



Dear Members of our San Jose Neighborhoods Commission,

We have enjoyed such an active first year of our San Jose Neighborhoods Commission – so let me start by thanking you for your work in the community. I know that the discussions we have together at our monthly meetings are a small part of your contributions within your immediate neighborhood and District. You are busy sharing information with your neighbors, such as assuring they are aware of our current budget challenges, and of our recommendations to Council and support to make the difficult choices to ensure a positive future for all of San Jose's neighborhoods.

I have deeply appreciated the opportunity to work with you, and hear of the dreams that we have for our neighborhoods. As you may know, I had been involved in the development of our Commission, so to see us learning and growing as we are is wonderful. I am appreciative of the diversity of viewpoints we have in our group, and of the respect and support we all share.

During this first year, we have provided the following:

- Established ourselves as a new Commission - through discussion, analysis, and meaningful consensus we achieved our initial by-laws and first yearly work plan. We are currently refining our work for the coming year. These represent the external products of our organizational development and learning to work cohesively together, as we have charted this new path for neighborhoods.
- Strengthened relationships with our neighborhood groups and City Leaders (both staff and elected) - this included our meetings with Police Chief Davis, our Independent Police Auditor Judge LaDoris Cordell, and Senior City Staff whose work is vitally important to our neighborhoods, such as Joe Horwedal, Director of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement. This dynamic allows us to be an information bridge, as well as a trusted resource to all parties.
- A respected neighborhood perspective on processes, policies, and implementation that affect community quality of life in our Districts and across the City – one excellent example would be our dialogue and initial recommendations on effective community policing. Our support of extending the shift rotation is a significant step in addressing our neighborhoods' need to build stronger relationships with our patrol officers. Since this relationship has such a significant nexus to safety and youth, this is an area for continued study and to share and encourage best practices throughout San Jose.

- o Integration and alignment of neighborhood priorities with the San Jose Budget Alignment process – we were honored to both be chosen to actively participate in the budget prioritization exercise with other significant stakeholders, as well as our important role in facilitating the community discussion tables at the Mayor's neighborhood budget summit in the spring. We assured that our community needs were heard in this early review by City decision-makers. Our recommendations were integrated into the City's yearly budget decisions, and our message regarding the vital link between community services and public safety was clearly heard. Even now, our recommendations are vitally important as our City Council reviews next steps to stabilize San Jose finances, and we will continue to champion neighborhood needs in 2010-2011.

As many of you are aware, I have served on a number of neighborhood organizations for many years, including three terms as the President of Campus Community Association/ Naglee Park, and currently serve as Vice President. I am a Board member of the University Neighborhoods Coalition, and was a member of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Project Advisory Committee (SNI PAC). I am also the Volunteer Coordinator for "Bark In The Park", our neighborhood association's yearly festival and primary fund-raiser – and am responsible to recruit and coordinate the efforts of over two hundred volunteers each year for this great event. I also currently serve as the Vice Chair of the District Three Neighborhood Advisory Group.

In my professional life, I am a Human Resources/ Labor Relations Manager in a large health care organization, and have experience and training in interest-based problem solving and facilitative leadership. My educational background includes a B.A. in Business Management and a Law Degree.

I continue to learn in facilitating and chairing our Commission, and for this I thank all of you. As Chair of our Neighborhoods Commission, my intent has been to work collaboratively and strategically in providing a neighborhood voice in the review of policies and issues for the revitalization and benefit of all our neighborhoods. As I stated at our recent meeting, I respectfully offer myself as Chair of the Neighborhoods Commission for this second year of our pilot, and request your support.

I thank you for your consideration,

Beth Shafran-Mukai

August 2, 2010