

Dear Honorable Councilmember,

It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the Human Services Commission for the City of San José for the past 12 months. My fellow commissioners are dedicated, caring, brilliant members of the community working hard to fulfill our mission to "implement the San José Human Rights Policy and to develop programs promoting the fulfillment of human rights in the City."

Unfortunately, we have not met since January 2019 because City Council and the Clerk's Office did not fill vacant seats in District 1, District 4, District 6, District 8, District 10, and the Mayor's seat. These persistent vacancies left us with no margin for quorum. When some of our commissioners faced the normal, everyday challenges coming to meetings that can be expected of a volunteer body, we found ourselves unable to meet for six months.

Beginning in December 2018, our commissioners recruited aggressively from our own networks to try to sustain our commission, but found that the Clerk's Office had locked access to the online application form for the first two months of the year. In March, I personally called every councilmember's office with a vacant seat to request they fill their seats; this netted nine applications. And yet, the seats remained unfilled for another five months.

This profound lack of support from the city for our work undermined our ability to implement the city's human rights policy. Below were the workplan topics Council had approved last year that we were unable to make meaningful progress on, because of that lack of support:

1. Protecting the Rights of People with Disabilities
2. Protecting Environmental Sustainability Rights
3. Protecting Immigrants Rights

4. Protecting Children's Rights
5. Ending Human Trafficking
6. Protecting the Rights of Children with Disabilities

We were able to make progress on the following areas, by the outstanding efforts of our commissioners and staff from the City Manager's office:

1. **Ending Domestic Violence:** Commissioner Chris Demers evaluated the city's response to Santa Clara County's 2017 Blue Ribbon Report on Interpersonal Violence and is writing a report for the city.
2. **Promoting Disability Culture:** Commissioner Tiffany Maciel has been organizing a screening of *The Kids We Lose* film.
3. **Women's Bill of Rights:** Chair Dickinson Goodman drafted a RFI to help the city find a consultant to implement the gender analysis survey. The city then revised and released the RFI and received several proposals. The Mayor's June budget included \$50,000 for this survey.

I hope to work closely with Council in 2019 - 2020 ensuring the commission has the membership and support necessary to enable us to carry out the work for which we were appointed.

Respectfully and in-service,



Jessica Dickinson Goodman

Chair,

The San José Human Services Commission

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
650-804-9044

Join Chief of Police Eddie Garcia, members of the San Jose Police Department, and resource providers for a frank discussion on domestic violence, mental health and recent tragedies.

COMMUNITY MEETING and RESOURCE FAIR

A SJPD community meeting to address police protocols and learn about available resources to support healthy relationships and strong families.

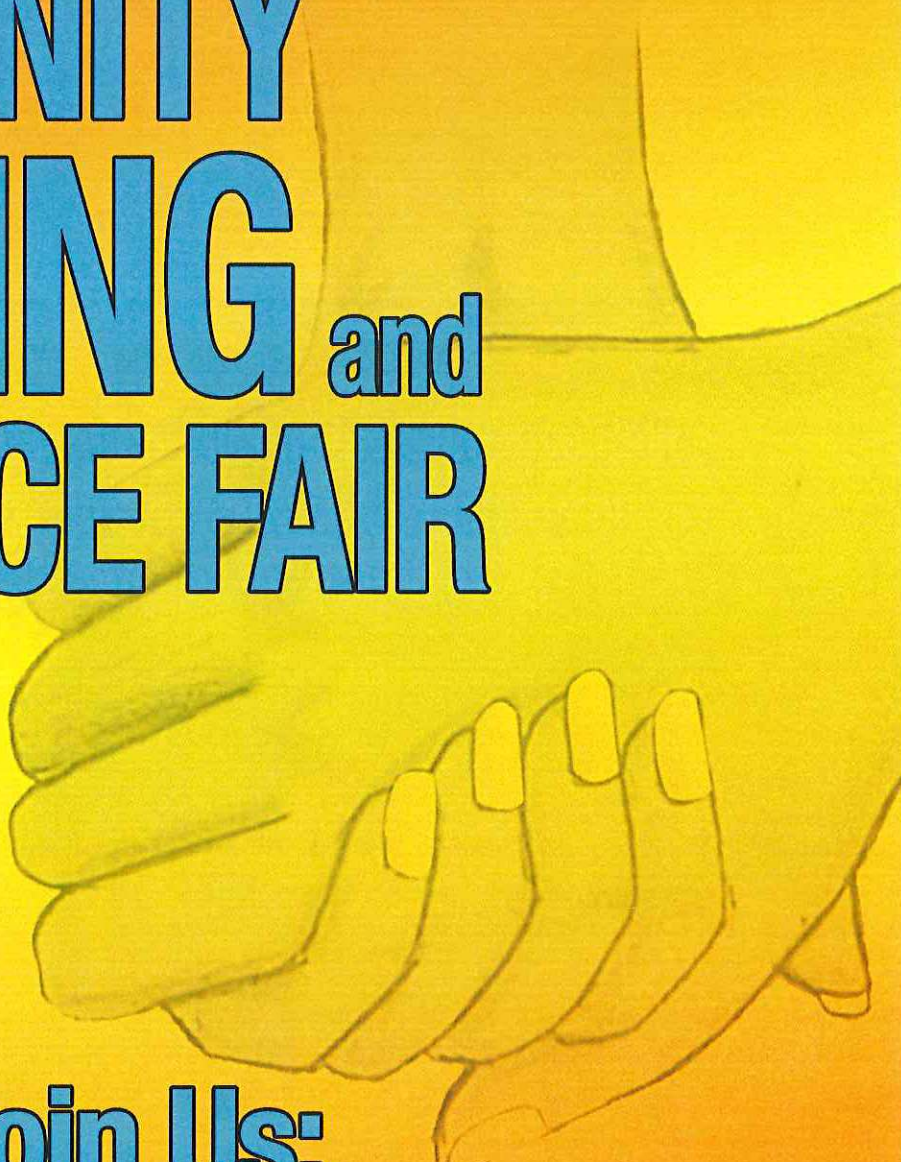
Join Us:

