

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Kerry Adams Hapner

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON END OF WATCH
PUBLIC SAFETY MEMORIAL
PROJECT**

DATE: December 16, 2015

Approved

D. D. SyL

Date

12/17/15

INFORMATION

On August 5, 2015, the Rules Committee approved a recommendation made by Mayor Liccardo, with Councilmembers Rocha and Peralez, to revisit the idea of creating a permanent memorial in tribute to fallen peace officers in San José, a project that originated in 2008. This is an update on progress on this project, key elements of discussion that have come forth as a result of the work to date, and related information.

ANALYSIS

The Rules Committee memo directed staff to:

1. Form a planning committee staffed by the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), a division of the Office of Economic Development, for the purpose of planning for a San José End of Watch Police Memorial, with the work of this group to possibly include developing the concept, design, potential cost, and community engagement plan for the memorial.
2. After the work of this group is complete, return to the City Council with a recommendation as to what the City's engagement in the project should be.
3. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, business or community groups to support the San José End of Watch Police Memorial and collaborate with the San José Police Foundation (SJPF) as a non-profit fiscal agent for this project.

December 16, 2015

Subject: End Of Watch Public Safety Memorial Project Update

Page 2

Planning Committee

Representatives from the OCA, Mayor's Office, Council District 9, San José Police Department (SJPD), and SJPF met to give shape to the process for implementing these recommendations, with the identification of the End of Watch Memorial Planning Committee (Committee) as the top priority.

The Committee has been formed. Its composition aligns to suggestions set forth in the Rules Committee memo:

- Lt. Chris Monahan, San José Police Department (SJPD); liaison to Board of Directors of the SJPF;
- Sgt. Howard Johnson, SJPD, SJ Police Officers Association (SJPOA), and California State Peace Officers Memorial Foundation;
- Officer Jon Moutzoridis, SJPD and SJPOA;
- Patricia Borba McDonald, former Arts Commissioner and past Chair of City's Public Art Committee, parent of an active-duty SJPD Officer, and participant in the original 2008 Police Memorial visioning group;
- Tamara Alvarado, Executive Director of School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza, cultural community leader, and participant in the original 2008 Police Memorial visioning group;
- Michelle Lew, Executive Director of Asian Americans for Community Involvement;
- Kasey Backherms, Board of Directors of SJPF; and
- Katherine Decker, mother of Officer Michael Johnson.

The Committee met on October 29, 2015 to review the background of the project, recommendations developed by the 2008 visioning group, the process and proposed workplan for the present effort. A primary outcome of the first meeting was agreement on the importance of choice of the location for any public safety memorial in San José. The recommendation that came forward from the initial 2008 visioning meeting identified the City Hall Plaza, specifically the alcove on the exterior grand stairway as an optimal location for a permanent memorial. In revisiting that idea, it is clear that the choice of location warrants further consideration before a final recommendation is made.

In addition to City Hall, the Police Administration Building was suggested as a possible location, as some members of SJPD would like to see a permanent memorial at that site. Other possible locations include the Police Substation or another public space such as a park. There was preliminary discussion about the advantages and challenges of each. The possibility that there could be multiple memorial tribute locations was raised for consideration. There is general agreement by the Committee that the location should be a place where police, family members and the community are able to honor the sacrifice made by fallen personnel in a public location that can foster greater public awareness.

Meetings are being convened by SJPD representatives at the SJPOA office to gather the input of current and former police officers and their families. Once the feedback is provided, the Committee will reconvene to develop the recommended next steps in the process.

Funding

Funding for the End of Watch Memorial Project will cover the cost of the design, fabrication and installation of project, as well as the cost of project management. Project management includes facilitating the visioning and design process through the selection of an artist and the approval of a design, facilitating community engagement, contracting with the artist, and overseeing fabrication and installation.

In 2008, a cost of \$150,000-\$180,000 was established as a baseline cost estimate (to include project management costs); this amount was based on public projects of comparable scale and possible materials. As the City was not in a position to fund the project, it was expected that all the funds would be privately raised, largely from individual contributions to the SJPF. The memorial did not progress at that time because the private fundraising effort was not active. As a result, the project remained dormant until the tragic death of Officer Michael Johnson in March of this year served as a reminder of the importance of such a memorial.

Mayor Liccardo initiated a fund with a contribution of \$75,000 from the Mayor's Office Budget. Councilmember Rocha, Councilmember Peralez, and Councilmember Khamis provided an additional \$15,000 in funding to begin work on the project. The SJPF and SJPOA have also collected over \$33,000 in donations for this effort. Other Councilmembers can support the project by contributing to the fund (Fund # 001-50-000135). The SJPF and the SJPOA are actively involved in the Committee with the intention of working to raise additional private funding for the project. The Committee suggested that the private fundraising effort will be most effective when the design concept for the memorial is developed, inspiring greater interest in and support for the project.

Additional Considerations

The visioning meeting in 2008 included representatives of SJPD, SJFD, and community members. At that time, a point of consideration was if the memorial should be a public safety memorial to honor both police and fire personnel who lost their lives in service. Representatives of SJFD reported that there is a tribute site at Fire Station #1 on Market Street, with an established tradition of an annual ceremony there to honor and remember the fallen firefighters. As a result, there was consensus on the recommendation to proceed with a memorial that would be specific to honoring fallen police officers. In recent discussions, representatives of SJPD have suggested that this question should be revisited with representatives of SJFD before a recommendation for a memorial is finalized. This also opened the question about other public sector employees who may have lost their life performing public service. This issue will be considered as part of developing a set of recommendations.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

December 16, 2015

Subject: End Of Watch Public Safety Memorial Project Update

Page 4

The Committee will continue its work to develop recommendations to bring back to Council on the memorial per directives in the Rules Committee's August 5, 2015 memo. These recommendations will include:

- Location or locations
- Scope of the memorial's representation
- Form or type of memorial
- Updated budget estimate
- Process for the project, and the City's involvement in moving the project forward

The goal is to bring these recommendations to the City Council in the spring of 2015. The Committee has agreed that support for the project by key stakeholder groups is fundamental to its success and therefore the necessary time should be invested to ensure that support is in place.

/s/

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Director of Cultural Affairs

For questions, please contact Jennifer Easton, Public Art Director, at (408) 793-4338.

