



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ON GETTING FAMILIES BACK TO WORK

SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2006

The Council of the City of San José convened in study session at 8:41 a.m. in the Council Wing, Conference Rooms W118-120, at City Hall.

Present: Council Members - Chirco, Chavez, LeZotte, Pyle, Reed, Williams; Gonzales.

Absent: Council Members - Campos, Cortese, Nguyen, Yeager. (Excused)

Staff: City Manager Les White, City Attorney Richard Doyle, Redevelopment Agency Deputy Director John Weis, Legislative Secretaries Susan Davis and Ursula Hawkins.

Documents Filed: Getting Families Back to Work Study Session Binder.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mayor Gonzales summarized the objective of the Study Session.

Overview of San José Economy and Progress In Supporting Innovation

Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Development Kim Walesh presented an overview of the City of San José's current economic status.

Director of the Office of Economic Development Paul Krutko outlined the City's progress in implementing the Economic Strategy over the last four years.

Questions and comments from the Council Members followed.

Access the video, the agenda and related reports for this meeting by visiting the City's website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/agenda.asp> or <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/MeetingArchive.asp>

One-Voice in Action: Hitachi Project

There was a panel discussion with members of the Hitachi team, including the applicant and the internal City team.

Director of Economic Development Paul Krutko presented an overview of the Hitachi Master Plan.

Questions and comments followed.

Mayor Gonzales suggested that the process used should be documented for future uses on other applications and that Staff explore further recruitment of international companies.

Vice Mayor Chavez suggested the need to reexamine how the City of San José does business and how the use of a Memorandum of Understanding will affect the predictability of process.

View from the Counter: Panel Discussion with Members of the Development Community

Members of the Development Community expressed overall satisfaction with the services provided by the City, including parking, customer service, location, and personal response. The panel stated that communication should continue to improve and encouraged Staff to establish successful levels of risk taking, provide for greater accountability and streamlining possibilities.

Cutting Red Tape: Top Accomplishments and Top Unfinished Projects of The Getting Families Back To Work Initiatives

Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Joseph Horwedel highlighted accomplishments and summarized unfinished projects of the Getting Families Back to Work Initiative and Streamlining the Process.

Mayor Gonzales requested staff provide services-rendered comparisons with other cities at the next presentation, for example, Sunnyvale building permits processed.

Public Comments

Scott Knies noted that the City of San José has come a long way but still has a long way to go. He reminded the Council that small businesses are the backbone of the City.

Chuck Hammers observed that the plan check process is timely but fees are higher than in other cities.

Mayor Gonzales adjourned the study session at 11:53 a.m.

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Council of the City of San José convened in study session at 8:42 a.m. in the Council Wing, Conference Rooms W118-120, at City Hall.

Present: Council Members - Chirco, Chavez, LeZotte, Pyle, Reed, Williams; Gonzales.

Absent: Council Members - Campos, Cortese, Nguyen, Yeager. (Excused)

Staff: City Manager Les White, City Attorney Richard Doyle, Redevelopment Agency Deputy Director John Weis, Legislative Secretaries Susan Davis and Ursula Hawkins.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mayor Gonzales stated that today's session will focus on looking at how the City of San José can drive innovation through understanding its role in supporting emerging technology companies.

Biotechnology and Nanotechnology 101

Rob Shelton presented an overview on the fundamentals of biotechnology and nanotechnology.

Brief questions followed.

San José's Commitment to Supporting the Growth of Bio and Nanotechnologies

Redevelopment Agency Industrial Development Director Ru Weerakoon presented an outline of what has been done over the last 4 years. Environmental Business Cluster Director James Robbins presented an overview of the environmental business culture. San José BioCenter Director Melinda Richter described the BioCenter. BayBio Institute Executive Director Rob Gamble addressed the pressing issue for the need of a qualified work force and noted that San José has the highest density of life sciences organizations than anywhere in the world.

Straight Talk: South Bay Businesses Talk about Their Future

The Panel summarized the future of their businesses and provided insight and suggestions about how San José can continue to partner and support the industry.

Questions and comments followed.

Do We Stack Up? How San José is Preparing its Work Force for the Future

The Panel discussed limitations and constraints relating to attracting qualified staff and requested that the City assist by acting as a “broker” by generating and participating in discussions and partnerships.

Brief, individual comments from the Council followed.

City Council Discussion

Redevelopment Agency Industrial Development Director Ru Weerakoon presented the Life Science Innovators award of \$5,000.00 to Mary Metz, Andrew Hill Bio Academy.

Mayor Gonzales adjourned the study session at 11:53 p.m.

Minutes Recorded, Prepared and Respectfully Submitted by,

Lee Price, MMC
City Clerk

smd/11-16&17-06 GFBW MIN

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