

GREATER DOWNTOWN SAN JOSÉ ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE

SUPPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER RAUL PERALEZ

Arts & Special Events

Brendan Rawson, *San José Jazz*
Wisa Uemura, *San José Taiko (C)*

General Retail & Services

April Gee, *Petite Galleria*
Chris Patterson-Simmons, *Neu2U/Urban Kiosk*

At-Large

Laura Chmielewski, *Team San José*
Blage Zelalich, *City of San José*

Food & Beverage

Fernanda Carreira, *Adega / Pastelaria Adega*
Cache Bouren, *Haberdasher SJ (C)*

Personal Care

Meaghan Karabatsos, *WESTCA Gym*
Takahiro Kitamura, *State of Grace Tattoo*

Supported By

Councilmember Raul Peralez, *District 3*

MEETING MINUTES · MAY 27, 2020

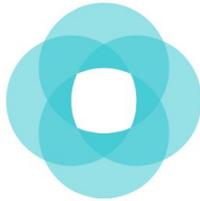
Amended and Approved on June 3, 2020

1. Welcome/Introduction of Task Force Co-Chairs (4 Minutes)

Raul- Thank you for joining this second meeting. It is my honor to introduce your Co-Chairs - Wisa Uemura and Cache Bouren. And in the case that our Co-Chairs are unable to attend a Task Force Meeting, you have all elected Meaghan Karabatsos and Chris Patterson Simmons as your alternates.

2. Roll Call (1 Minute)- All Task Force members are present

- Takahiro Kitamura, *State of Grace Tattoo*
- Chris Simmons, *Neu2U/Urban Kiosk*
- Wisa Uemura, *San José Taiko*
- Cache Bouren, *Haberdasher SJ*
- Fernanda Carreira, *Adega / Pastelaria Adega*
- Laura Chmielewski, *Team San José*
- Brendan Rawson, *San José Jazz*
- Alicia (attending in place of April Gee)
- Meaghan Karabatsos, *WESTCA Gym*
- Lee Wilcox, *Director, San Jose Emergency Operations Center*
- David Tindall - *Deputy Chief, San Jose Police Department*
- Blage Zelalich, *City of San José*
- Scott Strickland, *Chief of Staff, Office of County Supervisor Cindy Chavez*
- District 3 Staff



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- Councilmember Peralez
 - Christina Ramos, *Chief of Staff*
 - David Tran, *Senior Council Assistant*
 - Patricia Ceja, *Community Relations Coordinator*
 - Bridget Brown, *Council Assistant*
 - Mindy Nguyen, *Council Assistant*
 - Martha Medina, *Council Assistant*
 - Raquel Vegas, *Executive Assistant*

3. Old Business (5 Minutes)

- a. ACTION ITEM: Approve the [05/20/20 meeting minutes](#)

Wisa- Is everyone comfortable with approving the meeting minutes to ensure that these notes are accurately capturing the minutes?

- I would like to revise Cache's comment on page 10. Rather than suggesting 4 alternates he suggested that there be 4 positions (2 co-chairs and 2 alternates) to provide for equal representation.

Cache- Yes, that is correct and I agree to have the minutes revised to reflect that.

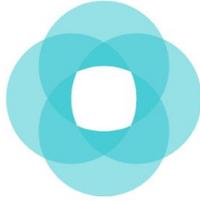
- Task Force- Motion to approve minutes and revision to minutes

- b. INFORMATIONAL: Follow Up - Council District 3 will respond to questions and action items from the previous meeting.

Raul- We reached out to the County Health Official to ask how far SCC is behind the state. The Health Officer said we are following closely behind the state but certainly are on our own path. You can view the 5 indicators the County is using to inform their decisions to reopen on the County website.

- Many of the indicators are decreasing - number of COVID cases, number of hospital beds needed for COVID patients.
- The 14 day incubation period for COVID-19 is what is preventing the County Health Official from making a fast transition to another phase. So we will always see a 2 week lag. The state is not necessarily using this to inform their orders

4. **Future of Public Health Requirements (45 Minutes)** INFORMATIONAL: Discussion regarding the concerns of business operators as they plan to reopen and what they



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should consider in order to maintain the health and safety of their employees and their patrons.

