



Press Release

Office of Mayor Sam T. Liccardo

For Immediate Release:

August, 25, 2016

Contacts:

Ahmad Chapman, Communication Specialist
Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo, (408) 535-4857

Mayor Leads Initiative to Get Shovels in the Ground

Focus on using technology to expedite the entitlement process for major projects and small businesses.

San José, Calif. –San José Mayor Sam Liccardo is convening the Ad-Hoc Committee of Development Services to guide and streamline the permitting process to capture as much economic growth as possible.

“Development applications for permit approvals for over 7 million square feet of office/R&D, commercial and retail space, and 4,000 units of mid-rise and high-rise homes are currently in the entitlement process,” said Mayor Liccardo. “The goal of this committee is to focus our efforts on getting shovels in the ground faster in this phase of the economic cycle. Implementing permitting process improvements and staffing-up, will reinforce investor and business confidence in San Jose and improve the customer experience.”

Another key priority for the committee is to focus on ways for small businesses to start and grow. Currently, San José operates the successful Small Business Ally Program that guides small businesses through the permitting process. The City is also developing a program that will make it easier for restaurants to navigate the complex permit approval process.

An \$8 million investment to upgrade the City’s permitting-related technology is underway to significantly accelerate current processes by offering electronic plan submission and review, on-line permit approvals, advanced GIS capabilities, and remote access for field-based inspectors. Other recent process improvements include Over-the-Counter same day permit services, a pilot mobile inspection process, and a pilot program which expedites review and approval for restaurants.

The [Development Services Ad Hoc Committee](#) will meet monthly, with the first meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Manager’s Conference Room on the 17th floor of City Hall. The Committee, chaired by the Mayor, will include Vice Mayor Rose Herrera, Councilmember Raul Peralez, Councilmember Manh Nguyen, and Councilmember Johnny Khamis. Mayor Liccardo invites the investment and development community, and the public to attend the meetings. Attendees are highly encouraged to offer ideas and solutions that help fulfill the mission of the Committee.

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