Outlook

FW: Council Meeting 05/20/25, Agenda Item 4.1

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 5/19/2025 11:10 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kathryn Hedges <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 10:47 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Council Meeting 05/20/25, Agenda Item 4.1

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Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I am a voter in Downtown San Jose, District 3. I am a member of SURJ and we support the recommendations of the ReImagining Public Safety Committee. I have been in emotionally abusive relationships and the last thing that would have helped my situation was to call the police. My partner would have calmly explained that I'm just a hysterical woman imagining I can live without his guidance, and talked the officers into taking me to a mental hospital.

Please approve the memorandum by Vice-Mayor Foley and Council Members Kamei, Campos, Cohen, and Ortiz to accept the Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence Report, direct the City Manager to continue their collaboration with the County and community groups, and return to the Council with a plan.

I want to thank the authors of the report for their extensive community outreach as well as presenting the history of how responses to domestic violence have changed over time.

I hope we can create a community (or communities) that support survivors/victims in the most healing way possible and breaks the cycle of violence. We have seen the success of another recommendation of the ReImagining Public Safety committee, the TRUST non-police crisis line. San Jose has a strong tradition of culturally-based community organizations who can adapt to the needs of their community instead of imposing outside standards on survivors/victims.

The memorandum from Council Member Doan to implement signage similar to that promoting our campaign against human trafficking has merit and I recommend that amendment as well.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Hedges
Showing Up for Racial Justice, Santa Clara County
[redacted]

Outlook

FW: REAL letter re: item 4.1 May 20 2025

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/20/2025 12:44 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Matt King <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 12:34 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Yamamoto, KiyomiH <Kiyomi.Yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Rodriguez, Esmeralda <Esmeralda.Rodriguez@sanjoseca.gov>; Borges, Marlee <Marlee.Borges@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Castro, Karina <Karina.Castro@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Dersh, Alexander <Alex.B.Dersh@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Re: REAL letter re: item 4.1 May 20 2025

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Hello again,

We had six people in attendance this morning to give comment on 4.1. I'm not sure if any of them will be available this afternoon.

You need to restore remote participation.

m

Matt King
pronouns: he/him/his
Policy Director
Sacred Heart Community Service
[redacted]
I'm often in the eastern time zone and that may affect my response time

[redacted]

Outlook

FW: REAL letter re: item 4.1 May 20 2025

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/20/2025 7:47 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachment (121 KB)
REAL Letter re_ item 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence Report 5.20.25 (1).pdf;

From: Matt King [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 5:42 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Yamamoto, KiyomiH <Kiyomi.Yamamoto@sanjoseca.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Rodriguez, Esmeralda <Esmeralda.Rodriguez@sanjoseca.gov>; Borges, Marlee <Marlee.Borges@sanjoseca.gov>; Nguyen, Lam <Lam.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; Moreno, Brisa <Brisa.Moreno@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Castro, Karina <Karina.Castro@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Dersh, Alexander <Alex.B.Dersh@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: REAL letter re: item 4.1 May 20 2025

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Hello,

Please see attached letter and proposal on how to move the IPV work forward.

thank you

m

Matt King
pronouns: he/him/his
Policy Director
Sacred Heart Community Service
[redacted]
I'm often in the eastern time zone and that may affect my response time

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May 19, 2025

Mayor & City Council, et. al
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San José, CA 95113
Sent via electronic mail

Re: Item 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley and members of the City Council:

This letter is submitted by the Race Equity Action Leadership (REAL) coalition.

We write today in support of the memo from Vice Mayor Foley and Councilmembers Kamei, Campos, Cohen and Ortiz to move forward with the work of creating a pilot to support survivors of interpersonal/intimate partner violence with culturally responsive and community-led pathways to safety and healing.

As highlighted in the recently-completed landscape study of domestic violence resources and gaps in the City, survivors of interpersonal violence often do not feel safer after contacting police.

The REAL Coalition proposes a joint venture of nonprofit partners to lead a design and research phase during Fiscal Year 2025–2026 to explore and develop a community-embedded approach to preventing and responding to interpersonal violence, which covers caregiver and family violence beyond an intimate partner relationship.

We want to be clear, this is not "more study;" it is the critical first step of creating a new approach to violence that will be responsive to community needs.

This proposal builds on the extensive groundwork laid by REAL Coalition member organizations in advancing community-centered alternatives to traditional policing and carceral responses to interpersonal violence.

