. Document Cloud Specialist | [Adobe](#) | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]



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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:49 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: David Steinhauer RN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 4:57 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Sincerely,
David Steinhauer

Sent from my iPhone

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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:49 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Ken Yeager <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 11:37 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Sincerely,

Ken Yeager



FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:49 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kane Wolfe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 4:50 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Sincerely,

Kane Wolfe
Lifetime city resident
Born and raised here in San Jose



FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:50 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Eric Mosinger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2025 2:20 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

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Sincerely,
Eric Mosinger

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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:50 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Carl Dean <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2025 11:00 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:50 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Lawrence Lui <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2025 8:13 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Sincerely,

Lawrence

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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:50 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Chuck Toeniskoetter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 12:41 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
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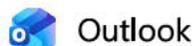
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Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,
C J Toeniskoetter

Sent from my iPad

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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:50 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Joelda Vega <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 1:26 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
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Sincerely,
Jo Vega

Sent from my iPhone

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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:50 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Jonathan Gordon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 7:26 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

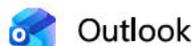
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Sincerely,
Jonathan Gordon

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FW: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:51 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Ken Lynch <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 6:41 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Regards,

W. Ken Lynch
[REDACTED]



FW: Protect Saint James Historic District

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

Date Mon 12/1/2025 7:53 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 1:20 PM

To: District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Mark Tersini <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Protect Saint James Historic District

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Dear Mayor and fellow Council members,

The Levitt Foundation Mission Statement : "Levitt Pavilion San Jose's mission is to build community through free live music and performing arts, transforming historic St. James Park into a safe and inclusive destination for people of all ages and backgrounds".

If approved, the St. James Park will NO LONGER be in a Historic District. The transformation will be against the Historic District envisioned by our fore founders. "A safe and inclusive destination for people of all ages and backgrounds ", does not require free live music. A beautifully designed and well maintained park will provide a safe and inclusive destination for all ages and backgrounds,

If the desire of the council is to provide a location for free concerts. It should direct staff to provide a design for Discovery Meadow Park. The advantages of Discovery Meadow Park versus Saint James Park is as follows:

1. Light rail access is currently available at Discovery Meadow Park.
2. Abundant parking is also available directly across the street and a short walk along Woz Way.
3. Discovery Meadow Park is NOT located in a Historic District.
4. Loud Music will not impact the quiet enjoyment of current residences living around Saint

James Park.

- 5. Activating Discovery Meadow Park will enhance the use of the Children's Discovery Museum and the Guadalupe River Trail. Both venues are adjacent to Discovery Meadow Park.

Fifty (50) concerts per year to accomodate 5,000 attendees will require portable restrooms. Given that concerts will average one per week, the portable restrooms will be up throughout the year. The likelihood of foul smells, graffiti and vandalism is a certainty.

The cost to maintain the park, required police presence, fire safety and medical staff cannot be supported by free concerts. This will be an unnecessary burden that the City can ill afford.

Please vote no on the Levitt Pavilion in the Saint James Historic District.

Thank you.

Mark

Mark E. Tersini
Principal
KT Urban

Office:
Cell:
Fax:

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FW: Preserve St. James Historic District

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:03 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Edward A. Davis, CPA, CGMA <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 7:03 AM
To: District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Preserve St. James Historic District

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Dear San Jose City Council Members,

I am a supporter of San Jose's historic neighborhoods. I urge you to deny the proposed amendments affecting the St. James Historic District.

I also believe in honesty and integrity. For City Staff to present this as an AMENDMENT to the Ordinance is just plain dishonest. It is a fundamental and cardinal change to the ordinance. These changes threaten the integrity of our historic buildings and community, and will set a precedent that undermines other historic districts across the city.

Preservation is about more than architecture; it is about maintaining the unique character and identity of our city. I ask that you uphold San Jose's General Plan priorities and protect our historic heritage.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to preserving our city's history.
Please do what is right and vote **NO** on this.
City Staff is misleading you and the public.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Davis
Incoming Chair San Jose Chamber of Commerce

Edward A. Davis, CPA, CGMA
Senior Partner

PP&Co

[Redacted] | [Send Secure Documents to Me](#)
CA insurance license 0F04281

San Jose

[Redacted]
ph: [Redacted] fax: [Redacted]

Santa Cruz

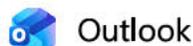
[Redacted]
ph: [Redacted] fax: [Redacted]



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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:04 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Gayle Frank <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 10:06 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

San Jose should support the arts, public space activation, and the Levitt Pavilion. But I do not support weakening the very Ordinance that has protected San José's historic places for decades.

I support PAC*SJ's call to:

- 1) Keep the useful clarifying definitions in the draft ordinance; and
- 2) Limit the new override to projects that demonstrate a compelling public interest, not speculative private development proposals that threaten to erase our architectural and cultural heritage.

This simple fix allows the Levitt Pavilion to move forward and keeps our landmark protections strong.

Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Gayle Frank



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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:04 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Meredith Muller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 9:26 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

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- 1) Keep the useful clarifying definitions in the draft ordinance; and
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Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Meredith Muller



San Jose, California 95126

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:07 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Viviana Cois <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 5:08 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

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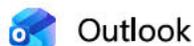
Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Viviana Cois



San Jose, California 95110

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FW: Preserve St. James Historic District

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:07 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Vince D'Arpino <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 2:53 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Preserve St. James Historic District

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Dear San Jose City Council Members,

I am a supporter of San Jose's historic neighborhoods. I urge you to deny the proposed amendments affecting the St. James Historic District. These changes threaten the integrity of our historic buildings and community, and could set a precedent that undermines other historic districts across the city.

