BUDGET DOCUMENT # 16

CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Memorandum

TO: MAYOR REED

FROM: Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 21, 2009

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

BACKGROUND

City-Council Initiated Neighborhood Improvement Reserve Fund/Other Budget Proposals

Program/Project Title: FT Regional Parks Accessibility and Maintenance – Rose Garden (Item 6, VIII – 187)

Amount of City Funding Required: $83, 907

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) Neighborhood Improvement Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is a historic landmark (No. 102) has recently been recognized by the All-America Rose Selections as Rose Test Garden, one of 23 in the Nation. The city has a Public/Private Partnership with the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden who assist in the upkeep of the roses. Since this partnership began in 2008, the FSJRG have put in over 7000 volunteer hours valued at over $160,000 ((http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

The on-site gardener is an integral part of this volunteer effort, being the main contact between the group and the city. The on-site gardener coordinates with volunteers daily, on special projects and has an intimate knowledge of what is needed at the park at any given time. This Park is not just the Rose Garden, but also several acres of turf, and hundreds of trees. Maintaining the facility requires knowledge that one develops over a period several seasons, by being on-site and learning the rhythm of the park.

In addition, the on-site gardener coordinates the daily General Assistance (GA) workers which average 3 – 4 workers a day, who assist in weeding and general clean-up. The gardener is also trained to supervise the WWP (Elmwood) workers. By removing on-site staff, we would loose both these valuable programs.

Currently, the Park is staffed with one Gardner and one Groundsworker. This change was made when the abysmal conditions were made public in spring 2007. Prior to that, the park was on "route" maintenance. "Route maintenance" put it in the position where it needed to be rescued. The garden went on probation with the All-America Rose Selections during this time. It took two years, thousands of hours, a dedicated city staff and a volunteer crew to bring it back to life.

The residents, community, and San Jose benefits from having a nationally recognized Rose Garden, which is now becoming a tourist destination. The City works hard to make San Jose a destination, with unique cultural and one of a kind experiences. We should begin to use this feature of our city in the economic development and promotion of our city.

The public/private partnership the city has with the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden needs to be encouraged and preserved. This park and the partnership has been recognized not only by our city in the recent Community Awards, and used as a model volunteer organization, but also by the All-America Rose Selections in a nationwide case study. Moving the park to route maintenance puts this park and partnership in jeopardy and turns back the clock on all the progress the PNRS has achieved with working with community groups. On-site staff is required to leverage the resources we have available to us with this partnership.

Funding Source

Program/Project Title: Regional Parks Accessibility and Maintenance – Rose Garden (Item 6, VIII – 187)
Amount of City Funding Change: $83, 907

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) Neighborhood Improvement Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

As mentioned above, The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is a historic landmark (No. 102) has recently been recognized by the All-America Rose Selections as Rose Test Garden, one of 23 in the Nation. The city has a Public/Private Partnership with the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden who assist in the upkeep of the roses. Since this partnership began in 2008, the FSJRG have put in over 7000 volunteer hours valued at over $160,000 ((http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

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Department or Organization: Parks and Recreational Services

Department or Organization Contact (Please list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation.)

Name Mark Marney, Deputy Director

Phone number: 535-3582

E-mail address: mark.marney@sanjoseca.gov

This change is:

X **One-time** _____ Ongoing

The City Service Area to which the change best relates:

- ☐ Community and Economic Development Services
- ☐ Environmental and Utility Services
- **X** **Neighborhood Services**
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Strategic Support
- ☐ Transportation and Aviation Services