

## Letters from the Public

**FW: Support of the Reimagining Public Safety recommendations**

City Clerk &lt;city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

Thu 5/5/2022 6:38 PM

To: Agendadesk &lt;Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

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**From:** Dana Bunnett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 6:26 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Support of the Reimagining Public Safety recommendations

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May 5, 2022

Mayor & City Council  
City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San José, CA 95113  
Sent via electronic mail

Re: Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee Recommendations

Dear Mayor Liccardo &amp; City Councilmembers,

Kids in Common is sending this letter of support for the recommendations outlined in the Reimagining Public Safety (RiPS) Community Advisory Committee Report. Children live in families and in communities and are impacted by many of the issues outlined in the recommendations. By having more holistic approaches – approaches that address behavioral health needs, homelessness, structural racism, poverty, and trauma – we will create healthy and safe communities.

The RiPS process was initiated in response to the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. Our community also grapples with significant challenges of disproportionate impact on Black and Brown San José residents by our current law enforcement practices and priorities. RiPS was designed to center the voices of those impacted by these practices and sought to lay a foundation to reimagine how we approach public safety.

The report poses the question:

*“Are there more effective, efficient, and equitable strategies that can be deployed to address emergent crises and promote better social conditions that can make our community safer?”*

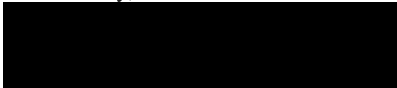
The recommendations acknowledge that the police should not have to respond to every social challenge we face. It's

common sense that we should send the right expert to the right problem. Other professionals may be better equipped to address issues of mental health or substance abuse, homelessness or gender-based violence. Moreover, investments in addressing the root causes of crime means we can prevent wrongdoing, not punish it after it happens.

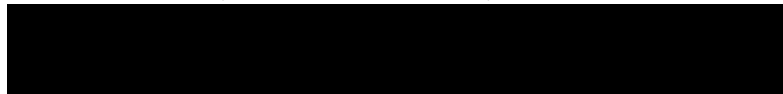
The report recognizes the role of police in addressing serious criminal issues, but also the need to strengthen hiring, training, policies, and oversight of law enforcement.

It is paramount that we acknowledge and reevaluate what we expect of police. We stand for community-driven solutions like those proposed by the Advisory Committee. Additionally there was a youth advisory committee that helped develop these solutions. At Kids in Common, we believe in the wisdom of our young people. For these reasons, Kids in Common urges the Council to direct City Administration to work with community-based partners to further develop and implement these recommendations.

Sincerely,



**Dana Bunnett** | Executive Director | we/she/hers



**Every child safe, healthy, successful in learning, successful in life.**

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May 6, 2022

Mayor & City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

#### **Re: Reimagining Public Safety Committee Recommendations (Item 4.2 on the May 10th City Council Agenda)**

Honorable Mayor & City Councilmembers,

We write in support of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee's April 2022 report. The recommendations included in this report address many of the systemic inequities and root causes that have created and exacerbated our severe homelessness crisis. And by implementing these actions, we can take important steps towards better serving our homeless neighbors AND ultimately preventing and ending homelessness in our community.

We are grateful for the Committee's efforts to engage individuals with lived experience in this process, and we'd like to express our particular support for three specific proposals that were generated in partnership with members of the Santa Clara County Lived Experience Advisory Board and other individuals with lived homelessness experience:

- Recommendation 3: The City of San José invest in mobile response teams that can respond to calls for assistance for the unhoused. Multi-disciplinary teams of professionals can offer solutions to address their needs in a crisis, from mental health, behavioral health, medical attention, social services, peer support, and more as needed.
- Recommendation 15: The City of San José and other agencies will develop housing and supportive services to ensure individuals leaving jail and prison are not released into homelessness.
- Recommendation 47: The City of San José will end enforcement of laws, citations, and fines that target people who are unhoused and redirect resources to support housing, safe parking locations, and supportive services to them.

