



# City of San José

## Neighborhoods Commission

February 11, 2016

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

re: Homelessness

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

The issue of homelessness impacts all of us living in San José – the housed as well as the unhoused. Given the impact of the issue on (and by) the neighborhoods, the Neighborhoods Commission recently studied what we might be able to do to help ameliorate the situation. The Commission received a presentation by the City on the homelessness issue, and a number of Commissioners further researched the topic (including talking with specialists and attending public meetings), after which the full Commission discussed their findings.

We have discovered that the issue of homelessness is very complex: it spans many jurisdictions and agencies, and much is beyond the scope of the Neighborhoods Commission.

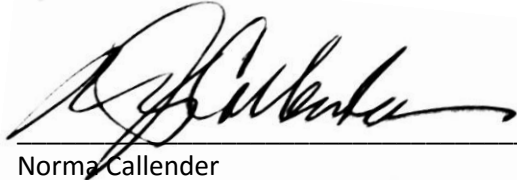
Nonetheless, we want to offer what assistance that we can. This letter lists some of the means in which we can help.

- The Neighborhoods Commission is helping to educate residents and neighborhood associations about the proactive measures being taken by the City of San José and Santa Clara County to eradicate homelessness, such as the “All the Way Home” initiative to house veterans. We are also promoting the Homeless Hotline at 408/510-7600 and [outreach@HomeFirstSCC.org](mailto:outreach@HomeFirstSCC.org).
- We are working to help educate residents about the root causes of homelessness, including the loss of one’s job, a catastrophic event in the family, adverse credit, the dissolution of a marriage, or a devastating mental or physical disability.
- Commissioners are willing to work in their communities with City officials and others to arrange for the presentation and discussion of video documentaries such as “Exodus of the Jungle” and “Faces of Homelessness” (by the National Coalition for the Homeless).
- The Neighborhoods Commission is encouraging residents and neighborhood associations to participate in events such as volunteering at shelters, assisting in food drives and coat collection drives, and the distribution of gift cards to assist the homeless communities.
- We are willing to work with neighborhood associations to be alert to crimes committed by the homeless and crimes committed against the homeless, and provide information on how to report any such crimes.

- We can help with education and informational exchange to help reduce NIMBY tendencies.
- We are willing to discuss the merits of measures to help the homeless, and we anticipate recommending that appropriate funding be included in the City's upcoming budget proposal.
- And we are soliciting ideas from residents and neighborhood associations for additional ways in which we all can try to help the homeless.

Homelessness affects us all.

We in the Neighborhoods Commission look forward to doing what we can to help alleviate the problem.



Norma Callender  
Lead, Homelessness Issues



Lawrence Ames  
Chair, San José Neighborhoods Commission.