



Press Release
Office of the Mayor

For Immediate Release:

March 3, 2015

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Mayor Liccardo's SJ Works Youth Jobs Initiative to Hold First Working Group Meeting on March 4

SAN JOSE—Despite a growing regional economy, San José's youth unemployment rate continues to hover above 20 percent. Mayor Sam Liccardo's SJ Works initiative plans to take aim at this problem, addressing the intertwined challenges of economic disparity and public safety.

"We can arm every teenager with a job and a path to college, or we can let the gangs arm them with a gun and a burglar's crowbar," said Mayor Liccardo. "It's critical for San José's future that we reach our kids first."

SJ Works has a goal of increasing youth employment and expanding access to job training for at risk youth/young adults. Co-chaired by Josue Garcia, CEO of the Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Construction & Building Trades Council, and Matthew Mahood, President & CEO of the San José Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, the working group brings together experts from the community, education, philanthropy, labor, and business to tackle these challenges in a spirit of collaboration.

The SJ Works Working Group will hold its first meeting on **Wednesday, March 4** from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** at the **Roosevelt Community Center, 901 E. Santa Clara Street, San José.**

SJ Works Working Group members include:

Rose Amador, Executive Director, Centers for Training & Careers
Toni Burke, Executive Director, CityYear San José/Silicon Valley
Andre Chapman, Executive Director, Unity Care
Cindy Chavez, Supervisor, Santa Clara County
Laura Garnette, Chief Probation Officer, Santa Clara County Juvenile Probation
Leslie Gilroy, Executive Director, San José Jobs Corps
Leonard Gonzales, Executive Director, Laborers Training and Retraining Trust Fund for Northern California (Local 270)
John Heister, Site Director, YearUp Silicon Valley
Rose Herrera, Vice Mayor, City of San José
John Hogan, Executive Director, TeenForce
Johnny Khamis, Councilmember, City of San José

Van Le, Chair, East Side Union High School District Board of Directors
Dorsey Moore, Executive Director, San José Conservation Corps
Angel Rios, Interim Director, City of San José, Department of Parks, Recreation, and
Neighborhood Services
Kerrie Romanow, Director, City of San José, Environmental Services Department
Jeff Ruster, Director, Work2Future
Danny Sanchez, Pastor, San José Peace Project
Hermalinda Sapien, Executive Director, Center for Employment Training
Tae Yoo, Senior Vice-President, Cisco Foundation

An early task for the SJ Works Working Group will be connecting more than 1,000 youth with summer jobs. Mayor Liccardo will include \$1 million in funding for 500 of the jobs in his March Budget Message (to be released March 16).

Additional funding and jobs will come from local corporations, foundations, and government agencies. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has already approved \$1 million in funding to Work2Future to provide 500 positions.

The SJ Works Youth Employment Working Group meeting will focus on developing and strengthening collaboration between various partner agencies. Youth who live in defined hot spot areas and are interested in registering or enrolling in job training and employment programs can contact the Work2Future Office either online at www.work2futurefoundation.org/summer-jobs, or they may contact the Youth Hotline: (408) 794-1234.

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