



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO

**FROM:** Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**DATE:** May 22, 2019

Approved

Date: May 22, 2019

## RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: **Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative**

Amount of City Funding Required: \$27,000

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund

This change is:

One-time  Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (Please describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

Over the last decade, the Responsible Landlord Engagement initiative (RLEI) has partnered with the City of San Jose to strengthen neighborhoods by resolving problem properties. RLEI helps communities stay safe and healthy while reducing expense to municipal departments. RLEI works alongside neighborhood leaders, law enforcement, and local government to hold property owners accountable for the upkeep of their properties in order to maintain the well-being of the community. The program resolves problem properties throughout the City of San Jose by addressing blight, disrepair, pestilence, persistent code violations, gang, drug, and/or criminal activity. RLEI facilitates, mediates, and advocates for achievable solutions to benefit all interested parties. It maintains an active partnership with the San Jose Police Department as well as the San Jose Code Enforcement Department, the San Jose Housing Department, and more. Monthly key stakeholder meetings include San Jose City Council staff, who stay informed about problem properties in their District.

RLEI plans to expand program services to serve large apartment complexes, broaden the scale of services in residential neighborhoods, and enhance capacity as a community resource network hub.

In FY 2018, RLEI served: 22 neighborhoods, 21 single residences, and 1 apartment complex. In FY 2019, with the use of more funds, RLEI hopes to serve, throughout San Jose: 25 neighborhoods, 22 single residences, and 3 apartment complexes. Without additional funds, RLEI might not have the capacity to serve our City's or District's needs.

A cost study utilizing City of San Jose data revealed that for every \$1 the City invested in the project, RLEI returned \$1.28 in the form of reduced police, fire, and code enforcement calls. RLEI also reduces risks of litigation for residents.

With additional funds, RLEI also plans to leverage Catholic Charities services through RLEI to provide residents with access to immigration legal services, access to public benefits, financial literacy, workforce development, and housing programs, among many others.

The benefits of RLEI ultimately result in a stronger community. The program's success proves it deserves funding for expansion to serve an even broader number of residents who need its services in San Jose.

### **Funding Source**

- Essential Services Reserve (\$4 million):
- Other (Program/Project/Fund):

**Department or Organization:** Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative (RLEI)

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation):

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