



**City of San José
Small Business Advisory Task Force**

**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES & SUMMARY
Thursday, June 11, 2020**

Consistent with the California Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, Resolution No. 79450 from the City of San José and the Santa Clara County Health Officer's March 16, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the Task Force meeting will not be physically open to the public and Members will be teleconferencing from remote locations.

Members of the Public were noticed to submit comments during or before meeting via zoom or email to raania.mohsen@sanjoseca.gov

Call to Order & Order of the Day

PRESENT: Chair Chappie Jones, Vice Chair Dennis King, Members Carl Davis Jr., Ken Kelly, Allie Lopez, Bettie Owen, Eddie Truong, Helen Wang

ABSENT: None

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Annie Tsai, Nga Nguyen, Nancy Avila

OTHERS PRESENT:

James Duran	Alternate Member, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley
Kelly Kline	Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
Ru Weerakoon	Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

Public Comment

There was no public testimony or emails received.

Consent Calendar

Documents Filed: Draft Minutes for the May 14, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Dennis King, seconded by Task Force Member Ken Kelly, and carried unanimously, the Task Force approved the Minutes for Virtual Meeting of May 14, 2020. (8:0:0).

New Business

A. Silicon Valley Economic Recovery Roundtable

Kelly Kline and Ru Weerakoon reviewed the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable.

- **Roundtable includes:**
 - A group of 59 members that were convened by the Mayor.
 - Broad diversity of Silicon Valley in order to help with recovery.
 - A group of people representative of different sectors.
 - A group that would work hard for the next 100 days (started May 11) on a few key issues.
- **Goal of Roundtable:** to rebuild, re-energize and revitalize the regional economy
- **Focused on four things:**
 - 1) Reopen safely.
 - 2) Make recovery inclusive for most vulnerable members of our community (make sure that this entire effort is grounded in equity).
 - 3) Enable businesses (particularly small businesses and startups) to survive and thrive.
 - 4) Setting the stage for what the new normal is going to be in terms of how we are working (focusing on enabling industries like child care, transportation, etc.).
- **Objectives:** working on solutions by topic area and looking for help in terms of who we should be focused on, what kind of problems we are solving and what ideas and practices we should be exploring
 - Will have report with prioritized short and long term strategic moves
 - *Note: long term means about three years and core of the work is 3-18 month period*
 - Who will be the audience for this?
 - Particular audience- including local government and 30 plus cities that encompass in our Silicon Valley region
 - Partnership between large and small businesses
- Structure of Roundtable:
 - Strategic guidance will be led by four Co-Chairs
 - Foundation of all this is not only our Mayors and Mayors Circle; each group is doing twenty plus focus groups and working sessions.
- 31% of business space is considered a small business (meaning anywhere from 10-35 employees)
- 48% of businesses are considered medium (35-100 employees)
- From end of March to the end of April (for retail and wholesale trade) 17,800 jobs were lost in just those 30 days
- In construction industry 15,400 jobs were lost
- 14,000 jobs lost in professional business services
- How do we enable businesses to survive and thrive?
 - First step is really understanding which group are most vulnerable

Questions/Comments from Members:

- In terms of recommendation, will it be sector by sector (industry specific) or a macroeconomic perspective?
 - It is industry specific based on job losses that have been most impacted and are most vulnerable and most at risk over the past few months.
 - It is focused on small, medium and start-ups that are the most impacted sectors.
- There should be an emphasis on the importance of small business representation.
 - As mentioned in May 14 meeting, there was much concern on small businesses not being represented.
 - Who is best going to represent all small businesses?
 - This is the very first group that we are coming to speak to and as policy recommendation evolve, we will expand to other businesses as well and amplify business voices.
- There has been a lot of outreach during this crisis, the trend we have seen is that there is a sense of isolation for small businesses- social distancing, not interacting with customers, letting go of workers, loss of sense of community
 - Need to do something in regards of isolation for small businesses
 - Heightened fear due to protests and businesses are being broken and and not being reached out to (they do not know who to turn to)
 - Nobody reaching out to them to say and show that they are appreciated and important
- Businesses hurting like they have never before
- Some small businesses have yet to apply to federal funding (even though they are eligible)
 - Isolation of not knowing where to turn to or who to trust
 - Many see no hope, and some are choosing to pack up and leave
- We need answers in terms of how isolated businesses are feeling
- Now entering a confusing phase of re-opening:
 - County is communicating many things and such things are being lost in translation
 - For example, shelter-in-place was supposed to end at the end of May but it was extended indefinitely and many businesses are confused as to when they can re-open or if they are allowed to begin the process of re-opening.
 - There needs to be better coordination and communication with the County as to what is being communicated and when and how.
 - Al Fresco is helpful and a great victory, but small businesses are still not getting all the details they need to reopen.
- To open the economy more safely, we need to work with private sectors who will hire more contact tracers
- Is the roundtable focused on recovery from the crisis we are in or does it involve structural changes and systemic changes? Is it singularly recovery or broader changes?

- A little bit of both with an emphasis on recovery and focus on vulnerable businesses and residents

B. Impacts of George Floyd Protest

- Very important time that the Task Forces is made up of multiethnic groups.
- Task Force to issue a statement that addresses the injustices and difficulties and challenges of being ethnic/ minority owned business.
 - Address the structural and systematic barriers that ethnic and minority businesses have to face in order to be successful

C. Member check in Re: COVID-19 Crisis

- Details regarding Item C were discussed in Item A

D. Unexcused Absences:

- According to bylaws if member has three unexcused absences we have to consider them as resigned from the Task Force.
 - Silicon Valley Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce has three unexcused absences and therefore is now considered as resigned
 - It was suggested for Member of Silicon Valley Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce to state their case as to why they should be re-appointed to task force.
 - It was requested to postpone to next meeting.

Action: Upon motion made by Vice Chair Dennis King and seconded by Member Ken Kelly, consideration of vacancy was rescheduled for future meeting. Motion passed unanimously (8:0:0).

- Task Force Members noted:
 - that being present does not represent active engagement.
 - Task Force is missing some communities that are critical and there should be talk on including other communities, e.g. Korean American Chamber of Commerce
 - next regular meeting to include discussion on including additional members.
 - a Special Meeting to review and approve statement and provide input for Silicon Valley Economic Recovery Roundtable to consider will be scheduled for June 18, 4 pm.

Adjournment

Action: Upon motion made by Vice Chair Dennis King, seconded by Member Eddie Truong, the Task Force adjourned the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously (8:0:0).

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.



Hon. Chappie Jones,

CHAIR
ATTEST:
ADVISORY TASK FORCE SECRETARY



RAANIA MOHSEN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF