



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

District 10 Mid-June Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

On Tuesday, the City Council reached a major milestone in approving the Mayor's June Budget Message. This is a precursor to the final adoption of the City budget scheduled for this coming Tuesday's Council meeting. A big thank you to Mayor Reed, my fellow Councilmembers, City Manager Debra Figone and her staff – especially Budget Director Jennifer Maguire and her team - as well as other city employees from numerous departments who put in long hours to craft a carefully balanced budget. With the improving economy and the positive effect on the city's finances from the City's Fiscal Reform Plan, the Council was able to commit additional resources to our residents' top priorities such as rebuilding capacity in the police department, opening the South San José Police Substation, and funding neighborhood traffic safety programs and performing critical infrastructure maintenance.

Included in the Mayor's June Budget Message, approved by the City Council, were several of the eight Budget Documents I prepared. The first, and most important, was the opening of the South San José Police Substation. With public safety being my No. 1 priority since taking office, the opening of the substation will help the police to get to calls in south San José more quickly and has the potential to provide the city with net savings in the range of \$94,000 - \$540,000 per year by eliminating now-unproductive commuting time and mileage. I calculated that the time savings from the opening of the Substation is the equivalent of putting 13 additional police officers on patrol. The Command Staff of the SJPD has updated its transition plan and is ready to move ahead with the relocation of the Southern District staff to the Substation in early 2014. You can learn more about the details of this Budget Document by [clicking here](#).

I am also pleased to note that direction was included in the Mayor's June Budget Message to use money saved through the refinancing of City debt to pay down the principal on the City's loans. This will reduce our long-term costs of borrowing and provide the City with more financial flexibility in the future. This has been a key focus

area for me since I began serving as your Councilmember.

Several weeks ago my colleagues and I unanimously voted to reject the 5% raises for the Mayor and City Councilmembers that were recommended by the Council Salary Setting Commission. In Budget Document #78, I had suggested that the \$50,000 budgeted for these raises instead be used to purchase equipment for the SJPD – specifically, a patrol-car-mounted license plate scanner and portable fingerprint scanners. In discussions with rank-and-file patrol officers, as well as with SJPD leadership, I learned that the department lacks some of modern tools that would allow them to be more productive on the job and to increase the time they are available for patrol. Unfortunately, these funds were disseminated to other projects within the city. To view this Budget Document, [click here](#).

In addition to the items already mentioned, I drafted Budget Document #8 to transfer up to \$3,500 of my office budget to PRNS for the acquisition and installation of the hardware required to expand wireless internet access throughout the Almaden Community Center and Library. Key areas of the Community Center, including various meeting rooms, now lack the WiFi signal necessary for user access. Numerous requests from the community have been made for improved WiFi access at this hub community center and this proposal would allow PRNS to meet this community request. To read more about this, [click here](#). Although it was not approved as part of the Budget Message, I am pleased to report that we are still able to move forward with this project using District 10 office funds. I am already working with the City's IT Director and the management of the Almaden Community Center and Library to make it happen.

Below are descriptions and links to my other 2013-2014 Budget Documents:

- Increase the contract allowance between the Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department with outside plan review firms to address the plan review backlog while saving the City money.
- Prioritize the implementation of electronic plan-review software as a low-cost improvement in development services. To read more [click here](#).
- Explore the possibility of creating a consolidated regional Fire Department, where a regional model for Fire Department staffing could improve coverage, create efficiencies, and save the City money. To read more [click here](#).
- Establish pre-tax transit/vanpooling/bicycling expense accounts for City employees – where employees are allowed to set aside up to \$245 of their own money – to re-incentive the use of environmentally friendly commute alternatives. To read more [click here](#).
- Explore the option of outsourcing small tree care and maintenance currently performed by staff in PRNS, which would allow the City to leverage non-profits and other service providers while saving money. To read more [click here](#).
- Reactivate the Employee Suggestion Award Program to generate cost savings, enhance City services, and encourage the engagement of City employees. To read more [click here](#).

