



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Matt Mahan
Councilmember Dev Davis
Councilmember Domingo Candelas

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 26, 2024

Approved

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION AND ENGAGEMENT MODEL

RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept staff's recommendations
2. Direct staff to invite neighborhood associations and neighborhood organizations from throughout the City (i.e. All District Leadership Group, D6 NLC, District 8 Community Roundtable, etc.) to:
 - a. Provide input on which topics will be discussed at the upcoming Neighborhood Association Forum and Neighborhood Conference;
 - b. Provide guidance on the values, skills, characteristics they would like to see reflected in the staff hired to support the Neighborhood Association Forum; and
 - c. Advise staff on the work plan for year 1 of the Neighborhood Association Engagement Model.
3. Increase efforts to engage with currently under-represented communities in the Neighborhood Association Engagement Model
4. Provide an update to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee in February 2025 to evaluate progress.

DISCUSSION

In a city as large as San José, it's important to acknowledge the critical role our neighborhoods play in fostering a safer, cleaner and more vibrant city. Our neighbors are on the frontline of the issues we collectively face. Outside of this council, they require an outlet where they review and evaluate issues, propose courses of action, and advocate for the needs of residents. Organizing their voices allows for a process of continuous feedback and input crucial to address the diverse and ever-evolving needs of our community, particularly in our underrepresented communities.

The Neighborhoods Commission has served as a valuable platform for neighborhood engagement over the past 16 years. Each member of this Council appreciates the substantial contribution the commission and its commissioners have made to our government. As our city grows, it is crucial for us to adapt and incorporate the evolving methods required for effective community engagement to further provide the assurances and accountability our residents expect.

We are thankful to city staff for their recommendation, which has proven successful in other cities. This phased approach towards a more dynamic and inclusive Neighborhood Association Engagement (NAE) model offers neighbors the opportunity to forge connections with the city and their local community. As we move forward with this model, it's important to include the All District Leadership Group, neighborhood associations, and former commissioners from across all Districts to enlist their support in shaping this new format. It's also important that staff emphasize hiring a colleague who embodies the values and character we all desire. We trust neighbors will provide invaluable recommendations and guidance on program priorities, contributing to the success of the NAE model.

We owe it to our residents to equip them with the support and resources necessary to lay the groundwork for a more resilient and interconnected community where all can thrive. We believe the city staff's recommendation is a step in the right direction.

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.