Community-based violence prevention strategies that are non-carceral and non-policing in nature advance racial equity by addressing the disproportionate harm that Black,

Indigenous, and other communities of color experience from the criminal legal system. These strategies prioritize healing, accountability, and safety without relying on institutions that have historically criminalized and marginalized these communities. The REAL Coalition is deeply invested in these approaches because its member organizations are rooted in directly impacted communities and are committed to transforming systems in ways that are equitable, restorative, and led by those most affected by violence and systemic injustice.

In June 2023, the City Council voted to allocate $400,000 for community-centered design and launch of a pilot to support survivors of interpersonal/intimate partner violence. REAL Coalition members were ready to begin that work but instead the allocated dollars were expended on the study of domestic violence resources and gaps in the City.

The findings in the report present an opportunity to move forward now and do the work to produce a set of community-based pilot recommendations to inform a future City-issued RFP for a Community Violence Intervention (CVI) program in FY 2026–2027.

We appreciate City staff's work to identify funding to take this next step but we are concerned with using Opioid Settlement Funds to pay for the community-design process; the requirements to use those funds carry risk of diverting the focus of the design-process. However, we would like to explore how those funds could be used to fund the pilot selected to move forward in FY2026-2027.

We further support Councilmember Doan's memo to explore options to place safety placards in public and private spaces.

Thank you for considering this request.You can reach REAL by emailing iselar@sacredheartcs.org.

Sincerely,

Kyra Kazantzis, Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits, REAL Co-Convener

Poncho Guevara, Sacred Heart Community Service, REAL Co-Convener

Kathy Cordova, Latinas Contra Cancer, REAL Steering Committee Co-Chair

About the REAL Coalition

The REAL community of Silicon Valley based nonprofit leaders and allies has been meeting since June 2020 to use our positional power to advocate for a more racially-just and equitable society; to establish a peer network of leaders committed to fighting white supremacy and systemic racism in ourselves and our institutions; and to hold each other accountable to the promises we made in the Nonprofit Racial Equity Pledge. The REAL coalition is broadly representative of the nonprofit community including human and community services, behavioral health and health, arts and culture, domestic violence, older adults, food security, education, environmental, farming, legal, disability rights, LGTBQ rights, ethnic, immigrant rights, housing and homelessness, criminal justice reform, urban planning, and intermediary organizations, and others. Over 125 organizations have participated in the REAL Coalition.

Outlook

FW: Item 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/20/2025 7:48 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Sandra Asher [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 8:25 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

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You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Hi, my name is Sandra Asher. I'm a D10 resident, a Board Member of Parents Helping Parents and at Community Solutions and a member of the REAL Coalition. I'm also a mom to a young adult with multiple disabilities.

First, I want to thank staff and the Battered Women's Justice Project for their work in identifying gaps in our city's response to domestic violence. The study clearly shows that we need better ways to address violence and alternatives to intervene without relying on police.

I want to voice my support for the memo from Vice Mayor Foley and Councilmembers Kamei, Campos, Cohen, and Ortiz to continue working with community partners on a pilot program offering survivors of intimate partner violence culturally responsive, community-led pathways to safety and healing. I also support the REAL Coalition's call for a community-led design phase.

However, I'd like to emphasize one critical point that has been missing from these conversations. As we move forward, I urge the City to broaden the scope to include interpersonal violence in addition to intimate partner violence. This has actually been what we've asked for from the beginning.

We need to include the voices of disabled people—like my close friend and her 20-year-old son. He's disabled and sometimes his behavior becomes violent. She's scared for her safety, but she loves him deeply and doesn't want to call the police on her son or see him jailed. She just wants help—so they can both feel safe at home. And then there's the many disabled individuals who are abused by the very caretakers they rely upon. These are the voices we're not hearing, and they must be part of this conversation.

And lastly, I support Councilmember Doan's memo to explore options to place safety placards in public and private spaces as another tool to enhance community safety and awareness.

