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## **San Jose Opens “Citizenship Corners” at 10 Public Libraries**

*Initiative will help connect local immigrants to naturalization workshops, educational programs and financial empowerment services, with support from Citi*

*San José, Calif.* – The City of San José, with support from Citi Community Development, proudly announced the opening of “Citizenship Corners” at 10 of its branch libraries, areas where local immigrants can find a wide array of resources to help them integrate and thrive in our community.

“We are proud of our rich immigrant heritage, and the fact that half of our small businesses and VC-funded startups have been started by immigrants,” said Mayor Sam Liccardo. “As we celebrate ‘Welcoming Week’ here in San José, we are proud to be unveiling these new Citizenship Corners that will help more of our local immigrants pursue the American Dream and create a better life for themselves and their families.”

According to [a report by the Urban Institute](#), San José is home to approximately 400,000 immigrants – 20 percent of whom are eligible for naturalization but have not yet become citizens. Naturalized citizens typically have higher educational attainment, annual earnings, and homeownership rates than their non-citizen counterparts; they are also less likely to be living in poverty and experience increased access to higher-skilled and higher-paid jobs.

San José’s Citizenship Corners will host a number of resources that can help these residents navigate the naturalization process, including citizenship test preparation materials and information on obtaining legal assistance. Three locations will even include videoconferencing equipment that will enable customers to participate in legal consultations with off-site citizenship attorneys.

In addition, Citizenship Corners will feature several other resources commonly-request by our local immigrant community, including online education, ESL and skills training programs. They will also serve as hubs for multi-lingual classes and workshops that the Library hosts in partnership with community partners on a variety of topics, including financial capability.

“We are dedicated to continuing to strengthen our services for our growing immigrant community,” said City Librarian Jill Bourne. “By activating a number of Citizenship Corners throughout the city, we’re confident that more people will seek services and the expert guidance of their librarians, as they start their path towards becoming a U.S. Citizen.”

The creation of Citizenship Corners was largely made possible through the support of Citi Community Development as part of the national “[Cities for Citizenship](#)” initiative. Citi is also supporting the development and launch of a suite of financial empowerment and capability programs in the community, including upcoming workshops that will launch in a number of San Jose public libraries later this fall.

“Citizenship is a powerful asset for unlocking greater economic opportunity,” said Vicki Joseph, Northern California Market Director for Citi Community Development. “Citi is proud to support San Jose’s work in expanding immigrant integration with the Citizenship Corners program, as well as their efforts to provide vital financial empowerment services that will unlock greater economic opportunity for the San Jose community and its residents.”

Citizenship Corners are now located at the following San José branch libraries (note: the libraries marked with an \* will have video conferencing capabilities):

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Bascom                        | 6. Educational Park |
| 2. Biblioteca Latinoamericana    | 7. Hillview*        |
| 3. Dr. Roberto Cruz - Alum Rock* | 8. Seven Trees      |
| 4. East San Jose Carnegie        | 9. Tully Community* |
| 5. Edenvale                      | 10. Joyce Ellington |

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