



# Memorandum

**TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: Councilmember Rose Herrera**

**SUBJECT: Neighborhoods Commission**

**DATE: 6/20/11**

Approved

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## RECOMMENDATION

Preserve the Neighborhoods Commission as the integrated voice of the neighborhoods.

## BACKGROUND

The 2-year term Neighborhoods Commission was established with the purpose of making recommendations to the City Council on programs that affect the quality of life in the neighborhoods of San José. They are charged with studying issues, courses of actions, policies and programs that affect the lives of residents. They convene 10 times per calendar year at open, public meetings.

## ANALYSIS

The existence of a Neighborhoods Commission in the City of San José establishes our commitment to the democratic process. Through the vetting of candidates during the Caucus process, residents and emerging neighborhood leaders are supporting a consistent, year-round flow of information between the neighborhoods and City Council and Redevelopment Agency policy makers.

The members of the Neighborhoods Commissions are the body of government with the closest official ties to the people in a neighborhood. Through regular, ongoing meetings, members are able to have timely opportunity to formulate and/or review proposed changes to the city's comprehensive plan and neighborhood plans and to prepare recommendations on those proposed changes for the Mayor and the Planning Commission to consider.

I feel it is not beneficial to the city and/or the residents of San José to eliminate the Neighborhoods Commission and I urge the Mayor and our colleagues on the council to work to preserve this commission.