



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

# District 10 January Newsletter

## *Looking Back and Moving Ahead*

Dear Ray,

Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays were enjoyable and that you had an opportunity to spend some quality time with family, friends, and loved ones. For those of you who use the change of the calendar to set out new goals, best of luck to you in achieving your objectives! Earlier this year, I let you know about the things that my team and I were working on in the first part of the year, for the betterment of San Jose's District 10 and the entire City. This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to bringing you up to date on our work over the past six months and a few of our goals for the upcoming year. First, an update on what we've accomplished together, with your help and that of non-profits, generous sponsors, City staff, and many other dedicated individuals and companies:

### **PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY:**

- Obtained new crossing guards at Parkview Elementary School on Bluefield Drive, and solicited approval from neighbors on Bluefield for new speed humps, which were installed to reduce vehicle speeds near the school.
- Approved the hiring and training of 21 new Community Service Officers in the San Jose Police Department to provide support to our heavily-burdened police officers and service to residents, with tasks such as report-taking and evidence collection.
- Supported a pay increase of 11.1% (compounded) over 2 ½ years for SJPD officers, which helps to restore the 10% pay reduction officers took in FY 2010-2011 to help close a \$183 million budget shortfall (the rest of the City's workforce took the same pay cut but has received only a 2% pay restoration, in comparison). Prioritizing our public safety officers by providing them with a substantially higher pay increase should help to encourage SJPD officers to stay on the job as opposed to actively seeking work at other departments in the area.
- Successfully defended funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 Budget for the opening of the South San Jose Police Substation. It was important to provide maximum

flexibility to our police chief in choosing how to deploy SJPD to maximize their effectiveness. Due to retirements and voluntary separations, Chief Esquivel does not feel that the department has sufficient staffing at this time to place the Southern Division at the Substation, but it was important to maintain this funding within public safety. Preliminary steps have been taken toward preparing the Substation for its eventual opening, it has played host to some SJPD meetings, and it is currently being outfitted as the City's back-up emergency communications center.

- Voted to invest additional funding in the City's Department of Transportation (DOT) for additional crosswalks, enhanced crosswalks with flashing beacons, speed humps, radar speed display signs and other pedestrian safety improvements, as part of the FY 2013-2014 budget.
- Worked with the DOT to bring the Walk-and-Roll program to another District 10 school, Del Roble Elementary, to encourage safe alternatives to parents driving their kids to school. Walking and bicycling to school can improve the health and fitness of our children while reducing common traffic problems around school drop-off and pick-up zones.
- Worked with neighborhoods and with DOT to prioritize locations for pedestrian safety improvements. Implemented improvements on Meridian Avenue at Oakglen Way, Blossom Hill Road at Park Crest Drive and McAbee Road at Golden Oak Way.
- Obtained the support of my colleagues for the approval of a temporary Urgency Ordinance, drafted with Councilmember Pete Constant, to safely and reasonably deal with the threat to public safety and property posed by wild pigs that were invading the Almaden Valley this past fall.

#### **PROVIDING FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP:**

- Voted for the re-financing of City bond indebtedness to create significant and supported a provision in the FY 2013-2014 budget to dedicate savings from these bond refundings to reduce the City's long-term debts. The refinancing of the Civic Center indebtedness provides an estimated savings of \$95 million over the life of the bonds, and the refinancing of the Hayes Mansion and Ice Center bonds generate \$450,000 in savings each year. Eventually, this savings will free up funds for important City priorities such as public safety, and reducing our debt provides the City with greater financial flexibility into the future.
- Increased authority of Planning Department to cost-effectively outsource initial plan check duties to increase through-put and reduce processing time by up to 20 minutes per plan.
- Voted to outsource residential garbage billing to the County Assessor's office. The twice-yearly billing will save an estimated \$3.2 million per year.
- Voted to contract with a medical provider network to handle workers compensation claims of City employees. This has the potential to provide substantial savings each year.
- Supported new business development within the City while preserving over 1100 acres of new habitat in North San Jose, with Council approval of a development plan for the

Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant site.

