



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

**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES & SUMMARY  
Thursday, June 26, 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 was not physically open to the public and Members participated via teleconference 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](mailto: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

Hon. Sergio Jimenez              Council Member, District 2, City of San Jose

Chair Chappie Jones convened the Small Business Advisory Task Force at 5:00 pm virtually via teleconference. He announced abstention from vote on agenda item of proposed charter amendment and that Vice Chair Dennis King to lead discussion on item.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public testimony or email received.

**New Business**

**A. Potential Ballot Measure to Amend the City Charter**

**Documents Filed:**

<https://sanjose.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4575468&GUID=0DF21853-85E9-401D-9271-AE135E1BEA27>

Council Member Jimenez reviewed the proposed ballot measure to amend the San Jose City Charter.

New ballot measure proposes to amend the city charter with structural reforms that will allow for an increase in voter participation, greater transparency and accountability, and finance reforms that will allow clearer alignment of the mayor's authority and responsibilities.

The proposed ammendment includes:

1. Moving the Mayoral election to align with Presidential election in 2024; gives current mayor an additional extra two years in office; current term expires 2022.
2. Campaign finance rules that are consistent with VTA's restriction of rules for lobbying.
3. Creation of Blue Ribbon Commission after the passage of this in November 2020; it would consider issues that may relate to any other reforms/mayoral powers.
4. Giving mayor additional powers:
  - Hiring and firing of city manager
  - Hire and firing of department heads (but this can be superseded by council with  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority)

This won't be a "strong mayor" form of government in which the mayor will have veto power over the budget, etc.

Important to note that many large cities govern in similar manners.

*Questions/comments from Members:*

- Why is it good and bad to have the powers to hire/ fire city manager and department heads?
  - This is not a foreign topic; of all major large cities, San Jose is one of only a few who do not have this strong form of mayor governance.
  - This is not giving the mayor more power but rather more ability to implement change.
  - When residents are electing a mayor they are expecting that this candidate will be able to implement policy and execute policy through the administration .
- What is the end goal at the end of the meeting?
  - We have the opportunity to express our opinion as advocates to the SBATF.
- Concerns with aligning with presidential elections
  - If Mayor of San Jose is running for office at the same time as the President of the United States, there is concern that the mayor's race will not get the attention it deserves.

-We don't know who would be apart of the blue ribbon commission; there should be a strong advocate for small businesses

-Aligning presidential election with mayoral election has been proven by political scientist as easiest way to increase voter turnout (younger people, women, minority, etc.)

-Fears of decreasing power of council members

-How is this proposal going to help small businesses?

- Anything we can do to draw accountability directly to an elected representative instead of unelected bureaucrats is better for good government reforms.
- Businesses often time do not know who to reach out to because there are many staff members and they are not familiar with who is in charge.
- It improves accountability from 11 elected's to 1.

-Community engagement is missing from this proposal; major change to the city charter should have real and substantial community engagement.

-If there will be a letter submitted for this then there needs to be language that highlights support for small businesses and advocates for one-point of contact for small businesses.

Action: Motion was made by Vice Chair King and seconded by Member Eddie Truong to support the potential ballot measure to amend the San Jose City Charter and support the memos submitted by Council Member Jimenez and Vice Mayor Jones. Motion carried unanimously (7:0: 1 abstention: Jones).

Other comments/questions included:

- How difficult is it to change the city charter?
  - It takes a vote from the council to place it on the ballot and then needs to be supported by general elector
- In regards to lack of community engagement, community engagement can be found through the process of the election.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm



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HON. CHAPPIE JONES, CHAIR

ATTEST:  
ADVISORY TASK FORCE SECRETARY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rania Mohsen", written in a cursive style.

RAANIA MOHSEN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF