

For Immediate Release

May 12, 2016

Contact

Lee Wilcox – Budget Director for Mayor Liccardo: (408) 535-4814 or leland.wilcox@sanjoseca.gov

Christina Ramos – Chief of Staff for Councilmember Peralez: (408) 535-4903 or christina.m.ramos@sanjoseca.gov

San José Unveils Inaugural Projects to be Funded via Participatory Budgeting

Downtown Residents Select 8 Neighborhood Projects as part of “D3 Decides” Pilot Program

San José, Calif. – This week, Mayor Sam Liccardo and Councilmember Raul Peralez announced that eight neighborhood projects will be funded as part of the City of San José’s inaugural Participatory Budgeting pilot program.

The City’s Participatory Budgeting program is designed to more directly engage San José residents in making budgetary decisions. Last year, Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Peralez proposed launching a Participatory Budgeting pilot program in which Council District 3 residents would directly allocate \$100,000 for neighborhood projects.

“Participatory Budgeting has become a proven means of democratizing civic governance in hundreds of cities globally,” Mayor Liccardo said. “This pilot demonstrates how embracing ideas that come directly from our neighborhood advocates can help us improve our city with modest public funds.”

Councilmember Peralez states, “The District 3 Office was excited to be the first in the city to involve residents in our local government process with participatory budgeting. The pilot was a success as D3 residents were empowered to make decisions on how public funds will benefit their community. My office looks forward to seeing these projects completed and continuing this work next year.”

After an extensive 6 month process that culminated in an online and hand-ballot voting process by District 3 residents, the following eight projects were chosen for funding:

1. Purchase of new soccer nets at Gardner Community Center and Biebrach Park.
2. Upgrade and repair the lighting under Highway 280 at 3rd and 7th St. between the Spartan-Keyes and South University neighborhoods.
3. Upgrade and repair the lighting under Highway 87 at St. John Street to illuminate the pedestrian paths.

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4. Commission art to beautify utility-boxes in D3.
5. Distribute \$1,000 to each of the 20 District 3 schools specifically for technology uses.
6. Purchase and install up to 30 “Welcome to ‘X’ Neighborhood” signs at locations selected by neighborhood associations.
7. Have a portable trailer with a radar speed check sign rotated amongst neighborhood streets that are in need of traffic calming in District 3.
8. Upgrade and repair the lighting under Highway 87 at San Carlos St. to illuminate pedestrian paths.

The project kicked off in November of 2015 with the submission of over 150 project proposals by District 3 residents. The submissions were then vetted by a group of 18 “Budget Delegates,” District 3 residents who volunteered to research and analyze each proposed project to ensure that it could be implemented on city property and funded with city dollars. All District 3 residents ages 15 and over were then given an opportunity to vote on the final list of qualified projects, with ballots available online, at numerous District 3 community locations and through a series of in-person info sessions. Altogether, more than 500 District 3 residents participated in the process.

The eight identified projects will be included as part of the Mayor’s June Budget Message, and upon the Council’s approval of the FY 2016-17 budget, will be scheduled for implementation in the coming year.

Based on the success of the initial pilot, the City’s Proposed Budget also sets aside funds to allow interested Councilmembers to expand the Participatory Budgeting pilot in their Council Districts next year.

For more information on San José’s Participatory Budgeting Pilot Program, please visit: www.D3decides.com.

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