



Memorandum

TO: Rules Committee
FROM: Councilmember Campos
Councilmember Williams
SUBJECT: A Study Session to Discuss the
Priorities of the City Council
DATE: February 8, 2006

APPROVED: *Forest Williams* *Yan Campos* **DATE:** *2/8/2006*

I would like the Council to conduct a Study Session to identify, discuss and prioritize the Council's key objectives for the City of San Jose.

Through the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, we have asked our communities to set priorities that serve as clear and unambiguous goals for the Council. From park and street improvements, to the creation of new affordable housing and retail centers, our communities have responded by discussing the critical issues in their neighborhoods and building consensus around a list of key priorities. This list serves as a guide and benchmark to measure the City's success in delivering on the neighborhood's priorities.

I believe it is time that we as a Council undertake the heady task of identifying, discussing and prioritizing the Council's key objectives through a deliberate and open dialogue. I am proposing a three-hour facilitated Study Session to discuss the Council's priorities, develop consensus around a list of key objectives, and prioritize these objectives to serve as an actionable and measurable benchmark for both Councilmembers and City Staff. Councilmembers should be prepared discuss the key issues important to them. This Study Session should be scheduled at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

By prioritizing objectives and deploying resources to meet them, the SNI process has proven to be an effective model for delivering services to our communities. It is my hope that through this Study Session, the Council can further define its objectives for the City of San Jose, providing not only clear guidance to Staff but also an open dialogue for the residents of this City.