Preservation is about more than architecture, it is about maintaining the unique character and identity of our city. I ask that you uphold San Jose's General Plan priorities and protect our historic heritage.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to preserving our city's history.

Sincerely,

Vince D'Arpino
[REDACTED]

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:07 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Vivian Kramp <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 2:53 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

San Jose should support the arts, public space activation, and the Levitt Pavilion. But I do not support weakening the very Ordinance that has protected San José's historic places for decades.

I support PAC*SJ's call to:

- 1) Keep the useful clarifying definitions in the draft ordinance; and
- 2) Limit the new override to projects that demonstrate a compelling public interest, not speculative private development proposals that threaten to erase our architectural and cultural heritage.

This simple fix allows the Levitt Pavilion to move forward and keeps our landmark protections strong.

Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Vivian Kramp



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FW: City Council Agenda December 2nd, 2025 Item 10.2 25-1267 PP25-005 - Amendment to the Title 13 (Historic Preservation) of the San José Municipal Code

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:07 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Leslie Levitt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2025 1:33 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: City Council Agenda December 2nd, 2025 Item 10.2 25-1267 PP25-005 - Amendment to the Title 13 (Historic Preservation) of the San José Municipal Code

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Please add the following to the public comment for this agenda item.

City Council Agenda December 2nd, 2025 Item 10.2 25-1267 PP25-005 - Amendment to the Title 13 (Historic Preservation) of the San José Municipal Code.

Hello Councilmembers:

Underlying the technical jargon and planning-speak in this code amendment are more fundamental questions of “who we are as a City”. Where does historic preservation fit it in? Where do resident input and Commission recommendations fit it in?

Of course, residents would like to see the long over-due re-imagined St. James Park project move forward. But at the same time, based on the information I’ve read, there is a concern that the scope of changes in this ordinance revision go far beyond what is necessary to resolve the St. James Park issue.

Is the St. James Park situation being used as a pretext to give the City and Council new broader power to discount the contribution of our history and potential value of historic sites?

Please stop and think of what you really want San Jose to be like in the future and demonstrate in actions (more than words) that there is value in historic preservation and that our sense of place is more than re-naming streets to honor history and putting up plaques.

As far as the ordinance change, I’d like to see it more limited to the St. James Park situation vs. broader changes. As you know, Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PACSJ) is an advocacy organization deeply concerned with this issue. Members are residents who care about San Jose. I am a member, and I’d like to see lots of new development in San Jose and at the same time I want the City to respect history and leverage historic preservation. It’s not an

either or situation. PACSJ input should be at a peer level with other special interests who may have pushed for the broader ordinance change. If any of you have not had a deep conversation with PACSJ leadership, now is the time.

Les Levitt
San Jose Resident

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:09 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Sandra Ketchum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2025 11:01 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

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San Jose should support the arts, public space activation, and the Levitt Pavilion. But I do not support weakening the very Ordinance that has protected San José's historic places for decades.

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- 1) Keep the useful clarifying definitions in the draft ordinance; and
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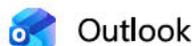
Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Sandra Ketchum



San Jose, California 95127

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:09 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: James Marshall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2025 1:56 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

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Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

James Marshall



San Jose, California 95125

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:11 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Bill Pfahnl <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2025 11:50 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Bill Pfahl



San Jose, California 95125

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:11 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Stan Ketchum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2025 10:18 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

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Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Stan Ketchum



San Jose, California 95127

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FW: Preserve St. James Historic District

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:12 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Vergara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2025 3:36 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Preserve St. James Historic District

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[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear San Jose City Council Members,

I am a supporter of San Jose's historic neighborhoods. I urge you to deny the proposed amendments affecting the St. James Historic District. These changes threaten the integrity of our historic buildings and community, and could set a precedent that undermines other historic districts across the city.

Preservation is about more than architecture, it is about maintaining the unique character and identity of our city. I ask that you uphold San Jose's General Plan priorities and protect our historic heritage.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to preserving our city's history.

Sincerely,

Ed Vergara
Work in downtown San Jose
Resident at [REDACTED]
San Jose
Sent from my iPhone



FW: Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:12 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Charles Kolar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2025 7:45 PM
To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

I urge you to adopt the proposed update to San José's historic preservation ordinance, unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2025. This change, required by the Court of Appeal following the 2020 lawsuit by the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, ensures that a private, men-only club cannot control decisions about a public park.

St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Adopting this ordinance will finally clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José, a project 13 years in the making, bringing 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves.

Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,

Charles Kolar



FW: Levitt Pavilion at St. James Park

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

Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:12 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Thomas Bernal <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, November 28, 2025 12:49 PM

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

Subject: Levitt Pavilion at St. James Park

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San José City Council
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Re: Strong Opposition to the Proposed Levitt Pavilion at St. James Park

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

We are writing to state our firm opposition to the proposed Levitt Pavilion at St. James Park. This project is wholly incompatible with the historic, civic, and residential character of the area, and moving forward without full compliance with state and federal requirements will place the City in significant legal and financial jeopardy.

St. James Park and the surrounding St. James Square are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and many adjacent buildings also hold individual historic status. As a result, any project involving federal funding, permits, or approvals triggers mandatory review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The City and project sponsors are legally required to consult the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and potentially the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), regarding adverse effects on this historic resource. A large performance venue such as the Levitt Pavilion unquestionably poses these impacts.

