

June 5, 2020

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding Street
San José, CA 95110

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

We are the co-chairs, conveners and members of three respective ad-hoc bodies formed in response to the health, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we represent stakeholders that span across various industries and sectors focused in Santa Clara County.

We recognize and commend the successful efforts of the County Public Health Department, led by Dr. Sara Cody. As we saw a rapid increase of identified COVID-19 cases and unfortunate deaths, Dr. Cody swiftly brought forth a cohesive countywide response. Thanks to her leadership, a region wide public health order was put in place that resulted in countless lives being saved. Our nonprofit and business communities have stood in solidarity with the Public Health Department, making the painful decision of overhauling or even shutting down operations to keep our community safe. And while locally we have averted a worst case public health crisis, our disadvantaged communities of color and small and minority-owned businesses have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic.

Critical conversations are occurring in all of our respective bodies about rebuilding our local economy, fostering vibrant public life, and addressing systemic health and racial disparities affecting our most disenfranchised residents. These conversations are conducted with great participation from community members and fervently supported by our local elected officials. However, in order to thoughtfully produce informed solutions and recommendations, it is vital that we also have the active participation of our County's Public Health officials.

Aside from being on the frontlines of this pandemic, our Public Health officials are charged with guiding our communities towards resuming everyday life. We recognize that a new normal is inevitable, yet, we believe the policies that will shape that new normal should not be crafted in a public health vacuum, but rather with consistent consultation and meaningful input from industry experts, front line community health organizations and other business, non-profit and faith-based community leaders. As we look forward to the recovery and reopening of the South Bay, we must be able to do so in an inclusive and collaborative manner.

Our independent task forces were created to fill a void within the decision-making process over the past three months. We appreciate learning about the community hearings being initiated today, which can begin to open the dialogue, however we need more consistent and structured input from industry experts working on the ground. To date, the County health orders and the relaxation of them have been made without input from those expected to enact them. As the responsible elected body we respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors direct the Public Health Department to meet with our various task forces to explore collaborative policies and tactical solutions that would restore our economy and daily activities, while continuing to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable communities. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to keep our community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Greater Downtown San José
Economic Recovery Task Force

Raul Peralez, *Convener*
Councilmember, *City of San José - District 3*
Member, *Health & Racial Equity Task Force*

Cache Bouren, *Co-Chair*
Owner, *Haberdasher SJ*

Wisa Uemura, *Co-Chair*
Executive Director, *San José Taiko*

Fernanda Carreira
Owner, *Adega / Pastelaria Adega*

Laura Chmielewski
VP Marketing & Communications,
Team San José

April Gee
Owner, *Petite Galleria*

Meaghan Karabatsos
Owner, *WESTCA Gym*

Takahiro Kitamura
Owner, *State of Grace Tattoo*

Chris Patterson-Simmons
Owner, *Neu2U Thrift Boutique / Urban Kiosk*

Brendan Rawson
Executive Director, *San José Jazz*

Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable

Sam Liccardo, *Convener*
Mayor, *City of San José*

Health & Racial Equity Task Force

Magdalena Carrasco, *Chair & Convener*
Councilmember, *City of San José - District 5*

Kansen Chu, *Vice Chair*
Assemblymember, *California State Assembly*

Dolores Alvarado
CEO, *Community Health Partnership*

Rebeca Armendariz
Gilroy Resident

Milan Balinton
Executive Director, *African American*
Community Service Agency

Jeffrey Buchanan
Policy Director, *Working Partnerships USA*

Pete Carrillo
CEO, *Silicon Valley Advisors*

Reymundo Espinoza
CEO, *Gardner Health Services*

Patricia Gardner
CEO, *PAG Consulting*

Greg Kepferle
CEO, *Catholic Charities of Santa Clara*
County

Sarita Kohli
CEO, *Asian Americans for Community*
Involvement

Michele Lew
CEO, *The Health Trust*

Jennifer Loving
CEO, *Destination: Home*

María Marroquín
Executive Director, *Day Workers Center of*
Mountain View

Sonya Tetnowski
CEO, *Indian Health Center of Santa Clara*
Valley

CC: Dr. Sara Cody, M.D.
Dr. Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D.
San José City Council
Dave Sykes