Thursday, August 29, 2019

Vietnamese Community Center

2072 Lucretia Ave, San Jose, CA 95122

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Women's Leadership Policy Summit

EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT & ENGAGEMENT

HOSTED BY SUPERVISOR CHAVEZ AND
THE MINETA TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE



CINDY CHAVEZ
SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2



Giveaways

08/17/2019

WE ALL SUCCEED WHEN WOMEN LEAD
#SCCWOMENSAGENDA

Light
Breakfast

Resource
Fair

8AM - 3PM
Childcare Available
at San Jose Staté University

Lunch

Register at

<https://womenssummit081719.eventbrite.com>

Event is free but space is limited.

Questions? Want to volunteer?

Contact kathy.truong@bos.sccgov.org.

The Park and Recreation System in San José, California Provides Millions in Economic Benefits



San José, California, the preeminent city of Silicon Valley, has a large natural and developed park system that provides beauty, recreational opportunities, access to nature, and positive environmental impacts to residents, workers, and tourists alike. In fact, parks are so important to the success of San José, that many people have asked how much economic value they bring. Thanks to a new study by The Trust for Public Land, the specifics of that value are now known.

Parks, trails, and community centers

San José contains almost 3,500 acres of city parkland and over 12,500 acres of county and federal preserves. This vast system provides unparalleled opportunities for walking, hiking, bicycling, swimming, playing sports, picnicking, and much more. It offers neighborhood and community parks, playfields, courts, golf courses, natural spaces, dog parks, skate parks, community centers, off-road trails, and the Happy Hollow Park and Zoo.

Enhancing property values

Parks and trails enhance the value of nearby residential properties because people enjoy living close to recreational amenities and are willing to pay for proximity. San José parks raise the value of nearby residential properties by \$1 billion and **increase property tax revenues by \$12.1 million a year.**

Providing essential natural goods and services

Parks reduce stormwater by capturing precipitation, slowing its runoff, and reducing the volume of water that enters the stormwater system. Parks in San José provide stormwater management valued at **\$6.43 million annually.**

Trees and shrubs in parks remove air pollutants that endanger human health and damage structures. Parks in San José provide health benefits and **reduce pollution control costs by \$1.18 million per year.**

Generating health care cost savings

Independent research shows that park use translates into increased physical activity, resulting in medical care costs savings. Approximately 24,000 adult residents use San José's parks, trails, and community centers to engage in physical activity at a level sufficient to generate measureable health benefits, yielding **annual medical cost savings of \$28.3 million.**

Offering recreational opportunities and attracting talented workers

Residents also enjoy San José parks, trails, and community centers. Each year residents of San José receive a **benefit of \$51.2 million for access to reduced or no cost recreational opportunities at park facilities.**

San José parks, trails, and community centers make the city an attractive place to live and work. Skilled workers are attracted to places like San José for its open space, clean air and water, and ample opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Boosting the local tourism economy

The Trust for Public Land estimates that approximately 7.7 percent of visitors to San José come to visit parks, trails, and community centers. **These visitors spend \$120 million annually in the local economy and generate \$4.93 million in local tax revenues.**

Source: The Trust for Public Land, *The Economic Benefits of the Park & Recreation System in San José, California* (2016). For the full report, visit WWW.TPL.ORG/ECONBENEFITS-SANJOSE

This Trust for Public Land report was completed in partnership with San José Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services and with generous support from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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COMMUNITY CENTER

3369 UNION AVENUE

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FALL 2019



PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

SUMMER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS | SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS INSIDE!

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Community Impact Report 2018

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH FUN



(left) PRNS and Earthquakes pose with teens from Roosevelt Community Center and Earthquakes Youth Academy. (right) PRNS, NHL and Sharks celebrate Roosevelt Rink Legacy Project.