Additionally, the project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA makes clear that a property listed on the National Register is automatically a historic resource, and any substantial adverse change to that resource ordinarily requires a full Environmental Impact Report

(EIR). Noise, traffic, lighting, construction impacts, permanent structural changes within the historic park, and the disruption of the park's historic design are all impacts that meet CEQA's threshold for significance. If the City attempts to bypass the EIR requirement, it will inevitably expose itself to CEQA litigation—litigation taxpayers may be forced to fund.

Beyond the legal requirements, the Council must recognize the profound effect this project will have on the neighborhood. The proposed pavilion site sits directly adjacent to residential buildings where people live, work, and raise families. The Levitt Pavilion model involves frequent amplified concerts, large gatherings, and heavy, recurring foot traffic. These intrusions will degrade the quality of life for residents who will be forced to endure sustained noise levels, crowd disturbances, parking overflow, and late-evening activity mere yards from their homes. This is not a theoretical concern—it is a guaranteed and permanent nuisance for those who live around the park.

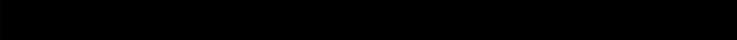
Local preservation stakeholders, including the Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC*sj), should also be formally involved in the review process. Their expertise and longstanding commitment to protecting San José's architectural heritage make their input indispensable.

St. James Park is an irreplaceable historic resource—not an empty parcel waiting for reinvention. The Levitt Pavilion may be a worthwhile concept elsewhere, but this location is fundamentally unsuited to a high-noise, high-impact entertainment venue. To force such a project into the heart of a protected historic park and a residential neighborhood would be an irreversible mistake.

We urge the City Council to uphold its legal responsibilities, protect the rights of residents, and demonstrate genuine stewardship of San José's historic assets by rejecting the Levitt Pavilion proposal at St. James Park. The community deserves better than a project that threatens both its heritage and its livability.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We expect the City to act responsibly, lawfully, and in accordance with the interests of the residents and the preservation of one of our most important historic public spaces.

Sincerely,

Thomas and Veronica Bernal, 

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:13 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Celeste Martin Melehan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2025 10:17 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

San Jose should support the arts, public space activation, and the Levitt Pavilion. But I do not support weakening the very Ordinance that has protected San José's historic places for decades.

I support PAC*SJ's call to:

- 1) Keep the useful clarifying definitions in the draft ordinance; and
- 2) Limit the new override to projects that demonstrate a compelling public interest, not speculative private development proposals that threaten to erase our architectural and cultural heritage.

This simple fix allows the Levitt Pavilion to move forward and keeps our landmark protections strong.

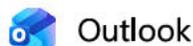
Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Celeste Martin Melehan



San Jose, California 95125

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Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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

Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:18 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

**Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

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

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 8:36 AM

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

Subject: Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Sarju Naran <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 8:28 AM

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

Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,
I sincerely hope you will adopt the proposed update to San José's historic preservation ordinance and enable the Levitt Pavilion to proceed with being built and activated. The message some are attempting to be spread about the slippery slope this update will cause is fear mongering for the sole benefit of a private "men only" club, which is for the convenience of the archaic, not preservation of the historic. Our city and St. James Park deserves this type of transformation and uplifting, to turn this blighted area of downtown into a thriving, vibrant, community-gathering venue for entertainment, joy, and economic boost.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarju Naran

Chair, Employment Law

Hoge Fenton Jones & Appel, Inc.

All thumbs so please excuse typos.

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Outlook

Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Mon 12/1/2025 8:19 AM**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>**Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas**

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

**Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2025 1:26 PM**To:** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion**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: Sheila McGann-Tiedt <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2025 1:20 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

I urge you to adopt the proposed update to San José's historic preservation ordinance, unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2025. This change, required by the Court of Appeal following the 2020 lawsuit by the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, ensures that a private, men-only club cannot control decisions about a public park.

St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Adopting this ordinance will finally clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José, a project 13 years in the making, bringing 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves.

Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,
Sheila McGann-Tiedt

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Outlook

Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Mon 12/1/2025 8:19 AM**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>**Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas**

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

**Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2025 1:26 PM**To:** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion**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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Janikke Klem <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2025 1:20 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

As someone who leads a community leadership program that encourages people from various parts of our economy and community to learn and work from one another towards an inclusive and engaged community, ordinances should provide spaces for that work. With this in mind, I urge you to adopt the proposed update to San José's historic preservation ordinance, unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2025. This change, required by the Court of Appeal following the 2020 lawsuit by the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, ensures that a private, men-only club cannot control decisions about a public park. This would NOT provide for an inclusive and engaged community, but provide for only the membership of a private club to rule.

St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Adopting this ordinance will finally clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José, a project 13 years in the making, bringing 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves.

Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,
Janikke Klem

Sent from my iPad

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Outlook

Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Mon 12/1/2025 8:22 AM**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>**Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas**

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

**Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2025 2:50 PM**To:** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion**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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mary Helen Doherty <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2025 2:37 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. Learn more <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>]

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

I urge you to adopt the proposed update to San José's historic preservation ordinance, unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2025. This change, required by the Court of Appeal following the 2020 lawsuit by the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, ensures that a private, men-only club cannot control decisions about a public park.

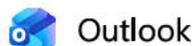
St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Adopting this ordinance will finally clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José, a project 13 years in the making, bringing 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves.

Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,
Mary Helen Doherty
District 3 Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:23 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Farrell Podgorsek <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 10:20 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

San Jose should support the arts, public space activation, and the Levitt Pavilion. But I do not support weakening the very Ordinance that has protected San José's historic places for decades.

I support PAC*SJ's call to:

- 1) Keep the useful clarifying definitions in the draft ordinance; and
- 2) Limit the new override to projects that demonstrate a compelling public interest, not speculative private development proposals that threaten to erase our architectural and cultural heritage.

