

Neighborhoods Commission Update

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- 1. 2019 Neighborhoods Commission Workplan.** The NC completed its 2019 workplan. The NC developed recommendations for policies and strategies for deterring illegal fireworks, fostering creation of neighborhood associations, providing the NC budget recommendations for the SJ FY 2019-2020 budget, disaster preparedness, illegal dumping, neighborhood traffic and completing the Measure B Independent Citizens Oversight Committee's report for FY 2017-2018. The NC 2018-2019 Annual Report will be submitted to the Mayor and Council via the Neighborhoods Services and Education Committee of the City Council.
- 2. NC Participation in Emergency Services Council.** The NC supported the Emergency Services Council request to inform the SJ Neighborhood Associations of the Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) opportunity to attend Awareness and Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. Information was provided to 114 San José Neighborhood Associations.
- 3. Audit of City Council Policy 6-30 Development Noticing.** Policy 6-30 is the Public Outreach Policy for Pending Land Use and Development Proposals and establishes baselines for public outreach on development activities, encouraging early communication between City staff, applicants, and the public. The NC studied and evaluated Policy 6-30 Commission during the 2016-2017 session and determined the policy, last updated in 2004, needed a comprehensive update to address the many concerns and complaints of the San Jose residents. The NC also determined that staff needed updated compliance training to ensure this policy is used correctly and fulfills its intent, which is to protect the people by ensuring they are informed. The NC's findings and recommendations were forwarded by the NC to the Mayor and City Council.

As a result, the Audit of Policy 6-30 Development Noticing was added to the City Auditor's Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Work Plan. The audit reviewed the effectiveness of outreach for new development including notice radius, timing, and language accessibility. The findings of the audit were documented in the City Auditor's Development Noticing: Ensuring Outreach Policies Meet Community Expectations report. The Administration reviewed the City Auditor's Development Noticing Report and agreed with all eight recommendations and is planning to implement them.

- 4. Improve Mechanisms for Reaching Neighborhood Associations and Limited-English Speaking Communities.** The City Auditor's Policy 6-30 Development Noticing Report, has numerous references to Neighborhood Associations and the need for contact lists. Finding 2 of the report stated that the City should improve mechanisms for reaching neighborhood associations and limited-English speaking communities. Included in the finding was the recommendation that the Administration should develop a list and map of neighborhood association contacts and create a mechanism for associations to add and update contact information. Included in the NC 2018-2019 Annual Report is a recommendation that the NC be included in the development of the comprehensive list and map of neighborhood associations and contacts for all City departments to use.