


FW: Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda Naming Agenda Item 3.4


City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 8/19/2024 1:43 PM

To:Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachments (85 KB)

Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda Naming Agenda Item 3.4.pdf;

Teresa Lewis | Deputy City Clerk
City of San José | Office of the City Clerk
200 East Santa Clara Street - Wing, 2nd Floor | San José, CA 95113


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From: Garza, Alyssa <alyssa.garza@BOS.SCCGOV.ORG>

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:26 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: RE: Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda Naming Agenda Item 3.4

[External Email]

You don't often get email from alyssa.garza@bos.sccgov.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Alyssa Garza, Board Aide
Office of Supervisor Cindy Chavez
County of Santa Clara, Second District
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CINDY CHAVEZ

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August 19, 2024

The San Jose City Council

200 E. Santa Clara Street

San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda Naming Agenda Item 3.4

I write today in strong support of Item 3.4 on the August 20, 2024, San Jose City Council agenda, naming the San Jose City Hall Rotunda the Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda. This recognition of the late San Jose Mayor Janet Gray Hayes is long overdue.

Mayor Hayes was not only the first elected two-term mayor of San Jose and a trail blazer in regional and national politics, but also a role model and inspiration to a generation of women in public service.

She became involved in San Jose civic affairs in 1959 when she appeared before the all-male city council to request a traffic light for a dangerous intersection near the elementary school her two oldest children attended. The council promised action, but no traffic light was installed. Mayor Hayes felt her concerns had not been taken seriously because she was a pregnant housewife. She became a neighborhood activist and was subsequently elected president of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters and then to the San Jose City Council and finally, in 1974, elected mayor of San Jose, the first woman elected mayor of a major U.S. city.

During her two terms as mayor, the City of San Jose adopted its first modern general plan, which curtailed urban sprawl and focused on improving the city's

neighborhoods. Mayor Hayes also championed diversity, supporting 1978's Measure F which mandated district elections for city council seats. The first district elections brought a majority of women on to the city council including the first Mexican American woman, Blanca Alvarado.

Throughout her time in public life and in retirement, Janet Gray Hayes remained a champion of women, of neighborhoods, of open government, and most of all of San Jose. Her legacy is felt to this day and she richly deserves this honor.

In community,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Chavez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Chavez

Santa Clara County Supervisor, District Two