

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE APPROVING THE CLOSURE OF FIRST STREET BETWEEN WILLIAMS STREET AND REED STREET IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE SECTION 21101(A)(1) ON THE BASIS THAT THAT PORTION OF FIRST STREET IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

WHEREAS, the site for Parque de los Pobladores ("Park") was originally purchased by the City of San José ("City") in 1913, and improved as an urban gateway park to signal entry into Downtown San José; and

WHEREAS, the South First Area ("SoFA") is Downtown's arts and cultural district with an eclectic mix of arts organizations, creative businesses, and active lifestyle businesses, with the Park at the south end surrounded by MACLA, San José Museum of Quilts and Textiles, Metro Newspaper, San José Institute of Contemporary Art, and San José Stage Company; and

WHEREAS, the City, 1st ACT Silicon Valley ("1st ACT"), and San José Downtown Association ("SJDA") developed the "Silicon Valley City's Center: Big Deals and Small Wonders" plan, and in 2008, 1st ACT began working with a team of SoFA District leaders to create a plan for physical improvements and increased activity in the district, including sidewalk extensions, planters, landscaping, lighting, and an expansion and redesign of the Park, which was shared with the district through SJDA SoFA Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 21101, local authorities may adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution for those highways under their

jurisdiction to close any highway to vehicular traffic when, in the opinion of the legislative body having jurisdiction, the highway is no longer needed for vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, this section of First Street carries a low level of traffic, approximately 2,200 average daily vehicles, and the downtown grid system provides ample opportunity for alternate routes, easily accommodating those vehicles; the proposed closure does not affect any signalized intersection and the adjacent intersections within the vicinity of the proposed closure function at an acceptable Level-of-Service ("LOS") per Transportation Policy 5-3; and while the proposed closure does modify current access, deliveries, and garbage pick-up for adjacent properties, access and deliveries will be provided either on Market Street or Second Street; and

WHEREAS, the proposed closure eliminates twenty-three (23) on-street parking spaces, but there are public parking options serving the SoFA District, including on-street metered spaces, the Convention Center Garage, 2nd/San Carlos Garage, and several parking lots (South Hall, First Street/I-280, Market/San Carlos, and Valley Title), which can easily accommodate the lost parking capacity, and the City's Department of Transportation is working with the Office of Economic Development to alleviate the loss by modifying striping for parking spaces on other streets, exploring the extension of the time limits of on-street meters, evaluating opportunities to install additional on-street parking spaces, in addition to exploring better lighting options and considering lowering the daily parking rate at an underutilized parking lot at First/I-280; and

WHEREAS, due to its very small size, public streets surrounding it, lack of a significant contiguous space, and long granite walls limiting views into and across it, the Park has limited function as a viable urban park and is unusable for special events and other programming activities; and

WHEREAS, the renovation and expansion of the Park and closure of First Street are intended to re-configure the Park in a way that will better serve the general public, adjacent property owners, open views, and provide space for events and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE:

The City Council approves the closure of First Street between Williams Street and Reed Street in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 21101(a)(1) on the basis that that portion of First Street is no longer needed for vehicular traffic, as further set forth above.

ADOPTED this 8th day of May, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

CHUCK REED
Mayor

ATTEST:

DENNIS D. HAWKINS, CMC
City Clerk