As you may be aware, I requested that the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority reconsider its proposal to purchase more diesel coaches and instead to consider the purchase of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) coaches. CNG buses are not only more fuel efficient, but they are cleaner to operate and have a much lighter carbon footprint. Not only will this effort keep our air clean, but it could also save millions of dollars in just a few years. During its June 6th meeting, VTA referred this request to staff which will evaluate the feasibility of going to CNG buses and make a recommendation to the VTA's Transit Planning & Operations committee in August. If you support these efforts, feel free to contact VTA board members and let them know how you feel by calling 408-321-2300. You may also send your support letters to our office and we can pass them along.

I am also pleased to see that Santa Clara County understands the importance of being more environmentally friendly. Santa Clara County announced that its goal is to convert 25% of its vehicles to CNG within 10 years. By doing so, the County will decrease its use of petroleum by 333,375 gallons per year.

Many of you have asked for an update on the weed-abatement project along Almaden Expressway. Once started, the project to eliminate the weeds along Almaden Expressway from Alma to Harry will take about 4-6 weeks to complete. Unfortunately, the start of this project was delayed since the County workers who would have been pulling weeds have been temporarily reassigned to do chip-seal road repairs elsewhere. Currently the County is working on weed abatement at Capitol Expressway, which will last another 2-3 weeks, after which they plan to begin the work along Almaden Expressway.

On April 20th, many of you participated in the Great American Litter Pick-Up. Guadalupe Oak Grove Park was one of our locations for the event and the great progress that was made that day is just a fraction of the work still needed to make the park safe for hikers and free of fire hazards. This is why my office is working with neighborhood groups and others to organize quarterly clean-ups at the park. On July 6th, from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., we will continue working where we left off in April and we'd love to have your help! We will be pruning trees and removing coyote brush, so please wear the appropriate clothing and shoes. Tools and gloves will be provided, but feel free to bring your own as well (no power tools). Water, coffee, and snacks will be provided to all volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Rayshelle at rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910. We hope to see you there!



I close this newsletter by thanking each of you who attended the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Meeting at Parkview Elementary School on Tuesday evening. A special thank you goes out to Amy Boles, Principal of Parkview Elementary, for hosting the event, to Lt. Jason Ta from the SJPd, and to Laura Wells from the Department of Transportation for answering our questions. It saddens me that we met under such tragic circumstances,

but I know that if we work together, we can make our streets safer for our children. Having met with almost every principal in our district, I can tell you that traffic safety was their No. 1 concern. Even though school is out for summer, please remember to slow down in school zones, near parks, and in our neighborhoods; children and families will still be frequenting those areas and we want to be sure they remain safe and enjoyable for everyone. Let us each commit to becoming more alert, aware, and respectful drivers and pedestrians.

If you have any questions about things you have read in this newsletter, don't hesitate to contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910. You can also friend me on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#). We have one more Community Office Hours meeting coming up on Wednesday, June 19th from 5:30pm-7:00pm at Lime Tree Espresso on Branham & Snell, before we take our July break. You can also hear me speak at the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association meeting on June 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Teresa Branch Library. Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Johnny

San Jose Beyond the Bell

A summer learning guide and online directory that allows parents to see the full range of educational resources that exist beyond their children's schools is being made available to parents, educators and service providers in the San Jose area thanks to SJ2020, the collaborative effort to eliminate the achievement gap in local schools by the year 2020. Loaded with more than 1,000 after-school and summer programs, Beyond the Bell also offers a summer learning guide with links to articles and events to help parents support learning outside of school. To preview the San José Beyond the Bell tool, please visit www.sanjosebeyondthebell.com

San Jose Library Summer Reading Celebration

San José Public Library presents its annual Summer Reading Celebration June 1st-July 31st. This year's reading celebration features more than 100 events for all ages that include live performances, activities and programs. Signing up for the reading celebration is quick, easy, free and rewarding. Books read or listened to from June 1st through July 31st will count toward program prizes. This year, all are invited to the library's system-wide kick off celebration at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library on Sunday, June 2nd from 1-4 p.m. The kick-off event invites people of all ages to participate in a scavenger hunt inside the King Library and will also feature a community resource fair and plenty of live entertainment. For more information, visit www.sjpl.org/summer or call (408) 808-2175.

