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Council to Vote on Mayor Liccardo’s Budget Message

Recommendations focus on restoring safety, services & broadening economic opportunity

San Jose, Calif. –Mayor Sam Liccardo’s March 2015-2016 Budget Message prioritizes safety, begins restoring services, and focuses on San José’s future with programs aimed at the City’s young people. The Council will vote on the message today.

“This budget message takes a long view approach to renewing San José, with a particular focus on safety and investing in our children’s future,” said Mayor Liccardo. “Through this budget message we will make investments in our libraries, afterschool programs, teen jobs, and gang prevention.”

Public Safety

“A top priority for me is restoring safety to our neighborhoods,” said Councilmember Raul Peralez. “The Mayor’s March Budget Message is a great first step toward providing ongoing funding for vital programs that reduce homelessness, expand our gang prevention efforts, and support our police officers.”

Mayor Liccardo’s March Budget Message includes a number of recommendations to improve public safety. These measures include:

- Continued support of the Police Staffing Restoration Strategy with the goal of increasing the number of sworn officers to 1,250.
- Investing in resources that protect the police force and allow them to do their jobs more effectively and safely. These include ballistic panels, plates, vests, and outfitting the remaining 250 patrol cars with Mobile Digital Communications devices.
- Freeing up more sworn police officers for patrol and investigations by nearly doubling the civilian Community Service Officer program.

- more -

- Fully funding San José BEST/Safe Summer Initiative Grant Program and the Safe School Campus Initiative and an additional \$1 million for the expansion of several other Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force programs.

Broadening Prosperity

A safer San José does not just mean a city with a robust police force, it also means a city that lifts up its all of its communities so residents can flourish.

“The Mayor's March Budget Message takes important strides in helping San José's underserved communities, especially on the East Side,” said Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco. “By securing services that keep our streets clean, provide free internet access to East Side students, and bringing all four BART stations to San José we will provide our underserved communities the opportunity to succeed.”

The Mayor's Budget Message broadens prosperity and engages underserved communities by:

- Ensuring our neighborhoods remain clean of debris, thus deterring criminals, by providing ongoing funding for the Illegal Dumping Rapid Response Program.
- Engaging in a partnership with East Side Union High School District providing free internet access to students on the East Side.
- Supporting the work of Santa Clara County and community based-organizations in aiding our immigrant community to advantage of President Obama's Executive Actions on immigration.
- Expanding Library hours to six days a week.

Jobs and Manufacturing

Providing all of our residents the opportunity to have a well-paying job will make San José safer, smarter and broaden prosperity.

“Economic prosperity is the linchpin of a safe society, but in many neighborhoods there is a lack of economic opportunity. Through programs like San José Works, the Mayor's Manufacturing Initiative, and Small Business Activation and Assistance we can ensure that San José has a growing, vibrant middle class,” said Vice Mayor Rose Herrera.

The Mayor's budget message provides economic opportunity to San José residents by:

- Partnering with Santa Clara County and local private sector employers, to launch the San José Works initiative that will provide 1,000 jobs for at risk youth.
- Creating middle income job opportunities through the Manufacturing Jobs Initiative.
- Expanding the City's Small Business Ally program to support small business.

Partnerships

While San José's is on a path to modest service restorations, resources remain scarce, and we must build partnerships that leverage public and private sector resources to improve the quality of life and services for residents.

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“The Mayor’s budget message puts neighborhood safety as top priority, taking a holistic approach from adding more community service officers to continuing our homeless response programs,” said Councilmember Don Rocha. “It also cultivates coalitions to address some of our City’s most pressing challenges, specifically seeking funding solutions to build all four BART stations in San José, recharging San José’s water supply, and expanding after school programs to our most underserved students.”

The Mayor’s Budget Message includes the following recommendations that build partnerships and leverage resources for improved services:

- Allocate \$2 million over two years to launch San José Learns, a partnership that leverages foundation, City and private sector resources to invest in after school programs for low income children.
- Address the drought by boosting the potable water supply through a partnership with the Water District and San Jose Water Company.
- Work with Valley Transportation Authority and Metropolitan Transportation Commission to craft a funding strategy to build all four San José BART stations.

The Mayor’s March Budget Message recommendations guide the development of a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The City Council will vote on these recommendations at the 1:30pm session today.

View the entire March Budget Message: <http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/41378>

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