



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember M. Carrasco

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 25, 2021

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: **East Side Rescue Plan: Office of Youth Development**

Amount of City Funding Required: **\$ 981,095**

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable):

In District 5, one of Santa Clara County's COVID-19 hotspots, infections surged past most areas in the region. It has been a struggle to connect our residents to vaccinations and other resources. In addition to this, a complete analysis of Santa Clara County death records shows that the coronavirus is hitting the hardest in under-resourced neighborhoods, predominantly in disadvantaged Latino neighborhoods of East San José, where death rates are far higher than in wealthier areas.

For the East Side to recover from the pandemic it is imperative that there are resources dedicated to youth services. COVID-19 has been particularly cruel to communities of color and in twelve months, our youth have lost years of learning, socialization, and have fallen behind, which will take a collective effort to regain. We know the first five years of a child's life can set them on a successful and healthy journey in life. We also know this pandemic created an education crisis that upended the educational goals of our kiddos living in under-resourced communities. The COVID-19 "slide" will last for a generation. That is why the City needs to invest in youth development moving forward. Shifting resources and aligning programs will be paramount to their success. Time is of the essence.

In response, my office is proposing the creation of an Office of Youth Development. The Office of Youth Development's operation will be deliberate and calculated. Moreover, a future Office of Youth Development will incorporate the City's youth department/programming and youth-serving partners who will ensure successful outcomes for youth by building social capital, delivering support, and coordinating partnerships. This will set the way for an East Side Rescue Plan.

By centralizing our youth focused programs in a single office, we can effectively leverage our funds, communicate between programs, establish milestones, and provide ongoing services throughout a child's development, creating a more family friendly and seamless transition between programs. The office can also serve as a resource for all youth-related organizations and entity's the City partners with, such as the County, school districts, libraries, non-profits and child-care providers.

Furthermore, it should be noted that San José is one of the only large cities that has not created such an office. In the Bay Area, Oakland and San Francisco has these essential programs in one department. Nationwide, New York City, and Chicago also have departments that are centered around youth development. The City of San José should be a leader in this and not be following behind, especially for our East Side youth.

Therefore, we must take charge and create our own office for youth in San José. If our youth are not successful, our City is not successful. A cradle-to-career pipeline will create a vibrant city, especially a vibrant East Side makes for a prosperous City of San José!

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund): American Rescue Plan and Cannabis Tax Fund

Department or Organization Contact

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

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