- Supported economic development efforts, including a pilot Urban Village at the iStar site in District 2, which will bring a new Costco and other businesses to an underserved portion of South San Jose.

#### **IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE:**

- Obtained the support of my Council colleagues to place the reduction of permitting costs for small home remodeling projects on the list of priority projects for City staff to address.
- Advocated for technology upgrades in the Planning Department to allow for electronic submission of plans. The department is in the process of implementing this to increase the accuracy and speed of the plan review process.
- Voted to authorize an increase of \$500,000 in the DOT budget to add a second electrical repair crew to address the massive backlog of streetlight repairs required due to the rampant theft of copper wire in our community. The current wait for repairs to streetlights that are out due to wire theft is over one year! These repairs are too important to put off that long, because unlit thoroughfares pose risks to the safety of our residents. Doubling the DOT funding for copper wire repairs should cut down the waiting time to about five or six months, which, while an improvement, is still far too long to wait. Neither me nor the DOT are satisfied with these lead times, and will continue to work to improve them as we are able, given the City's limited resources.

#### **IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY:**

- Coordinated with neighbors and friends of Guadalupe Oak Grove Park and the City's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department to hold three park clean-up events to improve the condition of the park.
- Brought together residents, PRNS, Supervisor Wasserman, County Roads & Airports, and donors such as Home Depot to beautify the sound wall at Redmond and Meridian.
- Convened a dedicated group of District 10 neighborhood and community leaders to form the District 10 Leadership Group, which is an independent group designed to be a conduit for two-way communication between my office and District 10, as well as a forum for the sharing of ideas and best practices, gaining in-depth knowledge on issues of importance to the City and its residents, and strengthening the voice of District 10 neighborhoods at City Hall.
- Hosted successful National Night Out events at Hoffman-Via Monte and attended National Night Out neighborhood parties throughout District 10.
- Partnered with Playa Del Rey neighborhood leaders such as Bob Vonderwerth, the SJFD, a local church, and the United States Marine Corps for a successful holiday street party and Toys for Tots Toy Drive.
- Worked with volunteers and PRNS to get a "park adoption" in place for Almaden Meadows park.

- Built bridges between non-profits to provide better coordination in educational services to youth in our community and,

**Major Objectives for 2014 Include:**

- Working with the City's DOT and other agencies such as the CHP, CalTrans, the Santa Clara County District Attorney, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) on a creative way to deter the proliferation of graffiti crimes and copper wire thefts we have been experiencing across the region.
- Identify additional funding for Neighborhood Traffic Calming projects to combat the marked increase in traffic incidents within San Jose that have led to serious injuries and deaths in recent years.
- Adding lighted crosswalk on Snell Avenue at Choctaw Drive near Santa Teresa High School and enhance another crosswalk on Camden Avenue at Via Valiente near Leland High School.
- Installing solar-powered radar speed display signs on Coleman Avenue near Almaden Expressway and another on Camden Avenue near Paso Los Cerritos.
- Complete work on whether the City should allow Safe and Sane Fireworks while finding ways to reduce illegal fireworks activity within City limits.
- Ensuring that new software and workstations that will help streamline the City permitting process are implemented, including new Plan Check software, as well as ensuring that Planning continues to make progress on utilizing the Chess Clock to measure the timeliness of turning around projects at various stages in the planning and permitting process.
- Work with neighborhood leaders, non-profits, the Water District and key sponsors to put on a community fireworks show and safety fair at Almaden Lake on the 4th of July.
- Work with the SJFD to find ways to bring additional revenue to our fire department for work they are already doing so that the City can provide funding for additional medical response squad cars and find other ways to make the department more efficient in order to increase life-saving response times.

