

PRESS RELEASE

The SVO Responds to San Jose Paid Sick Leave Urgency Ordinance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San José, CA – The Silicon Valley Organization (The SVO) opposes the Paid Sick Leave Urgency Ordinance proposal headed to the San Jose City Council Rules Committee next week on Wednesday March 18, 2020.

The SVO understands the need for urgent actions to help businesses and employees in response to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we believe a better approach is needed than the current proposal by Councilmembers Esparza, Carrasco and Arenas.

"Businesses are already taking responsibility to ensure the public health of both their employees and the entire community. Requiring paid sick leave for all businesses in the City of San Jose will only add gas to the fire in accelerating an economic recession and would especially hurt small businesses, who cannot bear the burden of additional costs. If small businesses are required to provide paid sick leave, then this would lead to lost jobs, shuttered businesses, and would ultimately hurt working families even more.

Instead of requiring paid sick leave, the City of San Jose should stay the course with the recent City Council vote to explore options to help small businesses secure resources like business loans. The City should also look at waiving current city fees that affect business operations, explore a philanthropic fund to sustain local small businesses and non-profits, as well as provide a resource tool kit for businesses to access information on any State and Federal grants that become available.

The long-term success of businesses, employees and local government are intertwined. We need to look at the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic holistically rather than placing the burden solely on businesses," said Matt Mahood, President & CEO of The SVO.

For any questions on The SVO's position on this matter, please contact Eddie Truong, Director of Government & Community Relations, at EddieT@thesvo.com.