

San Jose All District Leadership Group
Council Districts
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San Jose, California

The Honorable Matt Mahan, Mayor of San José
and Members of the City Council
200 East Santa Clara Street, San José CA 95113

via email, sent 4/28/2024

re: Council 4/30/24, Agenda Item 7.1, "Neighborhood Association Engagement Model Status Report."

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

The San Jose All District Leadership Group (SJADLG) is a consortium of the leadership of the active San Jose leadership groups. The purpose of the SJADLG is to strengthen two-way communication between neighborhoods and government agencies and representatives and build a stronger sense of community within all Districts in the City of San Jose.

We are writing in support of the "Neighborhood Association Forum" being proposed in the Neighborhood Association Engagement Model Status Report.

- Those of us in the SJADLG who have been involved in community advocacy for years remember forums at which we first learned "the tricks of the trade" on community organizing and activation, and how to connect with staff and elected officials. These forums have unfortunately become far less frequent these past few years, and the proposed Neighborhood Association Forum would help fill the need.
- We would welcome having "a centralized venue to learn about City resources": it would be like having a friend on the inside to help us navigate the City's bureaucracy.
- We agree that there should still be a forum or channel through which community voices can be elevated on key issues, giving advice and making recommendations on City policy and issue decisions (e.g., budget allocation).
- And we appreciate the plan to facilitate two-way communication: to help the various neighborhood associations communicate with their Councilmember and city departments, while also allowing for the City to be able to share information with the neighborhoods.

We in the SJADLG are excited to work with the City on this project. We would like to be involved in the selection process for a worthy Program Manager: we want someone who is enthused about working with the neighborhoods and who can advocate for us to the City – and we hope that the newly dedicated and funded Program Manager will attend our monthly SJADLG meetings. Additionally, the SJADLG would like to have an active part in formulating the first year's work plan. We appreciate the City taking the lead in helping new communities form their associations, and we look forward to welcoming these new associations as members of the corresponding District Leadership groups.

The SJADLG has and will continue to advocate on behalf of the ever-evolving needs of our neighborhoods as a whole by giving comment and feedback, for example, on the City budget, policies, and key issues.

We look forward to continue working with the City.

Thank you,
Greg Peck
Chair, San Jose All District Leadership Group

District 1 – Gary Cunningham

District 2 – John Leipelt

District 3 – Joan Rivas-Cosby

District 4 – Linda Locke

District 5 – Juan Estrada

District 6 – Bill Rankin

District 7 – Alie Victorine

District 8 – Pat Waite

District 9 – Bobbi Pena-Atak

District 10 – David Heindel

Cc: Councilmembers, City Manager, City Clerk, Agenda Desk