In addition, there are many other things that were accomplished that I have probably forgotten to mention. Regardless, we would not be able to accomplish any of the things that we are doing to make San Jose the best possible place we can for our children to live, learn, and play without all of your tremendous efforts, input, and support. A community succeeds in proportion to the willingness of its citizens to lend a hand, and District 10 residents are have risen to the challenges and grasped the opportunities that have presented themselves. Thank you for all that you do!

We also have very dedicated and hardworking City employees – in the Police Department, Fire Department, PRNS, DOT, Environmental Services, and many other areas - that partner with us. I thank them for their dedication, and I look forward to continue to work with them and with each of you in the coming year!

Please continue reading below for more important updates and useful information. If you have any questions about the things you have read in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact my office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910. You can also friend me on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#).

Sincerely,

Johnny

## Expressway Improvements

Did you know that the Expressways in our City are owned and maintained by the County? The County of Santa Clara, in partnership with all cities within the County and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency (VTA), is currently conducting a study about potential expressway improvements and would like your input. There are several Open Houses scheduled this month where you can see a display of the Expressways as well as learn more about existing conditions and current plans. This is a great opportunity for you to share your thoughts and concerns about the Expressways in your area.

The flyer for the open house schedule and Plan 2040 information can be found by [clicking here.](#)

As a member of the Expressway Plan 2040 Policy Advisory Board representing the City of San José, it is important that I receive your feedback. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, please feel free to share your thoughts with me by emailing me at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or by calling my office at 408-535-4910.

## Budget Season is Upon Us

Budget season will be in full swing starting in January. There are fourteen opportunities for residents to be involved in the process. Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

**January 18** – Neighborhood Association/Youth Commission Priority Setting Session  
One leader from each Association is invited, so encourage yours to attend.

**March 11** – Mayor's Budget Message and Public Hearing

**April/May** – Community Budget Meetings

**10 meetings will be scheduled** – one per district

**May 13** – Initial Public Hearing on proposed budget

**June 9** – Final Public Hearing on proposed budget

For more information about the budget and the budget process, visit the City Manager's Budget Office website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=183>

## Silicon Bay Mentoring Coalition

Make a difference in your community by becoming a mentor to a child or young adult. The South Bay Mentoring Coalition is presenting a free Mentoring Outreach Meet Up and Celebration from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January, 25, 2013, at the County Government Center, 70 West Hedding, San Jose. Find out more about how to be a mentor or which organization is right for you! At least 11 organizations that offer mentoring opportunities will be represented at the event, which will be hosted by the Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese in partnership with Notre Dame High School of San Jose. The keynote speaker is Will Lopez of Homeboy Industries. Please join us and pass this invitation on to your friends or whomever you think may be interested in becoming a mentor. To register, visit [www.sccgov.org/mentoringconference](http://www.sccgov.org/mentoringconference). For more information, contact Tiffany Lee at 408-299-5030 or [tiffany.lee@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:tiffany.lee@bos.sccgov.org).

## State of the City Address

Mayor Chuck Reed and the San Jose City Council cordially invite you to The 2014 State of the City Address on Thursday, February 20, 2014, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at the McEnery San Jose Convention Center on 50 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

Seating is limited, so please register by Sunday, February 16 to attend.

To RSVP or for more event information, please visit:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ffcsvncab&oeidk=a07e8kfiqc2f2f5dbe>

There is no charge for this year's event.

## Tickets for the 2014 Freedom Train are on Sale Now

Come join members of the community as we listen to civil rights stories told by the United States Marshals' and sing along with our talented gospel vocalists!

Date: Monday, January 20, 2014.

Time: The Freedom Train will depart San Jose at 10:00am and run nonstop to San Francisco arriving at approximately 11:00am.

Location: San Jose Diridon Station, 65 Cahill Street, San Jose, Ca. 95110.

Cost: \$15.00 – General, \$10.00 – Seniors 65 and older, persons with disabilities,

children 0-18 years of age, and students. (Proof of ID required.)

Please visit [scvmlk.org](http://scvmlk.org) to find out how to purchase your tickets TODAY!

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