



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR MAHAN

FROM: Councilmember Bien Doan

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: 5/22/2025

Approved  Date 5/22/2025

RECOMMENDATION

Modify the City Manager's 2025-2026 Proposed Budget to incorporate the following budget proposal, including any required funding allocation adjustments.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Making Communications Hill Safer

Amount of City Funding Required: \$0 (Transferring \$150,000+)

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): 39

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

The SJPD Secondary Employment Unit previously provided sworn officer coverage for Communications Hill; however, this service ended four years ago. Over the past several years, Communications Hill has seen a noticeable decline in public safety and quality of life, according to an overwhelming number of residents. Community members have raised concerns about increased incidents of alcohol consumption, illegal parking, drug use, and other disruptive behaviors in and around the neighborhood’s most prominent public amenities, such as the grand staircase and surrounding outdoor facilities.

Many of these issues stem from persons coming into the neighborhood and taking advantage of its open, yet inadequately monitored, public spaces. These concerns have been further compounded by widespread dissatisfaction with the current security provider which is contracted via HOA funds and/or special assessments paid through taxes to the City of San José. Residents have repeatedly stated that the security presence has been ineffective and, in some cases, entirely absent, leaving them feeling unprotected and questioning the value of their contributions.

To address these safety concerns and restore a sense of peace and accountability to Communications Hill, this budget document will terminate the contract with the existing security company, or let it expire without renewal at the end of this fiscal year, and reallocate the public safety contract responsibilities from the private security vendor to the San José Police Department. This transition would allow for sworn law enforcement officers to provide a more reliable and effective safety presence in the area.

Details of the program:

1. The current third-party security contract is worth \$150,000.00 and a total of 2,900 hours. The program may not total the amount collected and earmarked for security. If any funds are available they should also be collected and transferred.
 - a. This money would be transferred or made available to SJPD for Secondary Employment purposes.
2. Using the current Secondary Employment rate of \$90/hr, this would equate to 1,667 hours of coverage.
3. Nights and weekends should be prioritized initially, but it will be up to the Communications Hill residents to determine needs after.
4. All remaining and/or unused money should be held in a fund specifically for Communications Hill Security so that they maintain all funds for security purposes in the future. This amount should be reported to the District 7 Office on an annual basis.

While the total hours are reduced, the effectiveness and efficiency of sworn-officers at this location more than justifies the reduction in hours. This investment in public safety is necessary not only to restore resident confidence, but also to ensure that Communications Hill remains a safe, welcoming destination for families, seniors, and all San José residents.

As with other city-supported neighborhood safety efforts, this proposal supports both quality of life and equity by responding to longstanding concerns from taxpayers who feel underserved. This transition to SJPD patrols would offer accountability, professionalism, and a stronger deterrent to the criminal and nuisance behaviors currently impacting the neighborhood.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

X Other (Please specify program/project/fund): Transfer of funds from existing security contract to SJPD SEU

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Jennifer Otani / Division Manager

Department or Organization: Police Department

Phone Number: 4082778900

Email: jennifer.otani@sanjoseca.gov