This simple fix allows the Levitt Pavilion to move forward and keeps our landmark protections strong.

Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Farrell Podgorsek



San Jose, California 95112

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:23 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Connie Rogers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 9:30 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

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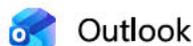
Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Connie Rogers



Gilroy, California 95020

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:24 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Lisa Ruder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 8:08 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

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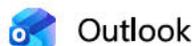
Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Lisa Ruder



San Jose, California 95126

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:24 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kay Gutknecht <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 7:42 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

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This simple fix allows the Levitt Pavilion to move forward and keeps our landmark protections strong.

Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Kay Gutknecht



SAN JOSE, CA, California 95126

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FW: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 8:24 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Angela Elsey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 7:24 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

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- 1) Keep the useful clarifying definitions in the draft ordinance; and
- 2) Limit the new override to projects that demonstrate a compelling public interest, not speculative private development proposals that threaten to erase our architectural and cultural heritage.

This simple fix allows the Levitt Pavilion to move forward and keeps our landmark protections strong.

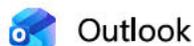
Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Angela Eley



San Jose, California 95126

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FW: Item 25-1267

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 9:01 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (85 KB)
Dec 2 Item 25-1267.pdf;

From: Debbie Degutis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 8:58 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 25-1267

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You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)
Please include this in "Letters from the Public" for Item 25-1267.
Thank you.

Debbie Degutis

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dec 1, 2025

Regarding: Item 25-1267

Honorable Mayor and Council,

I am grateful the City of San Jose, The Friends of the Levitt Pavilion and the Levitt Foundation have come together in this public/private partnership to transform St. James Park. Finally – a change we all can look forward to and believe in. This project has been taken more than a decade, against all odds.

The Court of Appeal recently directed the city to include language in its Historic Preservation Ordinance that clarifies the override power the city already holds regarding projects being proposed in historically designated areas. To be clear, the change in the Ordinance recommended by the City Attorney, city staff, and the Planning Commission doesn't make it easier for developers to tear down beloved buildings.

The proposed language is consistent with how other big cities consider projects in historic districts. This is not extreme or revolutionary. The ordinance eventually would need to be updated regardless of the Levitt Pavilion.

For the good of ALL of San Jose, **I urge the Council to adopt the ordinance language so work can finally get started.**

Let's build community through music. Now.

With gratitude,

Debbie Degutis

Friends of Levitt Pavilion San Jose Board Member

Former Managing Director of Christmas in the Park



Fw: Agenda Item 10.2: Right size the historical preservation ordinances

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 9:58 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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Alan Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:57 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Right size the historical preservation ordinances

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects.

The historical preservation ordinance has been used to bludgeon developers and owners to consider completely inappropriate remediations (Bank of America, Lawrence Hotel (San Fernando), Japantown businesses, and many others).

The historical preservation ordinance should be used sparingly. We don't need to preserve everything. Otherwise, San Jose will never progress. It's akin to conservatism where only the old stuff is good and new stuff is bad.

I do not support PAC SJ's many attempts to overreach in San Jose. There is obviously a need to protect some landmarks, but not every existing building deserves to be protected.

Please make changes so San Jose can develop progressively instead of leaving inappropriate legacy buildings where we need to build up for transit, culture, residences, and business.

Alan Williams



San Jose, California 95112

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Outlook

Fw: Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 10:06 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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Alan Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:04 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,
[These changes to the historic preservation ordinance are the first step toward removing the chokehold this ordinance has had on San Jose's progress and keeping us locked into an overabundance of inappropriate buildings.](#)

[Also, really, a men-only club in this day and age? They should have no standing in any legal dispute.](#)

St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Adopting this ordinance will finally clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José, a project 13 years in the making, bringing 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves.

Please act now to adopt the recommended ordinance and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,
Alan Williams

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Fw: Comment Letter on Council Item #10.2

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 11:09 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachment (55 KB)

Council letter - 12-02- 2025 Item #10.2.pdf;

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: Michael Brilliot <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:57 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Comment Letter on Council Item #10.2

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Hello

Please include the attached comment letter on City Council Agenda Item #10.2 in the Council's packet for their public hearing tomorrow, December 2,2025.

Thank you,

Michael Brilliot

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**Michael Brilliot
Board Member
Friends of Levitt Pavilion San Jose**

December 1, 2025

Mayor Matt Mahan and Members of the San Jose City Council

Subject: Public Hearing Item Number 10.2, PP25-005: San José Municipal Code Chapter 13.48 (Historic Preservation Ordinance) text amendments.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

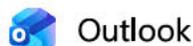
As a member of the Board of the Friends of Levitt Pavilion San Jose, I am writing to urge you to approve amendments to the City of San Jose's Historic Preservation Ordinance that will allow for the development of a live music pavilion in St. James Park.

The Friends of Levitt Pavilion San Jose has worked for over a decade to bring a state of the art, live music pavilion to St. James Park, for the entire community to use and enjoy. By attracting people to free concerts, completion of this pavilion will propel the revitalization of this underused, and often neglected historic park and City Landmark District, building community connections and pride in San Jose and its downtown. The Pavilion will also support the economic vitality of downtown by bringing in an estimated \$14 million in spending annually, contributing to more jobs, and thriving restaurants and small businesses.

With the signing of an agreement between the City of San Jose and Levitt Foundation this past August, amending the Historic Preservation Ordinance is the next critical piece for the completion of the Levitt Pavilion in Saint James Park. The Planning Commission's and Historic Landmark Commission's recommended amendments for public projects will facilitate a significant catalytic investment in this historic park, a resource that has languished for decades. Thank you for your support.

