



City of San José

Neighborhoods Commission

October 15, 2015

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Members of the Rules & Open Government Committee
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

re: Neighborhoods Commission and the proposed Crime Free Multi-Housing Program

Mayor Liccardo and Members of the Rules & Open Government Committee,

The Rules & Open Government Committee discussed a proposal for a Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Program on October 7, 2015. The proposal initially included a request that the item be placed on the Neighborhoods Commission agenda for review to provide feedback to the City Council. Vice Mayor Herrera noted that the Rules Committee had just approved the Neighborhoods Commission's rather full 2015-16 Work Plan. After discussion by the Rules Committee members, the adopted motion was that the CFMH Program would be reviewed by the Council's Neighborhood Services & Education Committee. In addition, the Neighborhoods Commission was to be asked whether they felt that they too could contribute and if their schedule would permit it, with a reply requested by Oct. 21st.

The topic was added to the Neighborhoods Commission's Oct. 14th agenda (see item C-3 in <http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/46904>: "Potential Addition to Commission's Adopted Workplan. Referral from the City Council's Rules and Open Government Committee".)

The Commission had a thorough and spirited discussion of the issue at our October meeting. While we recognized the importance of the topic, a majority of the Commission felt that it was beyond the expertise of the Neighborhoods Commission members, that the topic would be better handled by the Housing & Community Development Commission, and that the effort could impede the Neighborhoods Commission as we try to address the numerous items in our approved Work Plan. Accordingly, we voted to decline the invitation to participate in the task of coordinating public comment on the CFMH Program.

The CFMH proposal is important but complex, and it is quite likely there may be details that might have unintended consequences if improperly implemented. While it is likely that a number of members of the Neighborhoods Commission will want to participate in the public discussions as individuals, the Neighborhoods Commission as a whole will not.

We appreciate the request to participate, and we hope that we may be of assistance on future issues.

(signed)

Lawrence L. Ames, Chair, SJ Neighborhoods Commission