



City of San José
Small Business Advisory Task Force
February 13, 2020

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES & SUMMARY
Thursday, February 13, 2020

Call to Order & Orders of the Day

PRESENT: Chair Hon. Chappie Jones, Vice Chair Dennis King, Nancy Avila, Carl Davis Jr., Ken Kelly, Allie Lopez, Ray Mueller (Alternate), Helen Wang

ABSENT: Mason Fong, Ray Mueller

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nga Nguyen, Gloria You

OTHERS PRESENT:

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|--------------------|--|
| Mimi Hernandez | Latino Business Council Silicon Valley |
| Christopher Hickey | Public Works Department |
| Sandra Freitas | Public Works Department |
| Dhez Woodworth | Office of Economic Development |

Chair Hon. Chappie Jones convened the Small Business Advisory Task Force at 3:17 pm in Conference Room T-1854 at City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113.

Public Comment

There was no public testimony on the floor.

Consent Calendar

There was no consent calendar.

Announcements

- Sandra Freitas from Public Works Department announced the upcoming Construction Contracting Seminar Series.
 - There will be educational seminars built to teach construction contractors how to contract with San Jose that will span over 6 weeks.
 - The registration will be at the end of the month. There are awareness opportunity events scheduled for March 26 at Southside Community Center and April 6 at Beryessa Community Center.
 - A suggestion was made to invite prime contractors to network with subcontractors.
 - Sandra also mentioned that there will be a Small Business procurement collaboration summit on May 18th at the County Building.

New Business

A. Review of Accomplishments of 2019

Documents Filed: [Accomplishments/Progress on 2019 Priorities](#)

Task Force Members reviewed Accomplishments of 2019 and identified items to continue in 2020. Suggested items to continue prioritizing in 2020 include:

- Evaluation of new procurement portal Biddingo, especially after full implementation across City Departments.
- Follow-up on City staff making available an email database of businesses that is accessible across City Departments for improved outreach and communication strategies.
- Consider establishing Subcommittee on Communication to Small Businesses regarding Antidisplacement
- Small Business Displacement
- Follow-up on recommendations provided by Subcommittee on Language & Cultural Barriers

B. Review & Discussion: 2020 Suggested Priorities submitted by Members

Document Filed: [Nominated Priorities for 2020](#)

Members reviewed 17 nominated/suggested priorities submitted by members of the Task Force solicited via survey. Members discussed and consolidated similar suggestions into four main topics:

1. Procurement
2. American Disability Act Compliance (ADA)/Eliminate drive-by lawsuit threats targeted at small business
3. Small Business Displacement
4. Compliance & Permitting Issues

Members were provided opportunity to vote for three priorities; based on voting, the following priorities received the most votes:

1. ADA Compliance (7 votes)
 2. Procurement/Contracting (6 votes)
 3. Small Business Displacement (5 votes)
- Task Force Members look forward to expanding work with Public Works Department and other departments to improve procurement opportunities for small businesses.
 - Regarding ADA Compliance, Members suggested getting a CASp inspector to help identify ADA lawsuits before they happen. There is a need to help track updates to ADA law changes.
 - Christopher Hickey from the Office of Equality Assurance is the ADA coordinator for the City.
 - Christopher Hickey noted that there is current legislation drafted that will mandate at least 100 day notice before a litigation can begin. Bill number is unknown.

- The passage of AB 5 has forced contractors to become small businesses.
- Self employment is increasing; 99% of all businesses are small.
- The increase in rent has lead to increase of displaced businesses. In addition, “not in my back yard” sentiments prevent small businesses from moving in to neighborhoods.
- The suggested priority of opportunity zones has been recommended for a future presentation.

Public Comment

- Mimi Hernandez shared that she has advised over 240 small businesses and has been working with businesses in the Alum Rock area of San Jose. According to a survey of 200 members, it was found that 51% are in jeopardy of going out of business. Moving forward, she stated an interest in being part of the conversation, working with the Small Business Advisory Task Force and the City’s Office of Economic Development, and their staff members Jeff Ruster and Dhez Woodworth.

Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be March 12, 2020 at 4:00 pm, Sam Jose City Hall, 18th Floor, T-1854.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:55 p.m..

Action: Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Dennis King and seconded by Member Allie Lopez. Motion was carried unanimously (6:0:3 Absent: Fong, Kelly, Mueller).



Hon. Chappie Jones, CHAIR

ATTEST:
ADVISORY TASK FORCE SECRETARY



RAANIA MOHSEN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF