



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR MAHAN

FROM: Councilmember Domingo Candelas

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: 5/23/24

Approved

Date: 5/23/24

RECOMMENDATION

Modify the City Manager's 2024-2025 Proposed Budget to incorporate the following budget proposal, including any required funding allocation adjustments.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Independence Day at Lake Cunningham Regional Park

Amount of City Funding Required: \$50,000

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): N/A

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

This allocation provides necessary funding for District 8 to host a safe community space where families can enjoy Independence Day celebrations on the 4th of July. By hosting an Independence Day celebration with fireworks for residents, the City of San José reduces the likelihood of illegal fireworks in our neighborhoods and parks. This is an opportunity to ensure public safety while fostering a positive community experience. Proper funding ensures sufficient security and first responders for the celebration, and strategic outreach to deter illegal fireworks activities in other parts of District 8.

Last year, residents reported a continued increase in illegal fireworks activities. One of District 8's beloved parks was vandalized by illegal fireworks compromising a freshly renovated basketball court. Not only did it cost taxpayer dollars to repair the substantial damage, but the park's location is in a significant fire-risk zone, putting both Evergreen and East San José residents potentially in harm's way. Improperly handled

fireworks can damage property, cause fires, and take lives. Without a new approach, the City risks leaving these residents at a higher likelihood of encountering illegal fireworks exhibitors.

This allocation would allow the District 8 community to better engage with neighbors and partner organizations for the Independence Day celebration. Alongside the San José Police Department (SJPD) and the San José Fire Department (SJFD), strategic outreach will attract many residents hoping to enjoy the holiday with fireworks bringing them to a local and safe community-oriented celebration. Hosting a safe and legitimate fireworks show will provide a substantial boost to the City’s education and enforcement campaign to deter illegal fireworks activities. The proper presence of first responders and event security will further underscore the public safety aspect of these celebrations.

Furthermore, this Independence Day celebration supports local small businesses and stimulates our economy with potential out-of-town guests visiting family and friends. With sufficient funds, small businesses can better support strategic outreach alongside SJPD, SJFD, District 8 neighborhood groups, and partner organizations. By hosting a city-sponsored fireworks display in District 8, the City can support these public safety efforts and allow first responders better capacity for other emergencies during the holiday.

In past years when official fireworks events were cancelled by the City, first responders saw a 70% increase in calls for emergency services relating to illegal fireworks. Communities that host a fireworks show should see the most benefit from the reduction in emergency services call saturation. In 2024, there will only be 3 fireworks events hosted in partnership with the City. As part of last year’s budget, Council District 10 received \$150,000 for the City Fireworks Celebration at Lake Almaden. As East San Jose has not received city budgetary support to host fireworks shows in over a decade, Evergreen and East San José residents stand to benefit a great amount from this overdue public safety investment in partnership with the District 8 Community Roundtable (D8CRT), the Tully Road-Eastridge Business Association (TREBA), the Evergreen Leadership Neighborhood Association (EVLNA), and more.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Pat Waite

Department or Organization: District 8 Community Roundtable (D8CRT)

Phone Number: n/a

Email: Info@D8CRT.org