



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10**

District 10 August Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

Last week marked the beginning of the school year for most students in San José. My house was certainly bustling with anticipation for the coming year! As a father of two sons, one in elementary school, and the other in junior high, it is easy to be caught up in the purchasing of school supplies, making of lunches, and transitioning back into the school night routine. Yet, as our children head back to school, let's all keep traffic safety in mind to ensure a safe and fruitful school year for our kids!

First, now that classes are back in session, school zones will be filled with cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists. When driving through a school zone, please follow posted street signs and rules for student pick-up and drop-off. Double parking, stopping in the middle of the street, abrupt U-turns, and blocking people's driveways are serious safety hazards and, at best, very inconsiderate of those around you. Another tip - allow your children to cross the street only at designated crosswalks!

Another thing to consider: walking or bicycling with your students to school rather than adding to the car traffic and congestion around school zones. It is a healthy way to start the day and can establish a good exercise habit to last a lifetime. The City of San Jose collaborates with several elementary schools around the city to promote the Walk n Roll program, which encourages parents and students to become a part of a "walking school bus." To learn more about Walk n Roll, visit <http://www.getstreetsmarts.org/walknroll/>

Secondly, bullying has become an unfortunate reality for many students today, and while the threat is real, it is preventable. As parents, teachers, older siblings, or aunts and uncles, it is our responsibility to ensure we are setting a positive example of kindness, tolerance, and compassion. A great resource to learn more about how we can be a part of the solution is <http://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/index.html/>

Lastly, I wish all of our students, parents, teachers, coaches and administrators, from pre-school to grad school, a successful school year!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Tuesday, August 5th, I had the privilege of attending several National Night Out gatherings around District 10. It was wonderful to see neighborhoods coming together to build community and encourage safety! In the Hoffman – Via Monte neighborhood, the Almaden Hills United Methodist Church gave away over 300 backpacks to students in need, and in Playa Del Rey, live bands provided entertainment for the crowd! It was also a pleasure to visit with the neighbors in Mallard Ridge and Casual Court. Did you and your neighbors host an event? Tell me about it! I love to hear about the great things happening in District 10! Contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910.

MEASURE Q

As an elected official, I am often asked to endorse candidates or ballot measures in order to, hopefully, increase the support for that candidate or measure. When asked, I very carefully consider the options, and try to do what is right for the residents I represent. I was recently asked to endorse a measure that will be on the November ballot. The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority has placed a \$24 annual parcel tax measure on the ballot to raise funds for the acquisition, preservation, and maintenance of open space around Santa Clara County.

Measure Q would raise nearly \$8 million dollars a year for 15 years for the Open Space Authority to execute the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint. Some of the land slated for purchase, if the measure passes, is located in District 10. I am a strong proponent of preserving our open space, but I also know that another tax can be burdensome on the homeowners in our community. This is where I need your feedback! I want to be sure that my endorsement reflects the priorities of my constituency, so I have created a very short survey. Please take a moment to check out the Measure Q informational website (<http://www.openspaceauthority.org/about/openspacefunding.html>), then let me know what you think by taking the following survey: <http://bit.ly/MeasureQ>. I look forward to your feedback!

CITY COUNCIL SAYS NO TO NEW TAXES, REMAINS COMMITTED TO RESTORING PUBLIC SAFETY

At the August 5th City Council meeting, several proposals for new taxes were presented (<http://bit.ly/Aug5taxes>). Among them, a general sales tax which the Council would spend as it sees fit, a special tax to fund public safety enhancements, a special tax for street repair and maintenance, and an increase in the Marijuana Business Tax (MBT) from 10% to 20% (<http://bit.ly/Aug5taxes>). Special taxes require a 2/3 vote of those participating in the November election where a general sales tax requires only a simple majority (50% + 1 vote). None of the tax proposals received the necessary 8 votes out of 11 from the City Council to be placed on the November ballot, and the MBT increase was not taken up for consideration.

Thank you for those of you who wrote to me to share your thoughts on these proposals. Some of you expressed support for a special tax for public safety and

others expressed opposition to any tax increases. I have been consistent since my election in saying that I will not support a general tax increase that may be spent by future Mayors and City Councils on whatever they wish. We have seen where this has taken us in the past - bad investments in golf courses, the Hayes Mansion, and unsustainable benefits. I voted in favor of the special tax to fund targeted public safety enhancements. I supported giving the voters a chance to determine whether they would tax themselves to enhance public safety with a sales tax increase of .25% for 9 years.

The special public safety tax proposal from Mayor Reed and others on the Council that I supported included important safeguards such as citizen oversight and a trigger that would rescind the tax if there were any unfunded increases to pensions or other retirement benefits. Also, the 2/3 special tax vote threshold ensures that there is broad community consensus and support for the spending priorities contained within the tax measure. When the special tax proposal did not gain enough votes for passage, I attempted to broker a compromise with the supporters of a general sales tax by broadening the public safety enhancements to include funding for street maintenance along major emergency routes. My compromise measure was defeated.

When discussion turned to raising the Marijuana Business Tax, the consensus of the Council was that it would not be appropriate to dramatically increase the MBT at a time when we are beginning to implement the City's tough new ordinances governing medical marijuana collectives. The new regulations will dramatically lower the number of marijuana collectives operating within San Jose. We first need to see the effects that these regulations have on the collectives that conform to the City's new rules before we make big changes to the MBT.