Thank you,
Sandra Asher

****

Sandra Asher
Director, Governing Board
Community Solutions
Creating Opportunities. Changing Lives.
Donate Now at https://communitysolutions.org/

Director, Governing Board
Parents Helping Parents
https://www.php.com/
Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. (author unknown)

Member,
Safety for All Disability Justice Coalition
SURJ: Showing up for Racial Justice
RECS: Race, Equity and Community Safety

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Outlook

FW: Council Meeting 5/20/25

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/20/2025 7:48 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kathryn Hedges [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 10:37 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Council Meeting 5/20/25

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Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Councilmembers:

I am a Downtown D3 voter and a member of SURJ Santa Clara. As you know, SURJ supports the recommendations of the ReImagining Public Safety committee, including Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence or Inter-Personal Violence (IPV). I am adding more thoughts to my previous response supporting the memos by Foley et al. and Doan.

It's time for San Jose to advance the work of creating alternative responses to interpersonal violence. Even though budget constraints prevent us from launching a pilot this year, we can still do the work with community members to create the design specifications for the pilot. This course of action allows us to center community in design to ensure the pilot will respond to community needs in ways that are appropriate for different cultures represented in San Jose. It will also provide more time to identify funding sources for a pilot in FY 2026-27.

It is no surprise that the report by the Battered Women's Justice Project confirmed that many community members do not want to involve law enforcement. Just as we are expanding "public safety" to include a non-police crisis response team for mental health and substance abuse, our response to interpersonal violence can include non-police response where appropriate. The report makes it clear that a community response includes support for the survivor/victim and cultural shifts to break the cycle. These are completely outside the law enforcement model that focuses on arrest and the carceral system to deal with abusers.

I also support Councilmember Doan's memo regarding safety placards in public and private spaces. This is another element the design process for the pilot can consider.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Hedges
SURJ Santa Clara
[redacted]

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Outlook

FW: Item 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/20/2025 7:49 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachment (8 KB)
My Story - San Jose City.docx;

From: Joanna Kent <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 3:31 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence

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You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important
To whom it may concern, please add this to the council item, 4.1 Community-Led Solutions to Domestic Violence, under the topic of Public Safety Services.

Thank you,
Joanna Kent
[redacted]

Hello. My name is Joanna Kent, and I live in District 9. Thank you for your time.

My youngest child has a rare disease called Phelan-McDermid Syndrome. Within a few months of getting our diagnosis, he had his first regression of skills. I knew exactly what was happening as I slowly watched my son disappear. I am always thoughtful in explaining it because it wasn't a regression. It was a complete and utter loss of devastation. My once adorable, sweet, gentle, slow, but excited to copy your movements, boy, was gone. And with him died my dreams for him, myself, and my family.

I became a shell of myself as he bit me, and scars began to appear along my body. He pulled my hair so much that I cut it all off because I had balding patches. He kicked, elbowed, and punched me. I silently took it all.

I took care of this person who didn't know I was their mother, and I became numb and lost, accepting my fate.

I think that most people assume that domestic violence is something that people can escape. The idea is that with the correct resources or mindset, one can walk out the door. Tell that to the parent of a child whom they care for who has violent outbursts. Or the child who cares for their parent with dementia who panics and thinks they are protecting themselves from this "stranger" who is truly their loving child who has given up so much to take care of their ailing parent.

Let's also not forget the people with disabilities who themselves are mistreated, and either don't know they are, based on their level of understanding, or are trapped due to forced poverty and dependence on those who tell them this is the better alternative.

I am TERRIFIED at the thought that someday someone will react to my child, who, out of excitement, hurts them, and they can't control themselves or won't, then retaliate and knowingly hurt my child for something he has no idea he even did.

When your child is one of the 1% of the most severely cognitively impaired 1%, you see the world differently. Most people in my position care for the child 24 hours a day; any minute they aren't, they hope for a miracle. I am planning for the worst and hoping I am wrong.

My story isn't the only one like it. Many families hide it in fear of losing their loved one. Many families are terrified the police will be called on their loved one who can't comply because they are not capable, whether it be from mental illness, cognitive inability, or complete dysregulation. I rent a home because of the fear that the police would be called on our family because my son's stimming would trigger a neighbor. Not everyone is as "fortunate" as our family to be able to afford the space to feel "safer" that the police will not show up to your door.

In San Jose, with over 20 thousand people dependent on In Home Supportive Services - this doesn't even include those who are not on this program for care to live in their homes safely, please consider that there are people you did not consider, for whom police involvement isn't an option, but a genuine fear.

Thank you again for your time. Please consider expanding this Community Violence Pilot to include those you might not typically have considered: caregivers and those who receive care in their homes.

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