



## Fw: Special Meeting - Final Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Proposed Operating/Capital Budgets and the 2021-2022 Proposed Fees and Charges

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 6/15/2021 8:58 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachments (70 KB)

Herrity Comments 6.14.21.pdf;

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**From:** Joe Herrity [REDACTED] >

**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2021 8:02 PM

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

**Cc:** Garcia, Mariela <Mariela.Garcia@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Special Meeting - Final Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Proposed Operating/Capital Budgets and the 2021-2022 Proposed Fees and Charges

[External Email]

Greetings,

Please, see my attached letter for public comment at this evening's budget forum. I hope this can be included in the record.

Respectfully,

Joe

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Joe Herrity

Principal

[REDACTED]

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June 14, 2021

RE: FY 2021-2022 Budget

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmembers, and City staff:

My name is Joe Herrity. I am resident of district 6, and a long-time social sector leader working on behalf of children and youth in San Jose and Santa Clara County. I've spent the past 16 years on the ground in community, working alongside many with our least resourced community members. Among many efforts, I have led the Opportunity Youth Partnership for the past 7 years, and work closely with many community leaders on the Bridge to Recovery.

I am an advocate for children and youth. I want San Jose to be the **best** city in the United States for families, children, and youth. I want San Jose to be the **best** place for young families, like mine, to raise children. Our people are our best resources – I want San Jose to be the capital of human capital development and that starts with sustainable investments in youth.

Currently, we cannot say that. We are actually a place that families are fleeing – 25,000 residents have left from 2018-2020 (2019-2020 being the most recent data, in which 12,912 residents left. <https://sanjoespotlight.com/san-jose-sees-sharpest-population-decline-in-10-years/>). Now, that is due to myriad and complex factors, and at the end of the day most issues in San Jose are housing issues. But today I hope to point to two opportunities to offer better experiences for young people through investments in systemic approaches and robust community engagement.

I would like to see American Rescue Plan resources directed to the necessary infrastructure to create a true **Opportunity Ecosystem** that helps young people in San Jose get from wherever they are to wherever they want to be. To do that, we must think in systems and involve those with the most to gain or lose by our success.

While I am excited by the idea of Resilience Corps, and other ideas noted in the memo, I am concerned that the full budget indicates these resources will end up creating temporary one-off programs for our least resourced young people, just as we did with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars after the Great Recession. Further, the pandemic has revealed that

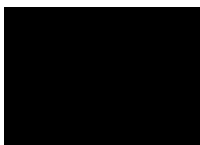
we cannot program our way out of structural inequity. I encourage the council to drive investments in coordinated and coherent systems for youth and young adults that catalyze our current investments like San Jose Aspires, San Jose Works, WIOA youth services, San Jose Promise, and other programs. We should be investing in forging and tightening systems that we can sustain after these one-time dollars wind down.

Critical to getting this right are processes that bring the expertise of lived experience to the center of the conversation and pair it with technical system expertise. Groups like mine and others are thinking hard about this and are ready to respond. This requires time, energy, and attention, but inclusive process is best bet to find true innovation that delivers a just and equitable community.

I am excited by the priorities Councilmembers Carascao and Arenas are moving forward. Specifically, a focus on an Office of Youth Development and a push to align the City's existing youth workforce and education programs. The San Jose Youth Commission's recent revision to the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth call out what young folks believe they need. *We* are the adults; we must respond. I urge the council to find ways to invest in system build capacity that connects programs into systems and employ powerful design methodologies to include the perspectives of young people. This is precisely what the moment calls for, and I urge that resources be directed toward these efforts and therefore the long term success of San Jose.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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Joe Herrity  
Resident, District 6

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