We urge the City Council to accept this report and implement its many impactful recommendations as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Loving  
CEO

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN SILICON VALLEY**

## SVCN Letter to CSJ re Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee Recommendations (5.10.22)

Alan Gouig <[REDACTED]>

Mon 5/9/2022 1:08 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Reed, Jim <Jim.Reed@sanjoseca.gov>; Gomez, David <david.gomez@sanjoseca.gov>; Sandoval, Vanessa <vanessa.sandoval@sanjoseca.gov>; Ramos, Christina M <christina.m.ramos@sanjoseca.gov>; Brown, Stacey <Stacey.Brown@sanjoseca.gov>; Arreola, Kiara <Kiara.Arreola@sanjoseca.gov>; Groen, Mary Anne <maryanne.groen@sanjoseca.gov>; Kaspar, Nick <Nick.Kaspar@sanjoseca.gov>; Le, Nancy <Nancy.Le@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Quevedo, Matthew <Matthew.Quevedo@sanjoseca.gov>; Kyra Kazantzis <[REDACTED]>; Nick Kuwada <[REDACTED]>; Claire Kennedy <[REDACTED]>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Flores Shelton, Andrea <Andrea.FloresShelton@sanjoseca.gov>; Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>; Rios, Angel <Angel.Rios@sanjoseca.gov>; Wilcox, Leland <Leland.Wilcox@sanjoseca.gov>; Hamilton, Peter <peter.hamilton@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachments (107 KB)

Letter fr SVCN to San Jose City Council 2022.05.09.pdf;

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

I write to you on behalf of the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN), an alliance of community-based organizations working to support thriving and equitable communities in Santa Clara County.

Please find attached a letter regarding **Item 4.2, Report of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee and Charter Review Commission Public Safety Recommendations**. Thank you for your attention.

Best,  
Alan

**Alan Gouig** | Policy & Advocacy Associate | he/him/his  
**Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits**  
Phone: [REDACTED] | Web: [svcn.org](https://www.svcn.org) | Twitter: @SVCN

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May 9, 2022

San José City Council  
San José City Hall  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San José, CA 95113  
Sent via electronic mail

**Re: Support for Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee's Recommendations**

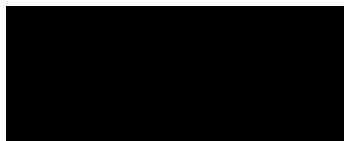
Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council:

I write to you on behalf of the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN), an alliance of community-based organizations working to support thriving and equitable communities in Santa Clara County. Among SVCN's 2022 Board-adopted Policy Priorities Areas is a "Prevention and Intervention Priority Area" that encourages local governments to redirect funds currently spent on policing and the carceral system and reinvest them in behavioral health services, substance abuse treatment, housing, free community college, job training, health care access and universal basic income. Further, this priority area calls on local governments to increase coordinated, community-based, holistic care and services, including pretrial release and diversion programs and explore justice-oriented solutions like victim-centered restorative justice programs, rehabilitation and work-release programs, fines and de-criminalizing poverty.

In alignment with our Prevention and Intervention Priority Area, SVCN stands in strong support of the recommendations advanced in the Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee's April 2022 report. In addition to the recommendations of the report, SVCN urges the City of San José to increase its investment in prevention and intervention programming; Mayor Liccardo rightly spoke to the need to increase prevention and intervention efforts at a recent Rules meeting. For example, doubling the City's investment in BEST services in Fiscal Year 2023 would be a good start.

We urge the City Council to accept this report, add resources to the budget to implement the highest priority recommendations, and make a longer-term plan to implement the rest.

Regards,



Kyra Kazantzis, CEO



**AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY**

STRENGTH IN UNITY – SINCE 1978

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WEBSITE: <http://www.sjaacsa.org> | EMAIL: [info@sjaacsa.org](mailto:info@sjaacsa.org)

May 10th, 2022

Mayor and City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Item 4.2 Report of the Reimagining Public Safety Advisory Committee and Charter Review  
Commission Recommendations

Greetings Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

The African American Community Service Agency (AACSA) writes in support of the recommendations from the Reimagining Public Safety Advisory Committee. The members of this committee have diligently researched and worked on alternatives that can tremendously improve how residents feel about their safety in the City of San Jose, so we encourage you to give these recommendations strong considerations because they can benefit so many people .

In addition, we support the Charter Review Commission's recommendation for a Police Commission, an Independent Investigation Department, and an Office of the Inspector General for it relates to some of the recommendations from the Reimagining Public Safety Advisory Committee. This recommendation has garnered so much support since introduced at the CRC and now is the time to strongly consider it.

Throughout the many months of these ongoing meetings, AACSA also held discussions with our community. We had conversations with those who are impacted by police to hear their thoughts on how they feel about their safety and what needed to be changed. We also invited SJPd Chief of Police Anthony Mata and others to speak to our community and hear their thoughts. It is important to understand that our community members desire alternatives to the current structures in place and we want to feel as if we are heard.