Michael Brilliot

Board Member, Friends of Levitt Pavilion San Jose
Resident of the Northside Neighborhood ([REDACTED])



Fw: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 12:04 PM
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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Evelyn Robinson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 12:03 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2: Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

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SJ City Clerk,

Mayor Mahan and Council Members:

I urge the San José City Council to fix the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (PP25-005) so they support vital public projects—like the Levitt Pavilion—without opening the door to unnecessary demolition of our historic landmarks.

The City's draft ordinance creates a sweeping new override that would let Council waive landmark protections for any public or private project based on vague "overriding considerations." This goes far beyond what the recent Sainte Claire court decision requires and puts more than 200 designated City Landmarks and Landmark Districts at risk.

San Jose should support the arts, public space activation, and the Levitt Pavilion. But I do not support weakening the very Ordinance that has protected San José's historic places for

decades.

I support PAC*SJ's call to:

- 1) Keep the useful clarifying definitions in the draft ordinance; and
- 2) Limit the new override to projects that demonstrate a compelling public interest, not speculative private development proposals that threaten to erase our architectural and cultural heritage.

This simple fix allows the Levitt Pavilion to move forward and keeps our landmark protections strong.

Support the Arts AND Protect Our Landmarks!

Evelyn Robinson



San Jose, California 95110

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Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 12:05 PM
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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 12:00 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

I urge you to adopt the proposed update to San José's historic preservation ordinance, unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2025. This change, required by the Court of Appeal following the 2020 lawsuit by the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, ensures that a private, men-only club cannot control decisions about a public park.

St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Adopting this ordinance will finally clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José, a project 13 years in the making, bringing 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves.

Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,

Tony Martinico

Vice President

Martinico & Sons, Inc.

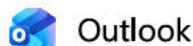


D: [Redacted]
O: [Redacted]



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Outlook

Fw: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 12:52 PM
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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 12:52 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum

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The Honorable Matt Mahan
Mayor of San Jose
And City Council Members
City Hall
200 E Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

via email Mayor@sanjoseca.gov, District1@sanjoseca.gov, District2@sanjoseca.gov, District3@sanjoseca.gov,
District4@sanjoseca.gov, District5@sanjoseca.gov, District6@sanjoseca.gov, District7@sanjoseca.gov,
District8@sanjoseca.gov, District9@sanjoseca.gov, District10@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum

File No. PP25-005: San José Municipal Code Chapter 13.48 (Historic Preservation Ordinance) text amendments.
Council District: Citywide. CEQA: Addendum to the certified Envision San José 2040 General Plan Final EIR (SCH #2009072096) and the Downtown Strategy 2040 Final EIR (SCH #2003042127)

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to **vote NO on the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance**. As currently drafted, this action would have sweeping, citywide consequences for San José's historic resources and would significantly weaken long-standing protections for historic properties. These changes place our irreplaceable cultural, architectural, and community assets at risk.

Historic preservation in San José is not simply about old buildings—it is about civic identity, neighborhood character, and honoring the people and stories that shaped our city. Removing or reducing protections for historic resources will have lasting negative impacts on our built environment and on future generations who deserve the opportunity to experience and learn from San José's history.

I am troubled by the **lack of public notification and transparency** surrounding this proposal. The City has not provided adequate advance notice to the public and affected communities, in clear conflict with the spirit—if not the letter—of the **Brown Act**, which exists to ensure meaningful public participation in local government decisions. Residents deserve fair opportunity to review, understand, and comment on ordinance changes of this magnitude before they are brought forward for a vote.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the City Council and Mayor:

1. **Vote NO** on the proposed ordinance changes.
2. **Re-open public outreach** to ensure full compliance with the Brown Act and provide residents with appropriate notice and opportunity to participate.
3. **Engage preservation experts, neighborhood groups, and community stakeholders** in any future discussion of preservation policies.

San José's heritage is one of its greatest strengths. Weakening the Historic Preservation Ordinance without proper process or public involvement jeopardizes that legacy. I urge you to protect the city's historic resources and uphold transparent, accountable governance.

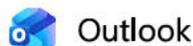
Thank you for your reading my letter.

Mark B. Biagini

CELL: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 12:57 PM
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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Sam Cretcher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 12:56 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

I urge you to adopt the proposed update to San José's historic preservation ordinance, unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2025. This change, required by the Court of Appeal following the 2020 lawsuit by the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, ensures that a private, men-only club cannot control decisions about a public park.

St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Adopting this ordinance will finally clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José, a project 13 years in the making, bringing 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves.

Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San

José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,

Sam Cretcher
District 3 Resident

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Jeffrey Oneal



Toni Taber
Clerk of the Board
San Jose City Council
200 East Santa Clara St
San Jose CA 95113

Re: Proposed Amendment to Historic Preservation Ordinance

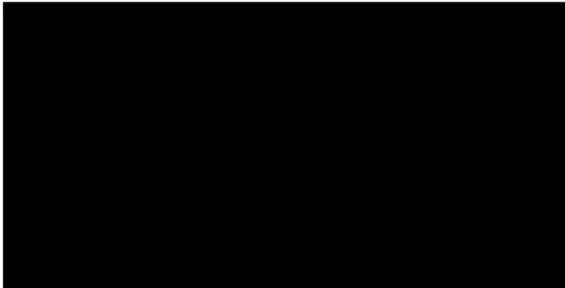
Dear Ms. Tabor:

Please include this letter in the City Council's packet in advance of the December 2, 2025 meeting.

