

May 23, 2016

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers, City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113

re: Controlling Illegal Dumping

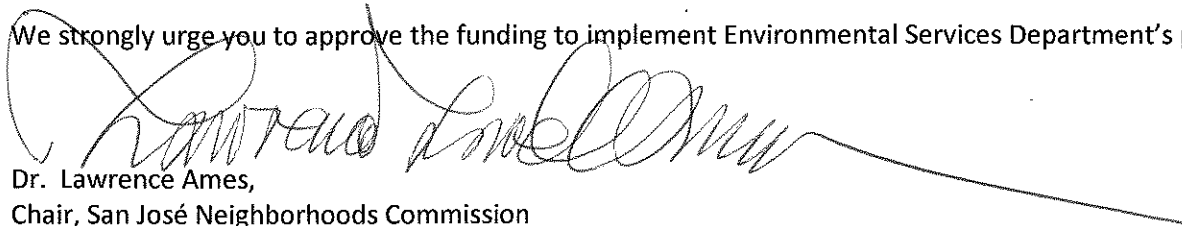
Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

The Neighborhoods Commission voted the scourge of Illegal Dumping as our number one issue when we developed our Work Plan for the past year. We also wrote to you in February about increasing the funding in the next budget to better address this problem.

The Environmental Services Department's budget proposals are an excellent start to eliminating these scars on our neighborhoods. The "free pickup" programs for single- and multi-family homes will actually make it easier to get rid of large items legally than to surreptitiously go out and find a place to dump them. Targeted "hot-spots" and the proposed rapid-response efforts are a good fix for some of our chronically "broken windows." Additional neighborhood-led dumpster days can be better-publicized and staffed by the community for free so we can clean more and pay less. These ideas will work.

We feel that ESD's proposals are a demonstration of Good Government in action. Their plans are well thought out, responsive to our neighborhoods' needs, and have created a cooperative dialogue between City Departments and our residents. The Department's willingness to work with the Commission is a model of how we can operate in the future.

We strongly urge you to approve the funding to implement Environmental Services Department's plans.



Dr. Lawrence Ames,
Chair, San José Neighborhoods Commission