

For Immediate Release:

May 29, 2015

Contact:

Ragan Henninger, Interim PIO
Cell 408-203-5157 / Office 408-535-4830
Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

San José Mayor Releases June Budget Message

SAN JOSE –Mayor Sam Liccardo released his June Budget Message today. The Mayor will present it to the City Council for consideration on Tues., June 9.

“This budget reflects our community's top priorities, in improving public safety, and making carefully targeted investments in our future. In addition to safety, those investments focus on our children--for after-school programs, libraries, and summer jobs for teens--to our street infrastructure and jobs-creation,” Mayor Liccardo said. “We'll continue to tighten the belt on other spending to live within our means.”

The Mayor’s June Budget Message focuses scarce City dollars on two overarching priorities: a safer, smarter San José, and investing in San José’s future.

I. A Safer, Smarter San Jose

Hiring Police and Firefighters: committing more than \$6.5 million for recruiting and hiring police officers, and another \$1.95 million to add 14 firefighters with the expected approval of a federal SAFER grant in August.

Leveraging Technology: adding to those investments identified in the March budget message (data analytics software, mobile data computers, next-generation 911 capabilities, LED streetlights, a crime camera registry, and firefighter deployment software), the June Message identifies funding for body-worn cameras, facial-recognition software, a pawn-slip database, license plate readers, and other tools that can make officers more effective in their daily work.

Expanding Civilian Roles to Enable More Effective Policing: doubling the number of Community Service Officers, and adding crime data analysts, fingerprint analysts, and crime prevention staff will improve our crime response, and will make our officers more efficient to focus on their most urgent priorities.

Crime Prevention: launching San José Works, which will enable hundreds of teenagers living in gang-impacted neighborhoods to obtain summer jobs, due to partnerships between the City and the County and with community-minded employers such as Lowes, Target, Pacific Gas & Electric, Bank of America, Microsoft, and Home Depot. The June message increases programs funded through the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force to an all-time peak of \$5.6 million, because San José has already benefited from the results of these programs, through lower rates of gang-involved crime.

Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety: pursuing our Vision Zero campaign, San José seeks to eliminate pedestrian and cyclist deaths. In addition to the March Budget Message’s commitment of \$500,000 for neighborhood traffic calming improvements and citywide deployment of LED street lights, the June message funds a “road diet” on Branham Lane, improved lighting on Foss Avenue, and supplemental traffic calming efforts in West San José.

II. Investing In Our Future

Our Children: The Mayor's March and June budget messages emphasize investment in the most critical resource, our children, by:

- reviving City investment in after-school programs for youth, through the **San José Learns** initiative, in partnership with foundations, universities, tech companies, school districts, and charters.
- opening the City's 23 public libraries six days a week beginning on July 1st.
- launching the **San José Works**. It is an innovative youth jobs initiative with a goal of increasing youth employment and expanding access to job training through partnerships with foundations, universities, local academies, school districts and charter schools. They will begin conducting interviews at San José City College on June 11.
- expanding **internet access** through wi-fi investments in community centers serving low-income neighborhoods, and through East Side schools in partnership with the East Side Union High School District
- boosting resources at **youth centers** on the East Side, at Berryessa and Alum Rock
- activating several gang-impacted East Side **parks** with summer programming, and launching a major park master planning process in Alviso.
- providing seed capital for the **Family College Success Center**, to facilitate college readiness and attendance in our low-income communities

Streets and Roads: The Mayor proposes an unprecedented 50% increase (\$8 million) in the level of funding for street paving and repair, from the \$16 million proposed by the City Manager. Prioritizing road repair today will save much more costly road replacement later, which can cost six to 10 times as much. Other funds anticipated in this fiscal year, such as ending fund balance, and the state's "Triple Flip" payment, will also be prioritized for street pavement, supplementing the \$24 million expenditure this year.

Jobs: In this budget, the Mayor proposes several modest, targeted job-creation strategies, focusing on those opportunities for less-educated or lower-income residents to improve incomes and career prospects.

In the March Budget Message, the Council approved \$200,000 for a modest manufacturing initiative, and another \$250,000 to support activation of vacant storefronts by small businesses. With this June document, the focus turns to seed funding to launch a Business Improvement District in East San José, to support the Berryessa Business Improvement District, an Office of Immigrant Affairs that can assist immigrant business owners, translation services in our permitting department, and a jobs marketing strategy for San José.

Other Proposals

- In addition to the \$3.5 million proposed in the Mayor's March Budget Message for **homeless** response and rapid rehousing, the June budget calls for support of the Multiple Source Housing Fund for First Presbyterian Women's Gathering Place.
- **Pilot Participatory Budget** process in Council District 3 with one-time funding of \$100,000. Participatory budgeting has become a proven means of democratizing civic governance in hundreds of cities globally, leveraging modest amounts of public dollars with volunteer sweat equity, grants from employers and foundations, and personal contributions.
- Launching the City's first-ever **Office of Immigrant Affairs**, with \$250,000 in funding, to serve our fast-growing immigrant population, in collaboration with local non-profits and the County
- The Vietnamese-American community has long sought the creation of a **Community Center** that would serve as a community gathering place and cultural hub; this Message allocates \$200,000 in funding to support the planning, site location, outreach, and possible future acquisition of a building.
- Funding will allow Our City Forest to scale up and work with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and City's Environmental Services Department to **replace turf with vegetation** that is more appropriate for San Jose's climate and that helps achieve the 30% **water conservation** goal.

Read the entire June Budget Message: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Archive.aspx?ADID=2710>