I am opposed to the Historic Preservation Ordinance (SJMC 13.48) amendment. As a six generation resident of the City, I have seen over the years a continued erosion of our history with the destruction of historic buildings and districts. The proposed amendment is just one more step toward eliminating that rich history altogether. The amendment would allow this City Council broad powers to approve projects which adversely impact historic buildings on nothing more than a perceived or contrived community benefit. It will allow future City Councils to do the same.

I also think it noteworthy that this proposed amendment is clearly directed at bootstrapping the deficiencies associated with the Levitt Pavilion. To amend an ordinance for that one purpose and putting historic buildings and districts at risk is short-sighted. It does not take much imagination to see how developers will take advantage of this monumental mistake.

Once our history is eliminated, it cannot be recreated; it is gone forever. Please vote no on the proposed amendment.



Mark Petersen



Toni Taber
Clerk of the Board
San Jose City Council
200 East Santa Clara St
San Jose CA 95113

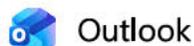
Dear Ms. Taber:

Please include this letter as part of the December 2, council meeting.

I am writing to oppose the Historic Preservation Ordinance (SJMC 13.48) Our historic downtown will be eroded now and in the future by passing this ordinance. I am worried that the City Council will have an override authority allowing approval of projects even if “detrimental “if benefits outweigh the harm. The ordinance is supposed to provide flexibility for projects with unavoidable impacts but significant social, economic, legal or technical benefits. So, the council will be able to change a historic designation that has stood for decades. This would override historical landmarks Commission. I’m worried that this and future councils will be able to designate a historical site doomed because they thought it was socially, economic etc. better. This language is to open ended and will be challenged by developers who want to build or change historic sites.

Please vote NO on this ordinance change.





Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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

Date Mon 12/1/2025 1:30 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before **12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

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

Sent: Friday, November 21, 2025 1:51 PM

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

Subject: Fw: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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: Jim Cunneen <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, November 21, 2025 1:32 PM

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

Subject: Support Historic Preservation Ordinance – Clear the Way for Levitt Pavilion

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Members of the San José City Council,

What we need more of are community spaces everyone can enjoy. We need places that can make all of us proud of our City. Destinations that residents from every corner of our city can gather and enjoy music and events. My mother's family were tin miners from Cornwall England who came to Almaden Valley for economic opportunity in the mid 1800s. More than 30 years ago, Jennifer and I chose San Jose as our home as well. We love our City's unique neighborhoods and respect historical traditions and places that serve as reminders of our past while also allowing for future memories for generations to come. That's why the Levitt Pavilion is so vital. It strikes that balance. And that's why I support the proposed update to San José's preservation ordinance. It was unanimously recommended by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2025.

This change, required by the Court of Appeal following the 2020 lawsuit brought by a private club, is a moment of truth for San Jose — approval will send the message that no one small group can dictate the decisions about a public park. St. James Park belongs to the people of San José. Let's adopt this ordinance and clear the way for Levitt Pavilion San José. 13 years in the making, it will bring 50 free, family-friendly concerts and programs that make our park safer, more vibrant, and welcoming to all. This is a long-overdue opportunity to transform St. James Park into the thriving historic treasure our community deserves — and that we all can enjoy.

Please act now to adopt the ordinance as recommended and bring this long-awaited vision to life. San José has waited over a decade—let's make it happen.

Sincerely,

Jim Cunneen
Proud San Jose Resident

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Fw: SJ Chamber Support for Item 10.2: Updates to Historic Preservation Ordinance

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

Date Mon 12/1/2025 1:59 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (192 KB)

SJ Chamber Support - 10.2 Updates to Historic Pres. Ordinance 120125.pdf;

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: Kat Angelov <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 1:59 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Leah Toeniskoetter <[REDACTED]>

Subject: SJ Chamber Support for Item 10.2: Updates to Historic Preservation Ordinance

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Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Honorable Councilmembers,

Please find the letter of support for item 10.2 attached. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Kat



Kat Angelov

Policy Manager
San Jose Chamber of Commerce

Email [Redacted]

Cell [Redacted]

Office: [Redacted]

Mailing Address: [Redacted]

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**San Jose
Chamber of Commerce**

December 1, 2025

City of San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113

RE: Item 10.2: Amendment to the Title 13 (Historic Preservation) of the San José Municipal Code.

Dear Mayor Mahan and Honorable Councilmembers,

On behalf of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, we express our strong support for **Item 10.2**, the proposed amendments to the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

We believe San Jose's history is beautiful and worthy of preservation. At the same time, our city's trajectory is forward — rooted in our past but not restricted by it. This amendment strikes that balance by clarifying existing language while still fully preserving all public processes, CEQA and City Council consideration when considering a statement of override.

This clarification enables the Levitt Pavilion project to move forward — a public-private investment uniquely located within a historic district. Because of that distinct context, it resolves ambiguity in the ordinance that has limited the City's ability to proceed with this transformative project.

The Chamber's mission is to advance policies that strengthen San Jose's economic development. In that context, we view this proposal as essential for several reasons:

- **Levitt Pavilion represents a significant investment in San Jose's arts, culture, and Sports & Entertainment economy**, bringing 50 free concerts annually and an estimated \$14 million in downtown spending each year.
- **Clarifying the ordinance language provides predictability** for the business and development community, reducing uncertainty and helping attract future investment to San Jose.
- **The amendment maintains all existing public processes and opportunities for public input**, as confirmed in City Staff's memo.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the City Council to approve Item 10.2. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Leah Toeniskoetter.

