



June 10, 2019

Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council  
City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

**Re: Mayor’s June Budget Message (Council Item 3.3) – SUPPORT**

Executive Committee

2019 BOARD CHAIR  
Marc Parkinson  
Petrinovich Pugh & Company

1<sup>st</sup> VICE CHAIR  
Michael Bangs  
Oracle Corporation

VICE CHAIR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
Tony Mirenda  
Blach Construction Company

VICE CHAIR PUBLIC POLICY &  
ADVOCACY  
Cosme Fagundo  
Wilco Management

VICE CHAIR  
COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT  
Janikke Klem  
Technology Credit Union

AT-LARGE

Traci Cornaglia  
PayPal

Sean Cottle  
Hoge Fenton

Claudia Folzman  
Iron Construction

Michael Fox Jr.  
Goodwill Silicon Valley

Tim Leets  
BBSI

Jonathan Noble  
Microsoft

Michael Turpin  
Bay Area News Group

Rick Beatty  
Lehigh Hanson

SVO PAC CHAIR  
Anil Babbar  
California Apartment Association

LEGAL COUNSEL  
Eugene Ashley, Esq.  
Hoge Fenton

TREASURER  
Emily Ruvalcaba  
Bridge Bank

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR  
Lennies Gutierrez  
Comcast

PRESIDENT & CEO  
Matthew R. Mahood  
The silicon valley organization

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council:

On behalf of The Silicon Valley Organization (The SVO), I am writing to support Mayor Liccardo’s fiscally pragmatic budget message, which allocates additional resources to expand economic opportunities for San José’s underserved residents with the city’s limited dollars. By way of background, The SVO is the Silicon Valley’s premier business advocacy organization representing nearly 1,200 companies that employ over 300,000 workers, and we represent our membership as the region’s largest Chamber of Commerce.

We especially applaud Mayor Liccardo’s deep commitment to expand economic opportunity for our underserved residents, through programs such as San José Works, San José Learns, the San Jose College Promise, and much more. For nearly four years, The SVO has partnered through our [STRIVE San Jose initiative](#) with the San José Works program to deliver private sector partners to support high school youth living in our city’s gang hotspots or in high-poverty neighborhoods. In the last year alone, 77% of San José Works youth lived in a gang hotspot and 23% of participating youth lived in a high-poverty area. 50% of participating youth identified as “Hispanic or Latino” and 35% identified as “Asian/Pacific Islander”. Since the program’s inception, San José Works has helped over 3,200 youth access employment opportunities in San José and has had a major equity focus in serving communities of concern.

Source: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VRlaHy6ZdO3Y2E-bixeCWg8TXr007MA/view>

Mayor Liccardo’s message of “action over analysis” is significant, given that actions and leveraging key partnerships will actually move the needle in addressing disparities, inequities, and lack of opportunities for our city’s underserved residents. We must roll up our sleeves and tackle our most challenging issues with a fiscally responsible city budget and a pragmatic approach to solving problems. Instead of engaging in exercises that could trap us in a “paralysis by analysis” approach, we can work together to allocate resources equitably and serve our neediest residents today.

For these reasons and more, we urge the City Council to approve Mayor Liccardo’s budget message. If you have any questions about The SVO’s position on this issue, please contact Eddie Truong, Director of Government and Community Relations, at 408-291-5267.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Mahood  
President & CEO