Wisa- Public health is important to all of our industries as we move forward so today we're going to have the chance to hear from three guest speakers

Cache- The speakers will each provide a short update and then we'll have the opportunity for Q&A and public comment. (Review of ground rules)

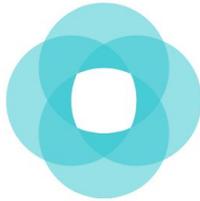
- Cache- (Introduction of guest speakers)
 - Lee Wilcox, *Director, San Jose Emergency Operations Center*
 - David Tindall - *Deputy Chief, San Jose Police Department*
 - Scott Strickland, *Chief of Staff, Office of County Supervisor Cindy Chavez*

Lee Wilcox- I want to give an overview of how the city has reacted to this crisis. We started looking at COVID-19 in January as we started to hear concerns from China.

- We've developed phases as this crisis has unfolded. We put together a framework of 5 stages that we were planning around this crisis.
- This is a public health crisis initially but has economic and fiscal impacts. In supporting the County, we've followed this roadmap in an attempt to shorten the Shelter in Place period. We've been able to keep police/fire and other essential services such as garbage pick up throughout shelter in place. We've been able to focus on our more vulnerable populations, such as our homeless.
- As frustration begins to grow with the shelter in place, it's important to remember that Santa Clara County had potential to really be a hot bed for COVID cases but we've seen that since March we've been successful in containing cases.
- The County is trying to understand what happens next and how we can achieve a slow burn and prevent major peaks in cases. We have stages (6-10) for how we can slowly step out of this crisis by moving through recovery and resilience. We've been relentless in pursuing additional funding through the federal government to fight the health crisis and also jumpstart our economy.

Deputy Chief David Tindall- The police department has continued to be fully operational since day one of the pandemic. The main priority of the Bureau of Field Operations is to respond to 911 calls.

- The way we've adapted is starting decentralized briefings three times a day - making sure that officers are receiving updates and information in smaller groups to allow for social distancing and prevent large gatherings of officers.
- Providing officers with the proper education and PPE to address potential exposure. From over a thousand employees, I can count on one hand how many



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positive cases we've had. We are seeing much lower rates of crimes which we absolutely attribute to people being home.

- We started repurposing units to focus on downtown commercial areas as we did see an uptick in commercial burglaries. For those violating shelter in place orders we found that it only took 1 visit by SJPD to educate businesses on operating expectations. Our goal moving forward is to maintain public safety as we reopen.

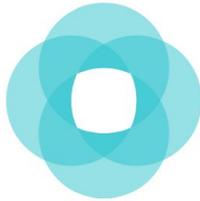
Cache- Doesn't look like Scott Strickland has joined yet so we're going to turn it over to the task force members to ask questions.

Taki- Deputy Chief you said you guys are going around citing people. So I've had people ask what happens if you open up? I'm curious what happens if a business doesn't comply. And as we were discussing earlier, why was Tesla able to reopen?

Deputy Chief Tindall- We've given out about 4 citations and these businesses had been contacted and received educational resources and then proceeded to not comply. We're seeing at a national level that there's a lot of disagreement regarding enforcement. While we have not cited a lot of businesses we have done a lot of documentation which will be given to the District Attorney. We take questions of whether or not businesses are exempt to the County Counsel.

Scott Strickland- Thank you for the questions you sent beforehand, I'm going to respond to as many as I can but unfortunately some are unknowable. To provide some insight on how the shelter in place order is created and revised - it's created by the County Health Officer, not by an elected body.

- Our Health Officer is working in collaboration with the other Bay Area counties - Marin, SF, San Mateo, Contra Costa. The Bay Area's population is larger than most states. The current order expires on Sunday night - I'm fairly certain that an extension for that order will come out tomorrow or Friday which will relax some aspects of the existing order.
- For more information I would refer you to the County's COVID website. I noticed questions posed for very specific industries which will be addressed by our FAQs that are more narrow. There are County dashboards to provide you all with data and statistics for Santa Clara County. The website also provides updates on what Santa Clara County is doing in terms of meeting indicators - we're doing a good job of meeting the first 3 indicators.
- We've doubled our testing capacity and our Health Officer wants us to be able to test 4,000 people/day. In terms of reopening various sectors, we are choosing to



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open slowly to prevent a spike in cases. For the sectors we have opened so far we've seen that this slow opening has been safe. Supervisor Chavez will be hosting 2 hearings to hear from other industries to present how they reopen safely with protocols in place. Hopefully with these hearing we'll see that the Health Officer will agree to reopen some economic sectors

Fernanda- Question for Deputy Chief Tindall, at what point in time is it appropriate to call 911 for businesses that encounter belligerent customers not abiding by social distancing protocols? Will a specific number be set up for these types of calls?

