

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Arjun Batra

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** April 29, 2024

Approved

*Arjun Dev Batra*

Date

*4/29/2024*

**SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION AND ENGAGEMENT MODEL**

## RECOMMENDATION

Accept the staff report and the memo from Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers Davis and Candelas with the following additions:

1. When and if staff returns to seek approval for any pillars beyond Pillar 1 direct them to:
  - a. Provide the goals, justification and resources needed for any additional pillars ( as only concept of Pillar 1 is accepted via this memo)
  - b. Work with Council offices and office of the Mayor in developing an acceptable structure for working together as One Team to best support neighborhood associations.
2. Direct Project Manager, or designee, to share with the council offices
  - a. any reports generated by the new Neighborhood Engagement Model participants when posted to NSE
  - b. List of neighborhood associations and neighborhood organizations that were contacted or who provided input.
3. Direct staff to include Council offices as invited participants to the Forums and Conventions.

## DISCUSSION

Many San Jose residents are highly engaged and volunteer their precious time to neighborhood associations, commissions and committees. They want to see their volunteer activities add value and make a difference. Our new engagement model must achieve this goal.

I support the memo signed by Mahan, Davis, and Candelas as involving the neighborhood associations and district leadership groups in the process of selecting the Program Manager, selecting the topics for the Forums, and advising on the first year work plan is critical to the success of the new engagement model.

April 29, 2024

**Subject: Neighborhood Association and Engagement Model Status Report**

Page 2

It is also important that Council offices are made aware of which organizations in their district participated and what feedback they provided as the neighborhood associations will expect that staff and the Council offices are in communication on such things.

The staff memo was very explicit that it was seeking approval for Pillar 1. When and if staff seeks approval for any pillars beyond Pillar 1 they will need to provide justification for proposing those pillars and any resources required to support such pillars. Nothing beyond Pillar 1 is being accepted at this time.

Recent conversations with various current and former commissioners revealed that they believe the Councilmembers did not get the benefit of their hard work as their commission reports were not distributed to the Council offices. It is recommended that any reports generated by the new Neighborhood Engagement Model participants are distributed to each Council office at the time they are posted to NSE. Electronic distribution would be adequate.