



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO

**FROM:** Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

**SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT**

**DATE:** May 25, 2022

Approved

Date

5/25/2022

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the following recommendation be enacted.

### **Proposal**

Program/Project Title: Welch Park Neighborhood Center Restroom Improvements

Amount of City Funding Required: \$500,000

This change is:

One-time       Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): CE-FY22-23:031

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 Welch Park Neighborhood Center has come a long way since the park and facility was suffering from the lack of City support and resources. My office and I made it a priority to invest in the Welch Park and Neighborhood Center by restoring and reactivating the park for children and families to feel safe returning to the park. Instead of blight and crime, this park and neighborhood center are providing a substantial positive impact in our community.

In 2019, we held a re-grand opening of Welch Park and Neighborhood Center. During the re-grand opening, we experienced issues with the plumbing and restrooms. Since then, minor updates to the restroom were made to allow for functioning restrooms. However, the restrooms still present a very serious challenge to meeting the City standard for facilities and Family Friendly City Initiative goals.

In particular, the fact that both small restrooms are exterior facing creates a serious challenge for safety, maintenance, and effective use. Simply – the current status is fundamentally incompatible with offering programming that meets the needs of our community over the long run.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welch Park Neighborhood Center has transitioned and expanded programming to serve as learning pods for children and continues to provide recreational afterschool support for families. As we continue to prioritize children and families as well as invest in the neighborhood center, we need to make facility improvements to better serve them.

The families and children have shared their feedback and needs with my office, and we need bring additional restroom improvements including:

- Diaper changing stations
- Access to the restrooms from within the facility
- Child friendly toilets and sinks
- Updated plumbing system

PRNS reports that the scope of work for their estimated cost includes the conversion of park restrooms to support potential future preschool programming needs. Project elements include closing the men’s restroom for public use and converting it for dedicated neighborhood center use. Improvements to this restroom would include converting all fixtures to child friendly fixtures and installation of a diaper changing station. The women’s restroom would be open to the public but converted into a gender-neutral restroom. Improvements to this restroom would include new touchless fixtures as well as a diaper changing station.

At the same time, staff in the Parks STRIKE team have done remarkable work in Brigadoon Tot Lot. With just \$15,000 they have managed to replace aging play equipment on its current foundations, breathing new life into the park. The \$800,000 cost of a full playground replacement for this small Tot Lot no longer makes sense, so this Budget Document recommends releasing \$400,000 from that reserve, leaving \$85,000 for additional funds for expanded maintenance and small improvements.

### **Funding Source**

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

\$400,000 From Brigadoon Tot Lot Reserve (within CD8 C&C Tax Fund)

\$100,000 From Council District 8 Construction and Conveyance Tax Fund

### **Department or Organization Contact**

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

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Department or Organization: Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services (PRNS)

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