Deputy Chief Tindall- If we receive a call for someone refusing to wear a mask, for example, we would document the call but likely would not be able to dispatch officers. If there is an underlying violation/criminal element such as trespassing, disturbing, assault/battery then police would take further action. Certainly you could go the non-emergency route. If you feel that it is a public safety concern you can certainly call 911.

Alicia- Question for Scott, you mentioned that PPE for hospitals is sufficient but for retailers we are having difficulty accessing PPE supplies. Is there a plan for providing retailers with PPE?

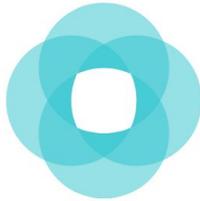
Scott- At this time there is not a plan in place to address everyday PPE but it is something we are looking into. We are asking all sectors to please let the various levels of government know how we can support.

Brendan- How can industries such as Arts & Special Events come forward with specific plans for safe operations? How do we get such plans approved?

Scott- Our office is supporting industries in revising protocol drafts to make it likely that the Health Officer will approve them.

Lee- In the spirit of helping, the City would like to be supportive of industries as they submit protocols to the County.

CM Peralez- Scott, how can businesses participate in these hearings that Supervisor Chavez is hosting?



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Fernanda- How long before we're going to open are we going to receive the protocols and expectations? How much time will we have to prepare?

Scott- We do not have a timeline for that but we are hoping to have a messy opening rather than a chaotic opening.

Blage- When the County gives us the green light to do outdoor dining or onsite dining, we are looking into how we can support businesses in reopening. We are looking at how we can use both private and public spaces to do so and how we can streamline this process.

- We don't know exactly what the timeline for the County is to revise the order but we are preparing so that we are ready once we receive the green light and can easily revise based on what restrictions are lifted.

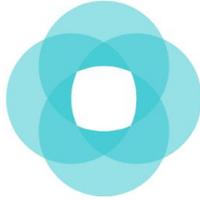
Cache- Is this something we can communicate with business owners? What progress is being made? I'm hearing from business owners who are frustrated and feel that nothing is being accomplished

Blage- A good resource for downtown businesses is San Jose Downtown Association. At this point I think everything is happening so quickly I think it may be unrealistic to put together a website with updates, etc.

Scott- In response to Fernanda I would begin looking at how you can operate your business with limited capacity. Yesterday the Board of Supervisors are looking to put 200 health educators on the street, especially in East San Jose where there are lower levels of compliance, to inform businesses what they can and can't do and how to keep their communities safe.

Chris- This question was for Scott but if Lee can answer I'd appreciate it. How are retailers going to be able to get the information on opening and signage? Only certain businesses are receiving the information they need.

Lee- They City is in more of a role to try and jumpstart the economy and so we're constantly trying to get information from the County so we can package it better for all of you. In Scott's defense, they're trying to write the rules while they're also trying to decide when it's safe to reopen. So that's where the City comes in in terms of communicating information and putting information into one spot especially as we step into economic recovery.



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Blage- The Office of Economic Development recently updated our website. Before it was pretty reactionary as we were receiving updates but now we're working on making it more user friendly and better organized to support businesses in finding the information that they need. You can check out sjeconomy.com and you'll also see information sent out in flash reports.

Guest Speakers

- Lee Wilcox - *Director, San Jose Emergency Operations Center*
- David Tindall - *Deputy Chief, San Jose Police Department*
- Scott Strickland - *Chief of Staff, Office of County Supervisor Cindy Chavez*

5. **Public Comment** (30 minutes)

Members of the public may address the task force on any issue for a prescribed duration of time at the discretion of the meeting facilitator.

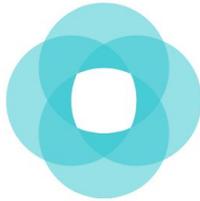
Wisa- We'll now be moving on to public comment and if time is limited we encourage you to use the Q&A portion. Mindy will unmute those who raise their hand.

