



Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL**

FROM: Edward K. Shikada

SUBJECT: Retirement of Housing
Director Leslye Corsiglia

DATE: October 22, 2014

INFORMATION

Leslye Corsiglia, San José Director of Housing, has informed me that she plans to retire from the City effective January 10, 2015. Leslye has served the people of San José and our organization with distinction since January 1991, and for the past 13 years as director of the Housing Department.

During her 24 years with the City, Leslye has provided outstanding leadership and expertise in creating successful housing and community development policies and programs, and in financing the development of affordable housing for San José residents. She has earned well deserved professional recognition throughout California for her passionate commitment to finding practical and innovative solutions that can help meet the ever-changing needs of our residents for a range of housing choices that are affordable, accessible, and attainable in one of the most expensive housing markets in the nation.

Under her guidance, and with the support and leadership of San José mayors and councils during her tenure, the City has worked effectively with a wide range of partners in the private, public, and non-profit sectors to achieve outstanding results. As Leslye notes in her attached letter, together we have fostered the creation and rehabilitation of tens of thousands affordable homes in neighborhoods throughout San José that have literally changed the lives of so many residents.

Assistant Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand will be serving as our Interim Director and will provide continuity of leadership for the department during this transition.

On behalf of the City and our staff, I thank Leslye for her significant contributions that have helped make San José a good place to live and raise families. Please join me to wish her all the best upon her retirement and her future endeavors.

Edward K. Shikada
City Manager

Attachment

Ed Shikada, City Manager
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 17th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Ed,

On January 2, 1991, I arrived on the 9th floor of 4 North Second Street as the first Assistant Director of the newly created San José Housing Department to begin what turned out to be a 24-year journey with the City. With this letter I am officially announcing my retirement date—January 10, 2015. When I leave the City, I will have worked for three full Mayoral terms, starting the first day of Mayor Susan Hammer’s eight-year term and ending with Mayor Chuck Reed’s final days in office.


Over the years, the Housing Department expanded and contracted based on the availability of housing and community development program funding, which has been highly impacted by the highs and lows of the economy. But we also diversified, moving from a “start up” department with two main revenue sources—the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund and the housing portion of the Community Development Block Grant Program—to one with more than 30 separate and distinct funding sources. We took responsibility for the Rental Rights and Referrals Program, assumed management of the CDBG Program, and substantially increased our efforts around homelessness. Our loan portfolio grew from a few million dollars to nearly \$800 million today. More than 19,000 affordable units. More than 2,100 new homebuyers. More than 15,500 homes improved with rehabilitation loans and grants.

All of this was possible because San José chose to be a leader in addressing its affordable housing needs. San José elected officials have supported every single unit the Housing Department has proposed and have enthusiastically attended literally hundreds of ground breakings, grand openings, and hard-hat premieres. I have been lucky to work with an amazing group of people—both internal and external to the City—and to make lifelong friends as well as successful business relationships.

The Housing Department has some of the City’s most creative and dedicated staff, which makes leaving easier. I know that they are well positioned to move forward, creating new ground, responding to new challenges, and working to meet the needs of lower and moderate income residents struggling to live in this high-cost area.

It has been an honor to work with you, the City staff, the development community, and the many community partners who are engaged in making San Jose a great place to live.

Thank you for this opportunity.


Leslye Corsiglia
Director of Housing