



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Xavier Campos
Councilmember Kansen Chu
Councilmember Ash Kalra

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 2-24-12

APPROVED:

DATE: 2/24/12

SUBJECT: IBM OPERATION EFFICIENCY DIAGNOSTIC REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

1. The City Council explicitly rejects those elements of the IBM report that are particularly threatening to the safety and security of the people of San Jose. These include the following:
 - a. The theory that cutbacks in police staffing have no relationship to preventing or stopping crime;
 - b. The proposal that the City should reduce SJPD staffing by 23-36%;
 - c. The proposal that the City should “exit” from its commitment to provide Emergency Medical Services through the Fire Department;
 - d. The proposal that the City should eliminate Senior Citizen lunch programs and programs for adults with mental disabilities, because it doesn’t align with the mission of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services.

BACKGROUND

The IBM report uses highly questionable methodologies to propose strategies that are foreign to the values of the people of our city and which, if implemented, would be likely to cause significant danger to our neighborhoods and families.

The argument that cutting the police force “will not impact crime (p.49)” is directly refuted by the history of our city. In San Jose, the combination of police staffing, skilled police personnel, and committed political leadership has significantly reduced and prevented serious crime, such as gang violence. IBM’s proposal – that a dramatically reduced number of officers – be assigned to “hot spots” where crime is predicted to occur places all of the rest of the city at serious risk. Astonishingly, IBM acknowledges that it is a “legitimate” concern that their approach may simply “move crime around (p.52)”. But they are silent regarding the fate of the victims in San Jose neighborhoods in which crime has moved and in which there would no longer be police officers available to respond to pleas for help.

The Report’s recommendation that the Fire Dept. should no longer provide EMS services “absent adequate compensation” (p.84) ignores the obvious fact that no source of “adequate

compensation” exists or is likely to appear. These EMS services save lives and prevent disability during the critical moments just after injury or debilitating disease occurs. The proposal essentially means the City Council would abandon its responsibility to residents who experience such emergencies.

As regards the comment that the City should discontinue needed programs for seniors because the programs are “not aligned” with the mission of PRNS (p.97), I must state strongly that I find the values behind such a perspective to be shameful. San Jose’s senior citizens have been paying taxes for decades; they made this city the great place that it is for my generation. As our economy and budget improves, we should align our services to help seniors live out their days in dignity and security, not reduce our support to them because of bureaucratic definitions.