



December 8, 2020

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street
San José, CA 95110

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 25 - Support the \$100 Million Small Business Financial Assistance Package

Dear President Chavez, Vice President Wasserman, and Members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

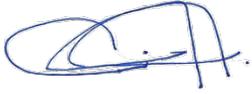
On behalf of the San José Small Business Advisory Task Force (SBATF), which is facilitated by the San José Council District 1 Office and made up of leaders of local chambers of commerce and small business associations, I am writing to express my strong support for the \$100 million small business financial assistance package proposed by Supervisor Susan Ellenberg and Supervisor Joe Simitian. Approving this proposal would pave the way for significant local effort to support small businesses during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is understood that there are several systems of support for small businesses, including a variety of loan and grant programs administered by the private and public sector. However, we must also acknowledge that existing cash grant and loan programs have been insufficient, and it is imperative that we consider an all-of-above strategy to intervene and support our small businesses. According to a recent [review](#) of the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), it was found that more than half of the money from the Treasury Department's COVID-19 funds went to just 5% of recipients, meaning a majority of it went to bigger businesses, and only 28% of the money was distributed in amounts less than \$150,000 and went to smaller businesses.

Unfortunately, small businesses will continue to close given the regulations set forth by the State and County in response to the pandemic. These businesses provide a tax base for local governments, provide positive contributions to our community, and promote a healthy economy. Small Businesses also play a significant role in providing employment to our residents. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, California small businesses employ almost 50% of the private workforce.

We commend the Board of Supervisors for taking action and considering the needs of our local, small businesses. The \$100 million relief fund is undoubtedly a step in the right direction. I understand that the County also has to balance its own budget; but, at the same time, take note that this is an opportunity for the County to step in and provide the support our small businesses gravely need. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chappie Jones

*Chair, San Jose Small Business Advisory Task Force
Vice Mayor, Council District 1, City of San Jose*

Members of the San Jose Small Business Task Force:

Vice Mayor Chappie Jones
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
FilAm Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
Silicon Valley Black Chamber of Commerce
Silicon Valley Chinese Technology & Business Association
The Silicon Valley Organization
Winchester Business Association
Taiwanese American Chamber of Commerce
Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce
Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce of Northern California