

# Memorandum

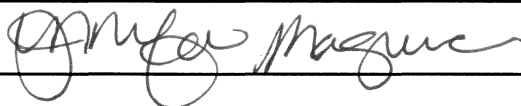
**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Julia H. Cooper

**SUBJECT: BUSINESS TAX AMNESTY  
PROGRAM UNDERWAY**

**DATE:** October 17, 2019

Approved



Date

10-17-19

## INFORMATION

The Finance Department launched the limited-time Business Tax and Business Improvement District (“BID”) Assessment Amnesty Program (collectively, the “Amnesty Program”) on October 1, 2019. The Amnesty Program runs through March 27, 2020 and allows individuals and entities that have never registered their business, are behind on paying their business tax, or have underreported their employee counts, square footage, or number of rental properties to pay the principal tax owed in exchange for forgiveness of penalties and interest.

The Amnesty Program covers the tax periods from October 1, 2016 through March 27, 2020, capping the maximum period of unpaid business tax and BID assessment liabilities at three prior tax years, plus the current tax year. During the Amnesty Program, the Finance Department is authorized to waive all penalties and interest.

The goals of the Amnesty Program are to: (1) educate individuals and entities commencing business in San José about the requirements to register and maintain a business tax certificate and available exemptions, (2) allow never-registered or delinquent businesses an opportunity to bring their accounts current, and (3) allow businesses an opportunity to update their employee counts, square footage, or number of rental properties.

Throughout the outreach campaign, the Finance Department will utilize a variety of mediums, including advertisements in print media, public service announcements through radio stations, distribution of flyers to business organizations and associations, presentations at business community workshops, and direct-mailing approximately 60,000 notices to potential individuals and entities that may benefit from the program.

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As part of the outreach campaign, the Finance Department is requesting assistance from the Mayor and the City Councilmembers to include information about the Amnesty Program in printed or e-newsletters. A summary of the program is provided below and available for use in newsletters.

## **San José Offers Money Saving Opportunity Business Tax Amnesty Program Underway**

The City of San José offers a Business Tax Amnesty Program to individuals and entities that have never registered their business, are behind on paying their business tax, or have underreported their employee counts, square footage, or number of rental properties. Under the Amnesty Program, individuals and entities that pay certain past-due taxes will benefit from the forgiveness of all penalties and interest. The period to apply for Amnesty runs through March 27, 2020. To learn more about the Amnesty Program and qualifying business tax exemptions, please visit the City's business tax website at: [www.sanjoseca.gov/business-tax](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/business-tax) or call us at (408) 535-7055.

/s/

JULIA H. COOPER  
Director of Finance

For questions, please contact Rick Bruneau, Deputy Director of Finance, at (408) 535-8310.