



# City of San José Neighborhoods Commission

District 1— Helen Kassa  
District 1— Gary Cunningham  
District 2— Lalbabu Prasad  
District 2— Perry Henry  
District 3—

District 3 – Richard Wong  
District 4 –  
District 4 –  
District 5 – Jewell Buchanan  
District 5 –

District 6 – Jim Carter (C)  
District 6 – Olivia Navarro  
District 7 –  
District 7 –  
District 8 – Nichole Edraos (VC)

District 8 –  
District 9 – Michael Young  
District 9 – Terry Martin  
District 10 – Richard Giammona  
District 10 –

Commission Staff: Olympia Williams

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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 10, 2021

Virtual

<https://zoom.us/j/99687351551>

### **I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

The Neighborhoods Commission of the City of San Jose convened at 6:35 p.m. online. The meeting was held via Zoom

Present Commissioners: Kassa, Cunningham, Prasad, Henry, Wong, Buchanan, Carter, Navarro, Edraos, Young, Martin, and Giammona.

Absent Commissioners: None.

Staff: Olympia Williams, Program Manager, Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services

### **II. Orders of the Day – None.**

### **III. Public Record – None.**

### **IV. Public Comment**

- Sandy Flores, resident, expressed interest in meeting with Olympia Williams in order to discuss the concerns in her district.
- Magdalena Duran, resident, expressed concern over various blight and crime in her neighborhood, such as transients, illegal dumping, abandoned cars, break-ins, parking issues, and cars parking on double lines.
- Leticia, resident, expressed concern over various blight in her neighborhood including homelessness and traffic concerns due to construction.
- Lalbabu Prasad, Neighborhoods Commissioner, spoke on his concerns of homelessness, unauthorized RV parking, and packages being stolen in his neighborhood.
- Jeff Levine, Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, was concerned with quality of life issues and mentioned that the County was opting out of Laura’s Law.
- Scott Godfrey, Cassell Neighborhoods Association, discussed parking issues, blight, and lack of parking and code enforcement officers.
- Craig Ferguson, Thompson Creek Neighborhoods Association President, said his neighborhood was concerned with side shows.

**V. Consent Calendar** – None.

**VI. Reports and Information Only**

- A. Jim Carter, Neighborhoods Commission Chair, gave a verbal report on the following:
- The need for staff support for the Neighborhoods Commission.
  - Vacant seats that need to be filled.
  - Come up with plan to present to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee.
  - The importance of attending meetings to reach quorum and make decisions.
- B. Commission Staff Olympia Williams, BeautifySJ Program Manager, Department of Park, Recreation and Neighborhood Services gave a verbal report on the following:
- How to contact BeautifySJ to express concern or to ask questions.

Public Comments:

- Matt Mahan, District 10 Councilmember, introduced himself as the new Council Liaison for the Neighborhoods Commission.
- Neil Rufino, Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services, introduced himself.

**VII. Old Business** – None.

**VIII. New Business**

- A. NEIGHBORHOODS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE – Olympia Williams, BeautifySJ Program Manager, Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Commission staff Olympia Williams provided a brief administrative update on the Neighborhoods Commission. She stressed the importance of the Commissioners attending meetings in order to achieve quorum and noted that new Commissioners have been appointed over the past few months. The goal for the Commission over the next few months is to come up with a work plan and send a Budget Letter to City Council before the budget is adopted in June. She has inquired with the City Attorney's Office about expiring term limits and should be able to provide an update at the next meeting.

- B. NEIGHBORHOODS ROUNDTABLE – Jim Carter, Chair

- D1: New D1 Commissioner, Helen Kassa, has been appointed; Neighborhood Association meetings have been being held via Zoom; concerns over porch pirates, car break-ins, attempted robbery, homelessness, illegal dumping.
- D2: Engage, connect, and challenge.
- D3: Coordinated with D3 Councilmember, Raul Peralez, over COVID-19 concerns; created non-profit for the community that focuses on emergency preparedness; connecting with Spanish speakers in the district.
- D5: Working with Vecinos Activos, Somos Mayfair, and Aruba to support issues in D5; held an event to ensure residents are being tested and signed up for vaccines for COVID-19; escalation of crime along Alum Rock corridor; homicides; escalation of crime against workers, landscapers, gardeners; homeless encampments; garbage along freeway exits; illegally parked construction equipment.
- D6: Side shows, break-ins, porch pirates, speeding, public safety, COVID-19 testing and vaccines.
- D8: Escalation of crime; vehicle and property theft; shootings; Aloha Skate Rink opened; illegal

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dumping; porch pirates; lack of community engagement.

- D9: Homeless activity, people scoping out vehicles, concerns about opportunity housing.
- D10: Uptick in gangs and graffiti, sanctioned encampments, theft, loitering in parks at night.

C. ICOC UPDATE – Gary Cunningham, Chair

ICOC Chair Cunningham provided an overview of the next steps for the Committee. He has begun contacting Committee members in order to schedule their next meeting. The Committee plans on finalizing the FY18-19 report and have it finished by the next Neighborhoods Commission meeting. He also provided a brief explanation of the ICOC.

Commissioner discussion ensued.

**IX. Adjournment**

The Neighborhoods Commission meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.