Major League Partnerships Bring New Amenities to Downtown Parks

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services established partnerships with San José's two major league sports teams in 2018. This resulted in a new soccer mini-pitch at Arena Green in Guadalupe River Park, sponsored by the San Jose Earthquakes, and a renovation of the skating rink at Roosevelt Park and Community Center, sponsored by the San Jose Sharks.

"As the demand for safe and accessible places to play rises, PRNS and its partners are offering an innovative response. Fostering love for these sports

Downtown San José, enhance existing PRNS locations, giving them a fresh update that reflect youth sporting trends.

In January 2019, San José hosted the high-profile National Hockey League All-Star Game, bringing hockey players and fans near and far to the Capital of Silicon Valley. Each year, the NHL and the hosting team fund a charitable All-Star Legacy Project, leaving the host city in better shape than it was before the hockey extravaganza. The NHL and the Sharks selected the skating rink at Roosevelt Park and Community Center as the site of their San José project, providing \$500,000 for renovations, programming

coaching staff and scholarships so that PRNS can expand its hockey and skating opportunities to more San José youth.

The Earthquakes, Major League Soccer's MLS Works program and the U.S. Soccer Foundation sponsored the conversion of a former tennis court into Arena Green's new acrylic-paved soccer mini-pitch; paved surfaces remove the cost of turf upkeep. Its downtown location makes it easy to access for the thousands who live, work and play in the area. PRNS afternoon program participants will enjoy the non-reservable mini-pitch regularly as it becomes part of their after-school activities. Community Center

San José youth and families' access to safe recreational spaces," explained Neil Rufino, PRNS deputy director.

The mini-pitch and skating rink, both located in

scholarships and staffing.

The rink – where PRNS holds hockey camps and partners with Aloha Roller Rink for summer skate nights – is now outfitted with all-weather removable tiles, three sets of bleachers and updated fencing. The All-Star Legacy Project also funded equipment,

San José can now enjoy this new feature for years to come.

These strategic partnerships between PRNS and the major league teams who call the City home create civic pride and build a safer, more active San José.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

'We're looking back to move forward'

It's good to be back in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services! I was previously with PRNS as the Deputy Director of Animal Care and Services, and moved to General Services just as the economic recession started to impact our residents and government. As a City, we continue to recover from the economic downturn. PRNS has proven to be adept at meeting challenges with innovative solutions to move forward.

We offer people of all ages and abilities safe places to play and come together in the form of parks, trails, community centers and programs. PRNS has provided health and wellness resources and kept our community active since the 1930s. This year, we look back to move forward.

During the recession, PRNS introduced the idea of Reuse Centers, a creative response to keep 39 buildings open and provide essential community services while developing relationships with non-profit agencies. The program met these objectives, yet it is time to review the current model to address community challenges. This will be an important area of focus the next few years.

Another top priority will be Mayor Liccardo's #BeautifySJ Campaign – launched in 2017 – which aims to reduce trash, graffiti and other sources of blight in our City. In alignment with our mission, and our anti-graffiti and anti-litter programs, PRNS is at the forefront of these efforts. Last year, we awarded 71 neighborhood groups #BeautifySJ grants for community-led proj-



Jon Cicirelli, acting director of PRNS

ects. Through #BeautifySJ and other programs we are enhancing our partnerships with our community.

We have a strong collaboration with the San Jose Police Department through the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force, a national model for youth violence prevention and intervention, to keep our neighborhoods safe. To complement our partnership, we have begun working together to modernize the Police Activities League stadium and programs. Through a series of meetings, we know the community values the interaction between officers and youth and access to sports fields. We look forward to working with our community and SJPD to ensure PAL continues to connect with youth through recreational opportunities.

As a Department with daily community contact, we are a vital component to addressing our City's homelessness crisis. Currently, some community centers serve as Overnight Warming Locations, providing

vulnerable residents with a warm place during potentially life-threatening weather conditions. In 2018, we began to offer a few community center parking lots for a Safe Parking Pilot program, another solution to ensure homeless families have access to safe places at night.

Although we have many challenges ahead, it is important to take stock of our accomplishments. This past year, we opened Lake Cunningham Action Sports Park. Watson Park is now open after a year of repairs following the 2017 flood. Happy Hollow Park & Zoo had a marquee year with a record number attendance and many new zoo animals. And last but not least, our placemaking efforts continue to grow. Viva Parks has activated even more neighborhood parks, and Viva CalleSJ will now make a second appearance in the Spring, opening the City's largest-park-for-a-day twice a year!

I am humbled to lead a Department that offers solutions to community issues through people and public assets. I look forward to seeing you in our parks, trails, community centers and programs.

OUR MISSION:

To build healthy communities through people, parks and programs

OUR VISION:

A national leader in Parks and Recreation in cultivating healthy communities through quality programs and dynamic public spaces

PARKS, RECREATION, & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

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