Mayor and City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95110
via email

re: future of the Neighborhoods Commission

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of item 5.1 on the June 18th agenda, and in support of the memo by Mayor Reed and Councilmember Herrera.

You have a letter from the Neighborhoods Commission as a whole that details our major accomplishments during the Pilot Program, along with our recommendations on how we can streamline our process and improve our communications. I'd like to add a couple personal anecdotes:

\* About a year ago a homeless person was killed in our community at a location just outside the boundaries of several neighborhoods. As Commissioner, I was able to work with the various association leaders to start the ball rolling for a memorial event, and also to meet with nearby merchants to coordinate the facilitating of the event.

\* There have been public workshops for a number of "Urban Villages" in my District (Bascom Ave./West San Carlos, Winchester, The Alameda) which I have attended as Commissioner. Being somewhat familiar with the process, I’ve been able to help with facilitation. At one of the meetings, a resident who was somewhat upset with the proposals asked "and who hired you?", to which I was able to respond "you did, through the caucus process in your neighborhood" – it did help ease the tension!

\* I regularly participate in our local District 6 Neighborhood Leaders Group where I learn about the issues and concerns of the various neighborhoods in District 6. Thus it was that I learned about, and was able to pass along, the community's wishes to open a recently constructed library, a library that before I didn't even know existed.

\* And I have learned about the concerns of neighborhoods in other parts of town, both by working with my fellow Commissioners and by attending events (for example, budget hearings) in other neighborhoods. I've learned that we have a lot of issues on common (quality of life, desire to care for the next generation) and also have issues unique to different areas (community policing, monster houses).

With the challenges from the implementation of the Green Vision and Envision 2040, the balancing community wishes with budget constraints, and the numerous quality-of-life issues within the neighborhoods, there will be enough work to keep us busy!

I look forward to continuing our work with you and the City on behalf of our neighborhoods.

Lawrence Ames, D6 Commissioner.
Larry@L-Ames.com
June 16, 2013

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From: Pierluigi.Oliverio@sanjoseca.gov
To: LAmes@aol.com
Sent: 6/18/2013 8:14:47 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Re: support for the Neighborhoods Commission (item 5.1, 6/18/13)

Hi Larry,

Hope all is well.

You met and gave your card to a gentleman that was upset at the Winchester Village meeting. He lives at Santana Row and is suing Federal Realty, since he is against any more development of any kind, residential, office or retail and would like restaurants to close by 10PM.

FYI