Delta Airlines Resumes Service Between SJC and LAX

Delta, which previously served the San Jose/Silicon Valley market until 2008, will fly four daily nonstop flights. Delta also offers nonstop service between SJC and Atlanta, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Salt Lake City. Delta's service to LAX joins Virgin America's recently-launched daily flights between SJC and LAX, so consumers now have a wider choice of carriers.

Open Space Authority Seeks Your Input

For over 20 years, the Open Space Authority has partnered with communities to protect waters, wildlife, and working lands in the Valley for the benefit of current and future generations. The Authority's efforts to protect the health of our land and natural resources helps keep our drinking water supplies clean and safe, our wildlife and their habitat healthy, and the agricultural sector strong and thriving. The Open Space Authority also improves the livability of our cities through its Urban Open Space Grants Program and has contributed more than \$8 million to local community projects such as clean creeks, walking and biking trails, and community parks.

The Open Space Authority is now creating a 30-Year Conservation Vision to identify strategic partnerships and priorities for investments in local and regional open space projects (including greenbelts, creeks & waterways, trails, urban-edge farms, and habitat restoration). The Authority wants to know what you like best about living in the Valley – access to nearby trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use, clean creeks, community gardens, protection of local farms and ranches that provide fresh and nutritious fruits and vegetables, protection of wildlife habitat, protection of scenic hillsides, and science-based environmental education programs for kids. In order to help ensure healthy, livable communities for all, please contribute your ideas by for the Open Space Authority's 30- year Conservation Vision: Water, Wildlife and Working Lands by August 30th at www.CVW3.org.

The Open Space Authority thanks you – and future generations will thank you, too! To sign up for regular updates from the Open Space Authority, visit www.openspaceauthority.org.

City of San Jose Safe Summer Initiative

The Positive Alternative Recreation Teambuilding Impact program believes that our children are our community's greatest assets. Every day, we work to change the lives of youth who suffer from depression, violent lifestyles, unhealthy relationships and unstable families. That is why we are providing the following classes:

- Stepping and Drill (ages 10-18), 12-2pm, location TBA
- Event planning/Leadership Team (ages 14-18), 4-6pm
- Summer Leadership Class (ages 14-18), 6-8pm

The program meets every Tuesday from June 25, 2013 to August 13, 2013 in the Community Room at Eastridge Mall. For more information, call 408-561-4664.

Celebrating Small Business Week

Every year, National Small Business Week (NSBW) honors the accomplishments and contributions of America's small business owners. From June 17th - June 21st, events across the country will celebrate these entrepreneurs and their enterprises. This year, for the first time, National Small Business Week events will be held in multiple cities including Seattle, Dallas, St. Louis, and Pittsburgh, culminating with the NSBW awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Eligible businesses who want to participate in NSBW can sign up for business matchmaking in DC. Matchmaking allows small businesses the opportunity to have face-to-face meetings with prime contractors and federal agencies to learn about specific contracting and subcontracting opportunities.

Read more online and find resources for small businesses in your community at www.sba.gov

?Foodware Information Session

You are invited to attend the Food Ware Information Session to learn more about the City's proposed phase-out of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam food ware, and learn about foam-free replacement containers and costs. Register at least one week in advance and receive two additional tickets for a drawing for the chance to win \$50 worth of alternative packaging. E-mail greentogo@sanjoseca.gov with the subject line: Attend Information Session. Be sure to include your name, the name of your food establishment, the address, and the number of people attending.

Information Session

Monday, July 15th

2:30-4:00 p.m.

Tully Library

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