Leah Toeniskoetter
President & CEO



Fw: Arts Commission Letter Re: Item 10.2 Amendment to the Title 13 (Historic Preservation) of SJ Muni Code

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 3:16 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Adams-Hapner, Kerry <Kerry.Adams-Hapner@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 3:07 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Arts Commission Letter Re: Item 10.2 Amendment to the Title 13 (Historic Preservation) of SJ Muni Code

As staff liaison to the Arts Commission, I am submitting this letter on behalf of San Jose Arts Commission Chair Shelby Taketa for the City Council's December 2nd meeting, item10.2.

Thank you,

Kerry Adams Hapner

November 18, 2025

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

At its most recent meeting, the San José Arts Commission received an update on the Levitt Pavilion at St. James Park and voted to recommend that the City Council move forward with the development of the Levitt Pavilion. This will be made possible through the approval of the recommended update of the San Jose historic preservation ordinance on December 2.

The Commission is strongly in favor of this project. We believe the Levitt Pavilion represents a transformative opportunity for St. James Park—a project that aligns with our city's cultural values, strengthens our arts ecosystem, and advances our shared vision for a more vibrant, inclusive, and equitable downtown. The Pavilion will not only activate an underutilized public space but also expand access to free, high-quality arts and cultural programming for residents across all neighborhoods.

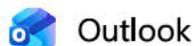
Friends of Levitt Pavilion San Jose is a non-profit organization comprised of community stakeholders committed to revitalizing St. James Park as a safe and inclusive destination for people of all ages and backgrounds. The new outdoor Pavilion will feature 50+ free concerts annually; provide schools, arts groups, and local producers with an affordable, plug-and-play outdoor venue; and employ more than 50 regional musical acts each year. This is the type of investment in community, culture, and economic vitality that the Arts Commission is proud to support.

Sincerely,

Shelby Taketa

Commission Chair

On behalf of the San José Arts Commission



FW: Statement in favor of amending the Title 13 (Historic Preservation) of the San Jose Municipal Code

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 3:48 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Grace Pugh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 3:43 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Statement in favor of amending the Title 13 (Historic Preservation) of the San Jose Municipal Code

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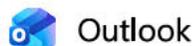
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I am unable to attend in person this time, so wanted to submit a statement via email. I've been attending the free concerts at st james park for a couple of years now. In that time I've been impressed by the caliber of the bands and musicians who have performed for the temporary levitt venue, I've been heartened by the immaculate community vibe that congregates at each concert - demonstrating that a concert series is the community catalyst st james park needed and lastly, I've been excited by the knowledge of the future state plan - to build a beautiful, permanent, concert venue for community use at the park.

I am disheartened that in our city a project like this - one that should be a no-brainer - still has to fight for its life against an overly restrictive historic permit ordinance. Particularly since the project does not have a detrimental impact to any landmarks or the historic integrity of the park.

I am an advocate for historic preservation, but the goal of preservation must be balanced by the ability of the city to develop and progress in ways that will most benefit the community. In my view a city that blends old and new with a focus on community spaces is the best kind of city. I recommend we adopt the new ordinance language so that a project like the levitt pavilion can move forward!

Grace Pugh
[REDACTED]



Fw: YES to amending the Title 13

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 4:21 PM
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

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Seth Miller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:19 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: YES to amending the Title 13

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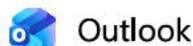
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Let's get this over with- we know the City already has the ability to make a judgement call to help make a common sense project like Levitt Pavilion happen, but it seems the City has been bullied by an exclusive club across the street, costing tax payers tens of thousands dollars just to change the wording.

Enough- let's make this explicit and adopt the language so we can give the city the legal ground to make choices that benefit the community - and not just the few.

Thank you,
Seth Miller
Naglee Park Resident

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FW: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 4:53 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Shawn Atkisson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:28 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum

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December 1, 2025

The Honorable Matt Mahan
Mayor of San Jose
And City Council Members
City Hall
200 E Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

via email Mayor@sanjoseca.gov , District1@sanjoseca.gov , District2@sanjoseca.gov ,
District3@sanjoseca.gov , District4@sanjoseca.gov , District5@sanjoseca.gov ,

District6@sanjoseca.gov , District7@sanjoseca.gov , District8@sanjoseca.gov ,
District9@sanjoseca.gov , District10@sanjoseca.gov , city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum

File No. PP25-005: San José Municipal Code Chapter 13.48 (Historic Preservation Ordinance) text amendments. Council District: Citywide. CEQA: Addendum to the certified Envision San José 2040 General Plan Final EIR (SCH #2009072096) and the Downtown Strategy 2040 Final EIR (SCH #2003042127)

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to **vote NO on the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance**. As currently drafted, this action would have sweeping, citywide consequences for San José's historic resources and would significantly weaken long-standing protections for historic properties. These changes place our irreplaceable cultural, architectural, and community assets at risk.

Commissioners Larry Camuso and Steve Cohen of the Historic Landmarks Commission were appalled by these City staff recommended changes to the ordinance. Although recognizing they are an advisory commission to the City Council, they strongly opposed the proposed changes. They were completely frustrated about the unfettered power this will allow the City Council and the destruction to historic resources it will cause.

Historic preservation in San José is not simply about old buildings—it is about civic identity, neighborhood character, and honoring the people and stories that shaped our city. Removing or reducing protections for historic resources will have lasting negative impacts on our built environment and on future generations who deserve the opportunity to experience and learn from San José's history.

