

For Immediate Release

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Mayor Liccardo Thanks Voters for Approving Sales Tax Increase and Pledges to Focus Revenues on Public Safety and Roads

Liccardo calls for adoption of June Budget Message and Provisional Sales Tax Spending Plan that focuses new revenues on restoring basic services.

San Jose, Calif. – Following the overwhelming approval of Measure B, a ¼ cent sales tax increase, Mayor Liccardo expressed his thanks to San Jose voters and called for the additional revenues generated to focus on improving public safety and roads

“I thank the voters of San Jose for investing in the future of our city,” said Mayor Liccardo. “After years of belt-tightening through fiscal reforms and other cost-cutting measures, the voters agreed that additional revenues are needed to continue restoring essential city services. As we move towards adopting a final budget for the upcoming fiscal year, it’s critical that we focus these additional dollars on our residents’ top priorities: enhancing public safety and repairing our deteriorating roads.”

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters reported that, as of 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 8, Measure B was approved with approximately 62% of the vote. The ¼ cent sales tax increase will take effect in October, generating approximately \$30 million in revenue during the remainder of FY 2016-17. Starting in FY 2017-18, it is expected to raise approximately \$40 million annually.

With the voters’ approval of Measure B, Liccardo reiterated the recommendation in his June Budget Message to adopt the provisional sales tax spending plan originally recommended by the City Manager last month. This plan would allocate the overwhelming majority of the new revenue to public safety, and road maintenance and repair during FY 2016-17. This includes specific provisions that would:

- Dedicate enough funds (\$17.7 million) that will, for the first time in a decade, meet the annual funding needs for basic repair and replacing of all of our major roads.
- Allocate funding to expand police officer recruitment efforts, and set aside the funds needed to increase sworn police officer staffing by 41 positions in future years.

- End the periodic “brown-out” of fire companies, restore two “squad car” units and fund traffic signal pre-emption technology to help improve emergency fire and medical response.
- Add an additional 19 Community Service Officers to respond to burglaries and other low-priority calls, freeing up sworn officers to handle more serious crimes.

“This spending plan represents an important step in restoring the services that our residents depend upon most,” continued Mayor Liccardo. “However, given the uncertainty in future years, we must remain disciplined and prudent in all of our spending decisions.”

The sales tax spending proposal will be considered by the City Council alongside the rest of the Mayor’s June Budget Message on Tuesday, June 14. The City Council will also hold a public hearing on the evening of Monday, June 13.

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