

January 13, 2016

Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo and The City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Re: Comments and Recommendations from San José Neighborhood Commission re Homelessness

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council:

As members of the Neighborhood Commission who represent and serve as the voice for all neighborhoods in and for the City of San José we submit the following comments and recommendations.

Preface:

- Although we find the delineated “Functions, powers and duties” under Part 28, Section 2.08.2840 of the San José Municipal Code (see attached) ambiguous; especially since there is no specific reference to “Homeless” or its derivatives, we were unable to recommend areas we felt genuine progress could be achieved as to the urgent and immediate need to create housing for more than 4,000 homeless families in San Jose. This is in light of the fact that as of October 2015, the Neighborhoods Commission was informed that heretofore there is not a complete list of churches or other faith based communities, NGO’s, school buildings, malls, stores, or corporate buildings identified as emergency shelters which would fill the needs of homeless individuals and/or families during inclement weather or natural disasters. Other Neighborhoods Commission exclusions include, but are not limited to recommending grants, budgets, effective policy changes, and or addendums, recommending humanitarian actions to ensure that no homeless person who wants housing, including veterans, will be left without shelter or housed safely in light of the anticipated “Gorilla El Nino.”

Within the confines of our limited authority we respectfully request Mayor Liccardo’s and Council’s consideration, approval and adoption of the following actions which fall within the purview of the Neighborhoods Commission:

1. Educate residents and neighborhood associations re proactive measures being taken by the City of San José to eradicate homelessness. One example is the anticipated future success, albeit years down the road, of the “All the Way Home” \$6M initiative set aside to house 100 veterans along with \$7.445M in federal funds, which was announced conjointly by Mayor Liccardo and Board of Supervisor President, Dave Cortese on Veterans’ Day, November 11, 2015.

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2. Educate residents about the root causes of homelessness, including, but not limited to loss of jobs, unexpected familial catastrophic events, adverse credit, dissolution of marriages, devastating disabilities such as mental or physical disabilities, encourage them to watch the videos documentaries such as “Exodus of the Jungle,” (<http://www.siliconvalleydebug.org/articles/2015/10/10/exodus-jungle-film-premiered-san-jose-state>) and “Faces of Homelessness” (https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#safe=active&q=faces+of+the+homeless+video) presented by The Speakers' Bureau, of the National Coalition for the Homeless that is comprised of people who are or have been homeless.
3. Educate and encourage residents and neighborhood associations to participate in events such as volunteering at shelters, assist at food drives, participating in clothing, shoes and coat and other types of activities, handing out gift cards and other compassionate ideas which specific purpose is to assist the homeless communities.
4. Solicit ideas from residents and neighborhood associations and encourage to report acts of crimes, not only regarding those which are crimes are committed against by homeless individuals but crimes they observe are committed against homeless individuals or families.
5. Educate and encourage residents and neighborhood organizations to observe and critique how funds are set aside for homeless programs.

ATTACHMENT

San José Housing and Community Development Commission

San José Municipal Code 2.08.2840 - Functions, powers and duties.

The commission shall have the following functions, powers, and duties:

A. Housing and community development advisory functions.

1. Study, review, evaluate and make recommendations to the city council and the department of housing of the City of San José, pertaining to the following matters:

a. Existing housing programs and policies in the City of San José.

b. New programs and policies that would further the City of San José's housing and community development goals.

c. The City of San José's progress in meeting its housing goals.

2. Submit recommendations and reports to the city council and the city manager regarding housing policy in the City of San José as the city council or the city manager may from time to time request.

3. Hold public hearings in order to provide for meaningful citizen participation in the development and implementation of the consolidated plan.

4. Make such studies, and submit to the city council such reports or recommendations respecting affordable housing and community development matters, as the council may from time to time require or request.

5. Develop proposals and recommendations to the city council for use of housing and community development funds.

B. Functions related to Chapters [17.22](#) and [17.23](#).

1. Make recommendations to the city council regarding rules and regulations and amendments thereto which are necessary for the operation and administration of [Chapter 17.22](#) or [Chapter 17.23](#).

2. Make recommendations to the city council regarding changes in [Chapter 17.22](#) or [Chapter 17.23](#).

3. Pursuant to [17.23.490](#), make recommendations to the city council regarding the amount of the fee necessary to recover the costs of administering [Chapter 17.23](#).
4. Pursuant to [17.22.910](#), make recommendations to the city council regarding the amount of the fee necessary to recover the costs of administering [Chapter 17.22](#).
5. Make recommendations to staff regarding updates of the forms used in implementing [Chapter 17.22](#) or [Chapter 17.23](#).
6. Conduct such studies and submit to the city council and the city manager such reports or recommendations respecting mobilehome parks and mobilehome living in the City of San José as the council or the city manager may from time to time request.
7. Make recommendations to the city council regarding changes in provisions of [Title 20](#) of this Code relating to mobilehomes and mobilehome parks.