



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

District 10 Mid-July Newsletter

Six Months in Review

Dear Neighbor,

Now that July is well upon us and the City Council is in recess, it has given me the opportunity to reflect over my first six months in office. I really enjoy serving the residents of District 10 and the process of learning the ins and outs of being a City Councilmember, serving as board member of the Habitat Conservation Agency, an alternate board member on both the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo).

There has been much to learn about the City and about each agency, and still more to learn in the days ahead. Each entity poses its unique challenges, but despite the challenges, the District 10 staff and I continue to strive to serve you with excellence. Even though we're a new team and I am the newest Councilmember in San Jose, I am proud to say we have accomplished a great deal.

We have tried our best to be thoughtful and productive, continually keeping in mind the well-being of our constituents and the city as a whole. This newsletter is dedicated to a review of the accomplishments we have achieved so far and highlights of on-going and future initiatives. Thank you to the many District 10 residents and others who have supported our efforts – without your participation, we could not have accomplished the things. I am only one vote out of 11 on the City Council, so your support and advocacy is crucial.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Since taking office, public safety has been my number one priority. With the decreased number of officers on our streets, it has been my goal to implement creative and effective ways to supplement the San Jose Police Department's (SJPD's) efforts. To get more officers out on patrol or to increase their time on the beat, I have supported enhanced police recruitment and additional SJPD staffing, promoted the use of technology to increase police productivity, and fought to keep

funding in the 2013-2014 budget to allow the SJPD to open the South San Jose Police Substation.

Included in the Mayor's June Budget Message, approved by the City Council, 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 up to 13 additional police officers on patrol. The Command Staff of the SJPD has updated its transition plan and is looking to move ahead with the relocation of the Southern District staff to the Substation in early 2014.

In April, we hosted our First Annual District 10 Community Safety Fair. With over 30 safety-related vendors, and representatives from the San Jose Police and Fire Departments and the Office of the Santa Clara County District Attorney, attendees learned useful tips on how to protect themselves, their families and their homes. In addition to the presentations, we were able to raise over \$3500 toward equipment to help the police do their jobs more efficiently. The San Jose Police Foundation matched these donations and I provided a grant of \$5000 from my office funds. All of this money will be used to purchase portable finger print scanners to help acquire another license plate scanner for the SJPD. I was very pleased with the success of the event and look forward to seeing all of you at next year's Safety Fair!



My office has also been working on facilitating Home Video Surveillance workshops for our constituents, as well as attending the Neighborhood Watch meetings set up by the Crime Prevention Unit of the SJPD. The District 10 staff has also advocated with the Police Department for neighbors whose homes were burglarized. With the combined efforts of diligent community members, my staff, and police investigators, several arrests were made in connection to local burglaries.

In spite of the uptick in crime around our city, District 10 is still one of the safest areas to live in San Jose. Unfortunately, the Hoffman-Via Monte neighborhood does see more crime than other areas. Since January, my staff has partnered with the Renter-Landlord Engagement Initiative to establish a property owners' association in the area to address the drug and crime issues facing the neighborhood. We have also worked with the City Attorney to launch the SJPD's Crime Free Multi-Housing Program which includes a lease agreement addendum that landlords can use to make it easier for them to evict problem renters who participate in criminal activities. The program is expected to be officially rolled out in September.

Last Saturday, members of my staff and several community volunteers continued the clean up of Guadalupe Oak Grove Park. We had received calls regarding the overgrowth of Coyote Brush and Oak saplings. The overgrowth poses a fire danger

as well as a safety concern for park users because the bushes become a possible hiding place for wrong-doers. We still have a long way to go, but after two work day events we are making good progress!



As we move forward, you can be sure that the safety of our neighborhoods will continue to be my top priority. District 10 is my home, too, and I want nothing more than to raise my family in a safe and secure community.

BUDGET

I made it through my first City Budget process – it is a very extensive and time-consuming process but it is so very important because the budget is an expression of our resident's priorities. I appreciate that there are many opportunities along the way to hear from City residents about their budget concerns and many points along the way at which we Councilmembers can advocate for these concerns.

Aside from the biggest success – making the resources available to the SJPD for the opening of the South San Jose Police Substation, the budget directed additional resources to the SJPD that will help recruit new officers and provide a higher level of service to the community through the hiring of 21 Community Service Officers, a crime analyst, and three Crime Prevention specialists.

Another high priority for me is fiscal responsibility – using our limited resources wisely, ensuring that any spending we do is sustainable over the long term, and reducing the City's debt. To that end, I supported only spending and compensation increases that the City can comfortably support over the long run without having a negative effect on our public safety or other essential services. The budget included instructions consistent with my view that savings that are generated from refinancing City debt be put into reducing the City's debt burden. This helps the City over the long run by freeing up money from debt service expenses for services to our residents and provides us with more financial flexibility.

During budget season, I heard from residents of District 10 that the WiFi coverage in the Alamen Community Center was poor, so as part of the budget process I raised this issue with the Center's management and with the city's IT director. I committed \$3500 of my office funds to ensure that WiFi is accessible throughout the Center. IT has now completed the coverage survey and will be moving forward with getting the proper equipment ordered and installed. I will keep you posted on our progress!

EDUCATION

While education is not within the direct purview of a City Councilmember, with two young children of my own attending public schools in the area, I recognize the importance of partnerships with our school district administrators, teachers, students and parents.

