



March 15, 2022

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

RE: [Mayor's March Budget Message](#) Recommendations, item 3.3

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

The San Jose Downtown Association (SJDA) has represented downtown for 35 years and together with more than 2000 current businesses and property owner members we strive to increase the livability of downtown San Jose. As we are coming out of Covid, there has been an increased demand to provide critical programs around public safety and business support. We encourage the City Council to consider the adoption of the budget items below requested in the Mayor's March budget message:

- *A7. Homeless Outreach:* This is an opportunity to provide services to the unhoused while cleaning encampments areas that are in dire need of removing trash and debris.
- *B2. Public Safety, Walking and Bike Patrol:* There are valid concerns regarding the safety of residents, workers, and visitors in the downtown core. These concerns existed prior to Covid and have become more apparent and frequent in the past two years. We understand that the current SJPd downtown foot patrol shifts are voluntary for officers and therefore they are difficult to fill consistently. We need a dedicated funding source to support a downtown foot patrol. A stable and sustainable program dedicated to improving the safety of downtown San Jose is a long term investment strategy for our city's viability.
- *B3. Addressing Mental Illness:* The continuation of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCAT) is needed as we continue to face concerns of mental illness on our streets that must be matched with de-escalation tactics and solutions and greater collaboration with partner agencies working in this space. We agree this program should continue but cognizant this will come out of SJPd budget.
- *E2. Small Business Support:* With Covid still lingering, our business community will need resources to come back online to their regular days and hours. With al fresco support and fee waivers, this can defray costs and help businesses obtain what they lost - customers and revenue.
- *E7. San Jose Abierto:* As stewards of funding last year, we know the profound impact of this program and the importance to continue funding our art community. We are honored to be considered as a partner of the city to facilitate distribution of funds to our art partners to activate our city with remarkable events and programming.
- *E8. Downtown Ice:* After 25 years of operating the ice rink, there is a need to update and upgrade the experience for visitors by applying these funds toward capital improvements.

We thank the City Council for the continuous support and leadership.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Scott Knies'.

Scott Knies  
Executive Director