

February 8, 2022

Rosalynn Hughey  
Deputy City Manager  
City of San Jose

Dear Ms. Hughey,

As members of the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, we appreciate the opportunity to engage in constructive, generative dialogue on what actions the City can take to move towards a full and fair recovery for all.

It is critical that the Task Force be structured to provide for real input, proposals, deliberation and recommendations from members; that it center equity by ensuring that members from marginalized communities and people with lived experience can participate and be heard; and that it produce concrete, impactful outcomes.

With over 50 members on the Task Force, we are excited to move to smaller, issue-specific committees where Task Force and community members can more freely engage in focused dialogue, problem-solving, and developing innovative ideas to recommend to City Council. However, although the City asked Task Force members to develop and provide recommendations for committees, and many members submitted committee ideas, the Task Force was not given the opportunity to choose among them; instead, the City created its own set of general categories. As a result, the currently proposed subcommittees are so broad that they are unlikely to meet those goals, but instead risk replicating the challenges and frustrations that many Task Force members have expressed with the existing meetings.

We request creation of the following two committees, which we previously proposed but were not included in the subcommittee list distributed last week:

1. **Workplace Health, Safety, and Rights:** How can San Jose promote workplace health, safety, and justice to help ensure a full and fair return to work for San Jose businesses and workers?
2. **Just Recovery for Airport & Hotel Workers:** How can workers, the City, Team San Jose, San Jose Airport, hotel employers, and other stakeholders come together to ensure that airport and hotel workers are included in recovery, and that we are preserving and expanding on the assets and experience of our local workforces to enable the hospitality sector to rebound?

We also suggest that a separate workforce development committee be created, if there is interest from other Task Force members in focusing on workforce development and job training.

In addition, based on comments made at the January Task Force meeting, it may be that other Task Force members may want to bring forward subcommittees they had proposed, and which they may not feel reflected in the current structure. A more democratic process to choose committees might be a vote or poll among the committee ideas as originally proposed by Task Force members.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working collaboratively to pursue a recovery that moves us towards a more equitable and resilient San José.

Sincerely,

Maria Noel Fernandez  
Working Partnerships USA

Jean Cohen  
South Bay Labor Council

David Bini  
Santa Clara & San Benito Building & Construction Trades Council

Luis Arguello  
LIUNA Local 270

Samuel Kehinde  
SEIU-USWW

Hector Moreno  
UFCW Local 5

Sarah McDermott  
UNITE HERE Local 19