



District 8 Community Round Table – D8CRT

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021 @ 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Jeremy Barousse. President's Report - Dues for 2021 are due - \$20.00 annually. Our March topic will be Opportunity Housing.

Our speaker was Mayor Sam Liccardo. Small businesses in San Jose are hurting. The city is trying to support them in any way possible. The city is encouraging more alfresco dining outside, as well as food deliveries. For non-restaurants, they are encouraging citizens to patronize small businesses whenever possible instead of the big box stores. Approximately 400 grants have been given to local businesses. Shop Local San Jose. Reid-Hillview Airport – the county is considering closing Reid-Hillview and replacing it with high density housing. Eastridge Mall has also been struggling, as are most malls across the country. The mall needs to be shifted to more entertainment and dining facilities which will attract patrons once the COVID restrictions are removed. Other city concerns – Deficits going forward due to COVID. Many businesses are not generating much revenue and therefore less taxes to the city. There are many empty storefronts around the city, the businesses are suffering, and the landlords are suffering as well. The Mayor did state that he is cautiously optimistic for next year and the future. Once we are able to get the population vaccinated, businesses will be able to resume once again.

Councilperson Sylvia Arenas – CP Arenas is currently in her second term, and is just recovering from COVID-19 over the new year. The Silver Oak Neighborhood Association has reported events of mail theft in their area. These thefts are being investigated by the US Postal Service. They are working with SJPd on sideshow enforcement. There have been occurrences around the district and particularly at Tully and Ruby. They are going after both the participants and the bystanders. There are road improvements planned for Tully and King Roads. The instances of home burglaries are down because more people are at home, but instances of break ins at businesses have increased. District 8 has highlighted improving Wi-Fi coverage in the area to help those people who are attempting to do distance learning for their children, and those working from home. They are also working a paid sick leave program to assist those who can't work because of COVID. There has been an increase in domestic violence and the District is working with the local agencies to try to combat this. They are also working to expand childcare for working parents, community center activities and library services. There is a focus on preventing red-lining in the East Side. Real estate red-lining targets communities of color and less affluent areas, making it difficult for people to obtain housing. There will be a forum this weekend for police chief candidates. Chief Eddie Garcia retired, and has now relocated as the new police chief in Dallas. They are going to consider local candidates as well as others outside of the SJPd. There are concerns about the water quality at Lake Cunningham Park. Studies are being done to see how this can be corrected.

Diana Torres of the office of State Senator David Cortese (District 15) reported that he will be holding a Town Hall on March 11th at 6 pm.

D8CRT Land Use – Robert Reese reported on the Zoom meeting held by Evergreen Valley College regarding the Environmental Impact Report and the 27 acres. There is a community meeting being planned for April.

The next meeting will be March 4 – Opportunity Housing. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.