

To: Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Project Advisory Committee
From: Workplan Committee
Re: Future of the PAC
Date: August 20, 2006

The San Jose City Council's Building Strong Neighborhoods Committee's stated mission is "Making government view its role through the eyes of its residents, standing at the edge of their driveways. Working together, the city and its residents invest time, effort, and resources to improve neighborhoods, making San Jose a place they're proud to call home".

The Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Project Advisory Committee has been the voice of historically underserved San Jose Neighborhoods for the past five years. As a group, we have advocated for our homes and communities, worked with staff to identify neighborhood needs and specific projects, and worked shoulder-to-shoulder both with volunteers and staff to transform many neighborhoods throughout the City.

The SNI PAC had been extended through June of 2007 to continue its' initial work, implementation of the SNI projects in the Redevelopment Project Area. The PAC sees their ongoing role as being the body that acts as a resource to both City Staff and our Elected Leaders in bringing the views of neighborhoods to City Hall, so that the perceptions of the neighborhoods (the eyes of our residents, standing at the edge of our driveways) are incorporated into the work of our local government in the decision-making process. The members of the SNI PAC are continuing to invest our time, efforts, and resources into our neighborhoods, and seek to formalize our status with the City as the new Strong Neighborhoods Commission.

The Workplan Committee had been charged by the Project Advisory Committee to define the proposed structure for the future of the SNI PAC. This document represents both a series of principles to support the growth and increased participation of neighborhoods in San Jose, as well as a framework for the Strong Neighborhoods Advisory Committee to transform in to a City Commission.

The Mission and Vision of the SNI PAC have been adopted as follows:

Mission: Represent all SJ neighborhoods while protecting the interests of the SNI areas by building strong neighborhoods through community participation, communication, partnerships, shared accountability, and diverse community celebration.

Vision: The SNI PAC integrates the voices of the neighborhoods into San Jose's decision-making process and has the authority to support communities in bringing their dreams to reality.

Duties: A newly created Strong Neighborhoods Commission will represent the interests of all San Jose neighborhoods. The mission of this body is to integrate the voice of neighborhoods into the City of San Jose's decision-making processes. This includes the study, review, and evaluation of issues, courses of action, and programs affecting San Jose neighborhoods, and making recommendations to the City Council and Redevelopment Agency in regard to these matters and issues. The City Council shall look to this body as a resource when reviewing matters with an impact on neighborhoods, and the Strong Neighborhoods Commission should be consulted at the earliest possible stages on matters of significant community interest that may come before the Council.

The Commission will be a forum for the following:

- a) Consult with the appropriate City Department/ Staff regarding documentation of best practices and to assist newly developing neighborhood organizations in leadership development.
- b) Receive information from City Staff and provide consultation on inter-neighborhood issues.
- c) Provide a neighborhood voice to City Leadership in prioritizing neighborhood spending, infrastructure, and quality of life issues.
- d) Accept petitions from neighborhoods that request review and assistance.
- e) Promote enhanced communication and resolution of issues between neighborhoods and the City of San Jose.

Relationships: The City Council is the final decision-making body and the Strong Neighborhoods Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Council and works with both City and Redevelopment Agency Staff regarding neighborhood quality of life issues. This commission will work collaboratively with other Commissions and Boards on matters related to neighborhood quality of life.

Qualifications and Appointment Process: The Commission will have equitable representation from throughout San Jose. There will be three representatives from each of the ten (10) Council Districts, for a total of thirty (30) members. All members must reside within the boundaries of the City of San Jose.

Each Council District that has an area under the jurisdiction of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Redevelopment Project Area must have at least one seat filled by an individual from within the project area. If over half the residents of a Council District are within the Redevelopment Project Area, then at least two (2) of the seats must be occupied for this purpose.

To empower neighborhoods, membership on this body will be chosen by Neighborhood Caucus, and will reflect the desires of the Neighborhood Groups.

The existing Neighborhood Groups (as defined by the Planning Outreach Policy) will select their own representatives to be seated on the Commission. The process by which this selection process occurs will be decided by the Neighborhood Groups. Each Neighborhood Group will have an annual caucus to review their delegates and appoint or elect members to the Commission. Neighborhood Groups may continue to send an individual, there are no term limits. If the Neighborhood Groups in a Council District are in the formative process of leadership development, their Commission seats shall remain vacant until they have chosen representatives.

There will be rotating appointments of two year terms, with the effect being that half of the seats will be up for renewal each year. The intent is that continuing of the work and programs of the Commission will be maintained, while encouraging developing new neighborhood leadership to become involved in the process.

The City and RDA will provide funding to staff and for operations of the Strong Neighborhoods Commission.

Meetings: The Commission meets on (date and time to be chosen), City Hall, (room to be assigned). On average, Commissioners spend 5 hours a month attending monthly meetings and an additional 8 hours per month on Commission business.

Benefits: There is no compensation for the members of the Strong Neighborhoods Commission. However, from time to time, Commissioners may be reimbursed for some expenses incurred on City business.

Political Reform Act: The Conflict of Interest Section of the Political Reform Act applies to the Strong Neighborhoods Commission; and Commissioners are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700).

Attendance Policy: Commission Members are expected to attend all Commission Meetings. San Jose Municipal Code Section 2.08.060 specifies that a Commissioner, who has unexcused absences from any three consecutive regular meetings, or 20% of the meetings in a calendar year, is deemed to have resigned from the Commission.