

**Otto Lee**

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March 22, 2021

San Jose City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

**SUBJECT: 3/23/2021 AGENDA ITEM # 8.2: HOMELESSNESS ANNUAL REPORT AND ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: ENCAMPMENT AND ABATEMENT**

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the Council:

I write in strong support of Councilmember Raul Peralez's memo presented at the Joint Rules and Open Government Committee on addressing homelessness through the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you all know, the pandemic has affected residents across the county gravely. This has resulted in hundreds of residents losing their job which has pushed many out of their homes unable to cover their monthly rent, resulting in the proliferation of encampments we see today. It is my understanding that the City has resumed clearing out encampments, including one along Coyote Creek Trail from Olinder Dog Park to Story Road, with plans to clear the remainder of encampments leading up to William Street. According to advocates on the ground, an estimated 125 unhoused individuals will be displaced as a result. As Councilmember Peralez indicated in his memo, however, clearing out encampments must be conducted through a careful approach, and that includes identifying and securing publicly-owned land to serve as sanctioned encampment sites to relocate displaced unhoused residents as a result of abatements. Otherwise, we will continue the cycle of having displaced unhoused residents relocate elsewhere nearby and/or return to the original location after a certain period of time.

I am committed to working alongside the Mayor and Members of the Council in addressing this issue by working to ensure collaboration between the County and City along with other governmental districts including the Santa Clara Valley Water District and other public agencies who may have surplus lands to offer.

Thank you for your time and consideration in approving Councilmember Peralez's memo on this matter.

Sincerely,

Otto O. Lee

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