

## Letters from the Public

My name is Jorge Escobar, Vice Chancellor – Chief Business Officer and Acting Chief Technology Officer for San Jose Evergreen Community College District

Esteemed Neighborhood Services and Education committee:

First, I'd like to recognize the amazing effort, commitment and passionate advocacy for supporting and welcoming immigrant children and families to the City of San Jose. As an immigrant from Ecuador, I know first-hand how the local community can be either welcoming or be the worst fear when one arrives to a neighborhood, city, county or country. I only have great stories to tell when I migrated to New Jersey in 1988 and then moved to San Jose in 2012. I remember how I got involved with my local County College and vividly recall the day that the ESL lab supervisor took me to the Division of Motor Vehicles to take a driving test. Similarly, I only have great stories about San Jose and its wonderful people.

San Jose Evergreen Community College District has been part of the fabric of this great City for a long time. As a matter of fact, San Jose City College is celebrating its 100 year anniversary, as one of the oldest Colleges in the State, and the oldest in Santa Clara County.

We have the tools and programs to support some of the amazing and visionary thinking of Director Zulma Maciel and her team. I have been involved from the onset contributing to the - Welcoming San Jose Plan - that will be reported today. I offer our support to ensuring we advance educational and economic opportunities among immigrants and refugees through job skills training, strengthening career pathways, promotion of entrepreneurship, small business retention and growth, and financial literacy.

Our colleges are cities within the City and appreciate your consideration and time.

City of San Jose  
Neighborhood Services and Education (NSE)  
Special Committee Meeting Agenda  
200 E Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, Ca 95113



NSE May 20 Special Meeting Agenda

5/20/2021

Re: Welcoming San Jose Plan 2.0

Prosperity Lab is a nonprofit organization, we develop and facilitate programs and initiatives that uplift and empower women, micro enterprises and immigrant communities towards business growth, economic advancement, and economic mobility.

As executive director of Prosperity Lab, I am writing in support of the Welcoming SJ Plan 2.0.. San Jose's innovative spirit is due in large part to the contribution of our immigrant communities. Immigrants are a growing population in our city and their fate affects us all. Investing in the Welcoming SJ Plan is good for our city.

The immigrant business community holds great promise, they create jobs, make investments and contribute sales revenue to our economy. Especially in East San Jose, Little Saigon, Calle Willow and pockets of South San Jose. They create the multi-cultural sounds, colors and flavors that make this a great city.

The Welcoming SJ Plan advances educational and economic opportunities for immigrants and refugees. It calls for promoting entrepreneurship, protects small businesses, supports their growth, and provides financial literacy.

By approving the Welcoming SJ Plan our city will allow the many partners to continue to work collaboratively, across sectors and with the office of immigrant affairs. And to deepen those partnerships. The proposed plan was very well thought out and includes feedback from stakeholders, grass roots organizations and CBO's who work with immigrants and refugees in different fields.

I thank this council for their time and appeal to you to approve the Welcoming SJ Plan 2.

Saludos,

Mimi M Hernandez  
Executive Director  
Prosperity Lab



City of San Jose  
Neighborhood Services and Education (NSE)  
Special Committee Meeting Agenda  
200 E Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, Ca 95113

6/12/2021

Re: Welcoming San Jose Plan 2.0

Refugee & Immigrant Forum of Santa Clara County facilitates the successful integration of refugees and immigrants into local communities; through collaboration, resource sharing, and fostering community awareness. The Forum includes of over 20 member organizations and 8 individuals who work directly with refugees and immigrants.

As Chair of the Forum and leading the skilled refugee & immigrant committee of the Forum, I am writing in support of the Welcoming San Jose Plan 2.0. The Office of Immigrant Affair has been directly involved, and has been a great supporter of the Forum, and the committee. With their help, we were able to conduct 6 job fairs, each of which had over 150 job seeking participants. We also conducted a successful convening which would not have happened without the help and the support of OIA.

I have been involved from the beginning of this plan, which was created according to the needs of the community as well as the existing resources in San Jose. The city of San Jose, being in the heart of Silicon Valley, attracts skilled refugees & immigrants. It will be a huge benefit to the city and the local community to create and present a welcoming and resourceful city, so that newly arriving refugees and immigrants can flourish, and be able to use their knowledge and talent to the maximum.

Director Zulma Maciel and her team have done a superb job in creating a plan to improve the city of San Jose for the local community, as well as new arrivals... and I fully support this plan.

Warm regards,

Ellie Clelland  
Chair, Refugee & Immigrant Forum of Santa Clara County

**June 15, 2021**

**City of San José  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113**

**Re: Support for Item 3.1 - Welcoming San José Plan**

Mayor Liccardo and San José City Council:

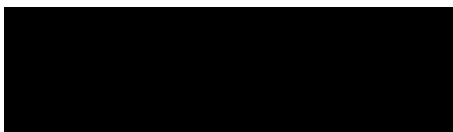
Community Health Partnership is in strong support of the Welcoming San José (WSJ) Plan's priority strategies that will direct the work of the Immigrant Affairs program under the Office of Racial Equity, and will help shape a more welcoming and inclusive city for years to come.

Immigrants contribute to the civic vibrancy of San José, and the four pillars of the Welcoming Plan: Leadership and Communications, Access and Engagement, Education and Economic Opportunity, and Safe Communities establishes a process for possible future policies that will create real opportunities for immigrants to thrive in San José. Components of the Welcoming Plan, like effective public engagement and centering equity in decision-making will lay the foundation for impactful legislation.

Over the last 15 months, we have seen the true inequities in our immigrant community rise to the surface. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated issues of housing, economic security, and health in immigrant households. The Welcoming Plan continues the city's vision of standing up for immigrants by creating a process to finding real solutions to the issues that are facing San Jose's most vulnerable populations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the leadership of Community Health Partnership, I strongly urge you to support for adoption of the next phase of the Welcoming San José Plan. Additionally, please count on us to help the City implement it.

Sincerely,



**Dolores Alvarado  
Chief Executive Officer  
Community Health Partnership**

**Fw: For Item 3.11 | Welcoming San Jose Plan 2021-24**

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

Wed 6/16/2021 8:43 AM

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

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**From:** Angelica Cortez [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:32 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** For Item 3.11 | Welcoming San Jose Plan 2021-24

[External Email]

To those concerned --

If it's not too late, the members and families of LEAD Filipino, a local San Jose-based nonprofit organization, would like to request that the "Welcoming San Jose Plan" **reinstate usage of the terminology "Latinx" alongside "Latinas" and "Latinos"** which is contrary to the motion/recommendation taken on May 20, 2021 at the City's Neighborhood Services & Education Committee.

We join a chorus of nonprofit and grassroots organizations that together, represent thousands of students and families, in asking the San Jose City Council to reject removing the "X" from the recommended "Welcoming San Jose" language.

Thank you,

Dr. Angelica Cortez

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**Angelica Cortez**

Founder

L.E.A.D Filipino