April- Why isn't the availability of an effective treatment something we are including in our re-opening criteria? Antibody treatments are in human trials as we speak (even though vaccines are slated for much later). Once they are available, we should be ready to immediately take measures to re-open. It is important to keep an eye on the pulse of what is going on in the treatments as an indicator of when we can move forward with the more bold re-openings and we shouldn't be the last ones to move forward when that happens. Every single week counts. Also conversely, we should be conservative until that happens, because public health is more important.

Taki- Respectfully, I would not like to tie our reopening to any treatment because we don't know when it will be ready or it might never be ready. I think it's dangerous for us to tie economic development to science.

Cache- Is there an updated graphic for coronavirus hot spots that Lee showed earlier?

Lee- As testing becomes more widely available the circles increase in size. We don't have a cure for the common cold and so it's not realistic to wait for a cure for COVID-19. The sound approach is a contact tracing approach that the County is exploring



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Cache- For Deputy Chief Tindall, I've noticed some unsavory folks in downtown especially in SoFA, on the Alameda, in downtown, etc. Do you have patrols groups in these areas?

Deputy Chief Tindall- A lot of services the San Jose Police Department was doing before have been stalled (abatements, certain types of outreach, etc.) so from a law enforcement standpoint some things are not enforceable at this time. If you are seeing anything crime related certainly call us and we'll come out.

Wisa- What is the guidance for setting revised occupancy for special events?

Lee- That's one of the things we're waiting on the County for public health expertise. Our Office of Cultural Affairs will have guidance eventually so it is to be determined. And I'm sure it will differ based on indoor and outdoor events.

CM Peralez- At this time our occupancies are based on fire codes and so when it comes to social distancing it will be both industry and venue specific in order to keep attendees safe

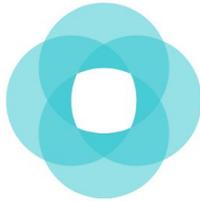
Brendan- The downtown has been decimated in terms of jobs lost, especially in hospitality and arts/special events. It's been unclear how the county has been prioritizing the recovery of our sector?

- Lee, have you seen efforts being done to address this? Is there a way we can ensure that we are advocating for the recovery of downtown?

CM Peralez- With this task force we are prioritizing downtown's recovery. I've been advocating for us to have a participant included in the Mayor's regional task force.

Lee- The City received a large amount of federal funding from the CARES Act and we are beginning to see how we can disseminate those funds. We are advocating for HEROES At to be focused on economic recovery rather than contact tracing. The federal government in terms of Congress is very divided, I'm hopeful this summer that the President will sign some sort of relief effort that lets us do what you are asking for.

Brendan- Arts organizations work closely with our Spanish and Vietnamese speaking populations and I feel that we could be of assistance to help educate these populations and keep these communities safe. I don't see this work being done currently.



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Lee- From what I understand the County has been open to that and I agree that it makes more sense than bringing in new people to do this work

Laura- We've seen massive lay-offs especially in the arts. The EDA is not structured to do the type of marketing that is needed for this but I am working on this.

Chris- Has there been any immediate outreach to the halfway houses and facilities in the area? Has anyone reached out to them about protocol and safety? I've noticed many of these individuals who have mental health issues walking around as if they're completely unaware of what is going on.

Lee- The County's safety net systems have been doing outreach so I'd like to believe that they've reached out to these facilities but I can't say for certain.

6. Announcements (5 Minutes)

Cache- Please share this survey with your business communities. The more information we receive the better we can understand how to help business in the greater downtown area.

Wisa- In the Arts and Special Events committee, we've begun discussing how to do a marketing campaign "Safe to be Social."

CM Peralez- I am now participating in a Health and Equity task force to better serve our Spanish and Vietnamese speaking populations. People are creating their own task forces and tables because we need something more robust than the hearings that Supervisor Chavez are doing. I think we need to send some unified messages to the County that we're hearing in these different tables and task forces.

7. Adjournment

The next Greater Downtown San José Economic Recovery Task Force meeting will be on *Wednesday June 3, 2020 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm via Zoom.*



For More Information about the Greater Downtown San José Economic Recovery Task Force, please visit www.sjd3.com/dtsjrecovery