We are grateful for the implementation of the Reimagining Public Safety Advisory Committee and Charter Review Commission, and we hope you hear our communities' desire for change.

Strength in Unity,

Milan R. Balinton  
Executive Director  
African American Community Service Agency

Lavere Foster  
Associate Director  
African American Community Service Agency

May 10, 2022

Mayor & City Council  
City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San José, CA 95113  
Sent via electronic mail

Re: Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee Recommendations

Dear Mayor Liccardo & City Councilmembers,

As leaders of community-based organizations and members of the Race Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Coalition, we, the undersigned, firmly stand behind the recommendations outlined by the Reimagining Public Safety (RiPS) Community Advisory Committee Report. The REAL Coalition is broadly representative of the nonprofit community, and as such, we understand the implications that the recommendations brought forth by RiPS will have in our community.

The RiPS process was initiated in response to the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. Our community also grapples with significant challenges of disproportionate impact on Black and Brown San José residents by our current law enforcement practices and priorities. RiPS was designed to center the voices of those impacted by these practices and sought to lay a foundation to reimagine how we approach public safety.

The report poses the question:

*“Are there more effective, efficient, and equitable strategies that can be deployed to address emergent crises and promote better social conditions that can make our community safer?”*

The recommendations acknowledge that the police should not have to respond to every social challenge we face. It’s common sense that we should send the right expert to the right problem. Other professionals may be better equipped to address issues of mental health or substance abuse, homelessness or gender-based violence. Moreover, investments in addressing the root causes of crime means we can prevent wrongdoing, not punish it after it happens.

The report recognizes the role of police in addressing serious criminal issues, but also the need to strengthen hiring, training, policies, and oversight of law enforcement.

It is paramount that we all, as leaders, acknowledge and reevaluate what we expect of police. We stand for common sense solutions like those proposed by the advisory committee. Therefore we urge the Council to direct City Administration to work with community-based partners to further develop and implement these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Poncho Guevara, Sacred Heart Community Service  
Lavere Foster, African American Community Service Agency  
Almaz Negash, African Diaspora Network  
Maritza Maldonado, Amigos de Guadalupe & Sí Se Puede Collective  
Sarita Kohli, Asian Americans for Community Involvement  
Richard Konda, Asian Law Alliance

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg, Behavioral Health Contractors' Association (BHCA)  
Sparky Harlan, Bill Wilson Center  
Jahmal Williams, Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet  
Gregory R. Kepferle, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County  
Erin O'Brien, Community Solutions  
Jennifer Loving, Destination: Home  
Pete Settelmayer, Downtown College Prep  
Shawn Gerth, Educare California Silicon Valley  
Beth Leary, Family Supportive Housing  
Susie Rivera, Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)  
Reymundo C. Espinoza, Gardner Health Services  
Veronica Goei, Grail Family Services, Sí Se Puede Collective  
Kiana Simmons, HERO Tent  
Richard Hobbs, Human Agenda  
Laurie Valdez, Justice4Josiah.org  
Alison Brunner, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Gabriel Young, LEAD Filipino  
Quency L. Phillips, Lighthouse Building Back Better  
Gisela B. Bushey, Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen  
Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez, MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana  
Rev. Steven Pinkston, Maranatha Christian Center  
Hector Sánchez-Flores, national compadres network  
Ellina Yin, Only in San José  
Eva M. Terrazas, Pacific Clinics  
Maria Daane, Parents Helping Parents  
Heather Cleary, Peninsula Family Service  
Rev. Ray F. Montgomery, People Acting in Community Together  
Project Sentinel, Project Sentinel  
Dontae Lartigue, Razing the Bar  
Kathy Cordova, Recovery Cafe San Jose  
Kelsey Ichikawa, San Jose Nikkei Resisters  
Wisa Uemura, San Jose Taiko  
Carlos Rosario, Santa Clara County Black Lawyers Association  
Vanessa Shieh & Jessica Paz-Cedillos, School of Arts & Culture & Sí Se Puede Collective  
Shiloh Ballard, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
Kyra Kazantsis, Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits  
Victor Vasquez & Saul Ramos, SOMOS Mayfair & Sí Se Puede Collective  
Regina Celestin Williams, Silicon Valley@Home  
Cayce Hill, Veggielution, Sí Se Puede Collective  
Kylie Clark, West Valley Community Services  
Leif Erickson, Youth Community Service