

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027
(916) 319-2027
FAX (916) 319-2127

DISTRICT OFFICE
100 PASEO DE SAN ANTONIO, SUITE 319
SAN JOSE, CA 95113
(408) 277-1220
FAX (408) 277-1036

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Kalra@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



ASH KALRA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

August 31, 2020

San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Item 8.2 – Council Policy Priority # 5: Commercial Linkage Impact Fee.

Dear San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

I respectfully ask for your support for a Commercial Linkage Impact Fee Ordinance, at a minimum, following the fee schedule suggested in Councilmember Jimenez's memorandum. Although, I believe a fee schedule with even higher sensible rates for developers by size may be in order. Other cities in Silicon Valley, such as Milpitas, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and Santa Clara, all have successful commercial linkage fee tools in place. Yet, San Jose, which often times takes the lead in our region on innovative policies, still does not have one.

It is no secret that we have an affordable housing crisis in California, especially here in Silicon Valley where far too many families grapple with the high cost of living and dramatic wage disparities. With the current pandemic, our economy has taken a huge hit, exacerbating the affordable housing crisis. Our lowest-income communities suffer the most dire consequences of this deepening crisis. It is time that we do more to fund affordable housing in San Jose. Over the past decade San Jose added nearly 100,000 jobs but only built 22,000 new homes, resulting in a 136% increase in the cost of buying a new home and a 62% increase in rents. Our community is desperate for help.

As challenging as this issue can be, there is a path towards balancing the needs of the City of San Jose in such a manner that ensures economic viability of commercial enterprises while protecting San Jose residents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ash Kalra".

ASH KALRA