In addition to these substantive concerns, I am deeply troubled by the **lack of public notification and transparency** surrounding this proposal. The use of a term CEQA addendum is unlawful. While the use of the word "addendum" is not in the Public Resources Code it is fine as a descriptive name for material to add to a prior project EIR – but is not ok to proceed without public notice and supplemental EIR process if there is a fair argument of an unstudied significant impact. I also understand there is a project phasing change with only one side of the Park being developed as well as the major ordinance change. The City has not provided adequate advance notice to the public and affected communities, in clear conflict with the spirit—if not the letter—of the **Brown Act**, which exists to ensure meaningful public participation in local government decisions. The citizens and business owners of San Jose deserve fair opportunity to review, understand, and comment on ordinance changes of this magnitude before they are brought forward for a vote.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the City Council and Mayor:

1. **Vote NO** on the proposed ordinance changes.
2. **Re-open public outreach** to ensure full compliance with the Brown Act and provide residents with appropriate notice and opportunity to participate.
3. **Engage preservation experts, neighborhood groups, and community stakeholders** in any future discussion of preservation policies.

San José's heritage is one of its greatest strengths. Weakening the Historic Preservation Ordinance without proper process or public involvement jeopardizes that legacy. I urge you to protect the city's historic resources and uphold transparent, accountable governance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Shawn Atkisson
Executive Director

Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation

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FW: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum File No. PP25-005

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 4:53 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Shawn Atkisson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:26 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum File No. PP25-005

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December 1, 2025

The Honorable Matt Mahan
Mayor of San Jose
And City Council Members
City Hall
200 E Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

via email Mayor@sanjoseca.gov , District1@sanjoseca.gov , District2@sanjoseca.gov ,
District3@sanjoseca.gov , District4@sanjoseca.gov , District5@sanjoseca.gov ,
District6@sanjoseca.gov , District7@sanjoseca.gov , District8@sanjoseca.gov ,
District9@sanjoseca.gov , District10@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: Opposition to Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Amendments and CEQA Addendum File No. PP25-005: San José Municipal Code Chapter 13.48 (Historic Preservation Ordinance) text amendments. Council District: Citywide. CEQA: Addendum to the certified Envision San José 2040 General Plan Final EIR (SCH #2009072096) and the Downtown Strategy 2040 Final EIR (SCH #2003042127)

Dear Mayor Mahan and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation I am urging you to deny the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance presently before you. These changes threaten the integrity of the historic buildings and districts of San Jose and, if approved, would set a precedent that undermines historic landmarks across the city.

Though this vote is on a City-wide ordinance, the Levitt Pavilion project in St. James Park is the obvious motivation behind the changes. The Foundation's attorney, Susan Brandt-Hawley, has attempted, without success, to contact City attorneys on multiple occasions to try to negotiate a project that is reduced in scale and in keeping with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties so that the St. James Square Historic District, including the historic Sainte Claire Club building, does not lose National Register of Historic Places eligibility.

In this connection Shawn Atkisson, Executive Director of the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, was also instructed by the City to meet with Jon Cicirelli, San Jose Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services to discuss the development of future plans for St. James Park. In his first and only meeting on April 2, 2025, also attended by Jon Ball, Mr. Cicirelli stated that plans for the Park were already too far down the road and that changes were not possible due to financial constraints.

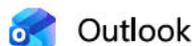
Pursuant to the Court of Appeal's decision in favor of the Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation, St. James Park Capital Vision & Levitt Pavilion is not legally at liberty to proceed. The superior court, on remand from the Court of Appeal, issued a judgment and peremptory writ ordering the City not to proceed with the St. James Park/Levitt Pavilion project absent compliance with the Historic Preservation ordinance which its approval violated. Now, rather than amend the project to minimize the impacts to the Historic District in compliance with the judgment and writ, the City proposes simply to amend the ordinance. Though the project cannot legally proceed while the writ is outstanding, Mr. Cicirelli's response to the Foundation has made it clear that the City continues to make expenditures on plans and other measures for the St. James Park Project, demonstrating its commitment in defiance of the existing writ.

The City's proposed amendment to its Historic Preservation ordinance severely reduces protections for historic landmarks Citywide. Its passage would also mandate CEQA review via a supplemental EIR to consider the extent of potentially significant impacts and feasible alternatives to such an ordinance amendment. The use of a mere CEQA "addendum" would be unlawful. In the present context, the word "addendum" is not appropriate. Though it may be used as a mere descriptor for material to be added to a prior project EIR, the Public Resources Code does not permit its being used to sidestep a required supplemental EIR nor to proceed without public notice when there is clear evidence of the unstudied significant impacts this ordinance change would inevitably engender.

Historic preservation is about more than architecture; it is about maintaining the unique character and identity of our city. I respectfully urge you to uphold San Jose's General Plan priorities and protect our historic heritage by voting No on this Historic Preservation Ordinance amendment.

I thank you for your consideration and, I hope, for your commitment to preserving our city's history.

Sincerely,
Stephen J. Walwyn
President
The Sainte Claire Historic Preservation Foundation



FW: Preserve St. James Historic District

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 4:53 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Steven Gordon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:34 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Preserve St. James Historic District

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Dear San Jose City Council Members,

I am a supporter of San Jose's historic neighborhoods. I urge you to deny the proposed amendments affecting the St. James Historic District. These changes threaten the integrity of our historic buildings and community, and could set a precedent that undermines other historic districts across the city.

Preservation is about more than architecture, it is about maintaining the unique character and identity of our city. I ask that you uphold San Jose's General Plan priorities and protect our historic heritage.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to preserving our city's history.

Sincerely,

Steven Gordon
Nevis and Ardizzone Team

[REDACTED]
DRE#: 01332117
Compass - #1 Brokerage in the U.S.

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