In the past six months, I have reached out to every principal within District 10 and met with all but three. I feel that it is vital for me to extend a helping hand to our educators, learning more about the challenges they face and how I can better support them. Many of their concerns were related to City issues that are within my power to help resolve. My staff provides support and works hard with City staff to address the City-related concerns of our schools, including traffic and pedestrian safety issues.

Another exciting program we have implemented is the 3rd Grade City Hall Field Trip. Since January, we provided grants to two of our schools for their 3rd grade classes to take a tour of City Hall with our wonderful docents, Dan and Harriet Roy, and attend a question and answer time in Council Chambers, where I get to meet and interact with the students. This next school year we are hoping to extend the invitation to every 3rd grade class within our district. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn more about their local government, hopefully inspiring them to take ownership of the well-being of their community throughout their lives.



I have also had the pleasure of providing grants to several educational organizations imparting wonderful tools and resources to our children and youth. I gave a grant to the South Valley YMCA for their summer camp director toward the low income children in our district and provided a grant to support Sci-Jams, an after school science program supplementing the science curriculum at our local middle schools. I am also in the process of partnering with the Silicon Valley Education Foundation to establish a summer science program for 8th graders, better preparing them for higher-level science classes in high school.

The old cliché is true - the children are our future. My hope is that by making these small investments in their lives now, they will continue down paths toward success in the future.

TRANSPORTATION

Traffic safety has been a major topic of discussion in our area in the last six months. We have seen a number of horrible accidents in our communities; accidents that I will do all I can to prevent in the future. So far we've been able to establish the following pedestrian safety enhancements to our streets:

-Enhanced crosswalk installed at Meridian & Oak Glen

(Replaced embedded lights with flashing beacons, install bulb-out curb extensions)

***-Enhanced crosswalk installed at Blossom Hill Rd. & Park Crest
(Install Pedestrian Island & flashing beacons)***

***-APPROVED - McAbee & Golden Oak Way – Under design, construction will begin in September
(Replace embedded lights with flashing beacons and possible bulbouts)***

-Installed new crosswalk at Newcompton & Hyde Park

-Installing new stop sign (3-way stop) at Edelweiss Dr. & Indigo Dr.

-New pedestrian signage installed near Cahalan Park

-New 3-way stop installed at Bret Harte & Orangebrick way

I am currently in discussions with the City Manager to identify funding for a Crossing Guard near Parkview Elementary School. I have also contacted DOT in regard to implementing Walk n Roll at more elementary schools in our area. Walk n Roll promotes safe walking or bicycling to school as an alternative to having parents drive their kids to school and the chaos that often ensues.

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 at 408-321-5680. 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.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One of the things I appreciate most about District 10 is the incredible volunteer force. We have so many civic-minded, community leaders in our District that I thought it was important to bring them all together by establishing the District 10 Leadership Coalition. Every other month, our D10 leaders come together to discuss the issues facing our community. It is also a chance for me to disseminate information about the city that they, in turn, can take and share within their neighborhoods or organizations.

Besides my swearing in ceremony in January, the Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk

and Senior Resource Fair, was the first large scale event my office put on. Partnering with Councilmember Don Rocha and Councilmember Ash Kalra, nearly 50 vendors and over 350 seniors were in attendance. I was thrilled to see that our first big event was a huge success! We anticipate even greater things for next year!



Another accomplishment I am happy to report was the establishment of Community Office Hours. I understand that my constituents live busy lives and that driving downtown to City Hall during business hours to meet with me is unrealistic for most. That is why every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, I make myself available to you at a consistent, convenient location within District 10. My staff and I were able to answer questions and address concerns that otherwise may have gone unheard. After the July recess, we will again establish our Community Office Hours times, dates, and locations, so stay tuned!

Lastly, I am very happy that Saturday marks the start of our Beautiful Neighborhoods Initiative. We are partnering with Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman and the County Roads and Airports Department, since the County manages expressways within San Jose. Also involved in this initiative are several building contractors, PG&E, local businesses, service groups such as the Boy Scouts and Kiwanis, churches, and residents of the local community.

Part One focuses on Almaden Expressway. The first stage of Part One will target the south end, from Blossom Hill Road to Henry. Arrangements are being discussed for eliminating the weeds and improving the landscaping. Much of that work will be done by contractors and County workers for safety reasons. There may be opportunities for volunteers and we will let you know when that happens. In addition to the landscaping, the walls will be getting a fresh coat of paint and replacement boards. We are working on arranging work days when volunteers will be able to come together and paint sections of the wall. More details will follow in future newsletters.

Part Two of the Beautiful Neighborhoods Initiative focuses on the concrete walls within our neighborhoods that are privately owned. Recently there have been complaints about the wall around the northeast corner of Redmond and Meridian. We are in the process of working with the neighbors who own the wall to plan a repair project. Many of the neighbors are unable to make the repairs themselves and appreciate that the community is willing to help. **This Saturday, July 13th, we will begin the project by painting areas of the wall.** We still need a few more volunteers to help on this day, so please contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or 408-535-4910 if you are able to help.

This is just brief overview of the things the District 10 staff has accomplished over the past 6 months. This does not include the hundreds of meetings and thousands of

emails and phone calls we've responded to. As we look forward, my staff and I continue to be committed to serving the residents of District 10 with excellence. 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](#).

Sincerely,

Johnny

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