

My Fellow Human Services Commissioners,

It has been an honor to learn from you in this past year: your compassion for our community is inspiring and your visions for how we can be a more inclusive, just, and fair city makes me excited to attend every one of our meetings.

When I asked for your support to serve as Chair for the 2018 - 2019 year, I promised to focus on three issues:

1. **A More Open Agenda Process:** In the four meetings we have had despite our quorum issues, each were structured around the work of the ad hoc committees and focused on getting commissioners the information they needed to move forward on their projects.
2. **Develop a Specific On-Boarding Process for New Members:** We didn't gain any new members in the 2018 - 2019 year, so no progress on this one. However, at this meeting, we have two new members: **Commissioner Adaeze Nduaguba** (D4) and **Commissioner Christine Fitzgerald** (D1). I look forward to meeting with and learning about their goals for the commission.
3. **Monthly Communication with Council:** At each meeting we were able to hold, the commission voted on a letter to council summarizing our recommendations, questions, and workplan progress.

I ask for your vote to continue as Chair for the 2019 - 2020 year. With your support and guidance, I would focus on the following three areas:

1. **Fewer Workplan Projects, Bigger Ad Hoc Committees:** This time last year, we developed and council approved an ambitious workplan touching on a half-dozen issues of vital importance to our community with at times only one commissioner working on each issue. This year, with the consent and support of the commission, I propose we develop a workplan which focuses on ad hoc committees whose work:
  1. Draws on the unique expertises, passions, and community connections of at least three (but no more than six) members of the commission.
  2. Has a defined output: last year we agreed every ad hoc committee needed to produce one of the four outcomes: reports, advocacy, oversight, and events. This seemed to work well.
2. **Continued Monthly Communication with Council:** Our monthly updates to council provide us a second channel of communication, aside from the excellent support of our Council Liaison, Kiara Arreola of Office of Councilmember Carrasco. I propose we continue to send them.
3. **Focus on Advising the Budget Process:** Last year, individual commissioners participated in their local budget discussions. In my experience of the world, budgets are statements of values and our input in 2020 could help ensure San José's budget better reflects our city's commitment to human rights.

I believe the proposals above will help us fulfill our mandate more efficiently and effectively in the coming year. But as you know, as commissioners we do the vast majority of our work in our communities, not in the committee room. You volunteer in your schools, neighborhoods, and broader communities; many of you work daily to improve our community's levels of education, access, and inclusion.

In the next year, through this commission and through each other, I hope we each find new ways of connecting with our neighbors. Getting that process started: I invite the other members of the commission to join **Commissioner Daisy Barocio** and I as Rapid Responders for the City of San José. In the past year, I have responded to a dozen calls for help from my neighbors who live under the daily threat of of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We joined the Rapid Response team after hearing more about their work during a commission meeting. I encourage commissioners to continue to bring their requests for help, advice, and volunteers to our meetings.

Thank you for your time on the commission. I hope I can count on your vote.

Yours in service,

Jessica Dickinson Goodman  
Human Services Commission Chair 2018 - 2019  
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