



## Memorandum

**To:** Rules Committee

**From:** Councilmembers Pete Constant  
and Nancy Pyle

**Subject:** Public Safety Memorial at City Hall  
**Date:** May 22, 2007

**Approved:**

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*GW for NP*

**Recommendation:**

We recommend that staff work with our offices to determine the appropriate potential locations and criteria for erecting a public safety memorial on the grounds of the city hall complex to honor our fallen public safety personnel and report back to the Rules committee with a recommendation within 90 days.

**Background:**

Twenty-one public safety personnel have given their lives during active duty service to the City of San Jose. Currently, San Jose has no permanent memorial to honor the sacrifice that these brave men and their families have made on behalf of our City. This is a glaring omission for a City that boasts being the "Safest Big City in the Country". We have earned that mantel through the dedication of our public safety personnel.

We have been contacted by many organizations and event organizers who are interested in raising funds for a permanent public safety memorial at City Hall, thereby ensuring that development and maintenance of this memorial would be cost neutral for the City. This building was built as a 21<sup>st</sup> century city hall with all the appropriate technology for the Capital of Silicon Valley. It was also built with a corresponding commitment to this great City's history. There are exhibits all over the building for the public to enjoy and develop a deeper understanding of how this valley was built. A public safety memorial would further this goal by honoring the heroes who have given their lives to build the City we all share.

This direction is made all the more appropriate by the fact that the City Hall complex resides at the location of where two San Jose Police Officers ended their watch on January 20, 1989. We must honor the blood that was spilled at this location in the name of our safety. This memorial will stand as a constant reminder of the cost of being the "Safest Big City in the Country", a tribute to the others who have died and encouragement to all those who will continue their watch.