Regardless of the outcome of the sales tax proposals, the Council majority remains committed to keeping public safety our #1 priority. The City spends over half of the General Fund on Police & Fire services, and the City Council has begun implementing a plan to restore police staffing (<http://bit.ly/RestorePD>) in the 2014-2015 Budget through:

- Committing the majority of new General Fund revenues to public safety.
- Restoring the 10% pay cut that police officers took during the city's fiscal crisis.
- Holding three police academies per year.
- Utilizing technology to increase the effectiveness of our police force.
- Hiring 28 Community Service Officers to collect evidence and respond to less serious incidences, allowing our highly-trained police officers to remain on patrol.

The City Council has also worked to address the SJPOA's (police union) concerns around disability benefits by guaranteeing a job for disabled officers not eligible for retirement yet still able to work. We have proposed to provide disabled officers with their same pay, in this new job, as they received while serving as a police officer (if the new job is lower paying). Unfortunately, the police union has challenged this make-whole plan. They filed a grievance against the City for proposing to keep disabled police officers at their police officer pay rate when serving in a lower-paid position. The City will continue to negotiate to ensure that, in the end, the taxpayers are getting the most effective police service possible for the dollars that are spent and that the men and women of the SJPD are

compensated fairly, in a way that is sustainable, fiscally-responsible, and that the City can afford.

LABOR NEGOTIATION TRANSPARENCY

The City Council also took action on August 5th to continue to meet and confer with the city's public employee bargaining units over opening up the negotiating process to the public. I supported this proposal to increase the transparency around union negotiations. Currently, you may view all proposals and counter-proposals made during negotiations between the City and its employee bargaining units on the City's website: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=537>.

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

One way that I like to connect with the residents of District 10 is to host Community Office Hours. I understand how difficult it might be for Almaden and Blossom Valley residents to drive downtown during the day in order to meet with me to share your thoughts or concerns with me. That is why, twice a month, I am out in the district with the specific purpose of meeting with constituents. The locations and times of Community Office Hours are as follows:

1st Wednesday of Every Month
8:30-9:30 AM
Almaden Community Center – Community Room
6445 Camden Ave.

3rd Wednesday of Every Month
5:00-6:00 PM
City Espresso
630 Blossom Hill Road

If you are interested in joining me for one of our Community Office Hours sessions, feel free to stop by. You never need an appointment!

Continue reading below for more updates and opportunities to get involved in our community. If you have any questions with regard to what you've read in this newsletter, feel free to contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910. Also, for updates between newsletters, add me as a friend on [Facebook](#) or follow me on [Twitter](#)!

Sincerely,
Johnny

Property Owners Can Earn Up to \$6,500 in Rebates for Energy-Efficiency Home Improvements

The Santa Clara County Office of Sustainability is offering free orientation workshops to educate homeowners about how they can receive up to \$6,500 for making energy saving improvements to their homes. The workshop in District 10 will be held Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. For more

information and to register, visit <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/opa/nr/Pages/energy-efficiency-workshops.aspx>

Hispanic Heritage Youth Foundation Awards

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation is once again conducting a nation-wide search for the best and the brightest Hispanic/Latino leaders. The Youth Awards program offers educational grants in several categories to qualified Hispanic/Latino high school rising seniors. Recipients are eligible to receive an educational grant ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000. The application is now available online. The deadline to apply is September 15, 2014.

The 2014 Youth Awards scholarship application has now gone live! Rising Latino high school seniors please visit <http://bit.ly/1npK5bS>!

Movie Night at Almaden Lake Park

Come enjoy a family-friendly film in a beautiful outdoor setting! Movie begins at 8:30 p.m. or when it becomes dark enough outside! The movie is free, but parking costs \$6.00. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information please call: 408-927-0868

Saturday, August 23, 2014 - THE LEGO MOVIE

Almaden Lake Park
15652 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95120

Elections Officers Needed at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters is always in need of dedicated volunteers seeking to preserve and promote civic engagement. Volunteering to become an Elections Officer at the Registrar of Voters is a great way to be a part of the democratic process, serve your community, and make money for yourself or your favorite organization. Experience is not necessary! Paid training is provided. There is always a critical need for bilingual volunteers in order to ensure the fairness of the system for non-English speakers. Volunteers will be paid \$95-180 stipends, and Bilingual Election Officers will be paid an addition \$5. Elections officers must be at least 18 years old and either a registered voter (U.S. citizen) or a legal permanent resident of the United States. However, high school students may also become Election Officers if they are 16 years or older, with at least a 2.5 GPA, and approval from parents and the student's high school administration. More information and online registration: www.sccgov.org

San Jose Library Program Series

The San José Public Library is hosting a new program series, Watts the Point, focusing on topics and themes that help address energy and natural resources conversation to help residents live efficiently and minimize their impact on the planet. The first live program of the series will be Creating Sustainable, Drought-Resistant Lawns: Landscaping with Succulents and Cacti and will be held at locations throughout the library system including:

6:30 p.m., Wed., Aug. 20, Berryessa Branch Library, 3355 Noble Ave.

10:30 a.m., Sat., Aug. 23, Bascom Branch Library, 1000 S. Bascom Ave.

2 p.m., Sat., Aug. 23, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando St.

Registration links for each of the programs may be found by clicking here:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/directory?q=cacti&loc=San+Jose%2C+CA>

Almaden Super Lions Club Fundraiser

The Almaden Super Lions Club will be holding their 15th Annual Miniature Golf Tournament at Golfland, on the corner of Blossom Hill Road and Winfield Boulevard, SJ on Thursday, August 21, 2014. Pizza and sodas begin at 5:45 p.m. and the shotgun start is at 7:15 p.m. 100% of donations made go to their Sight and Hearing Projects for children/adults. For more details and tickets, please contact Past President Alan Woertink at 408-978-1011. This is a family event.

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