

# San Jose Coalition for Immigrants Rights

City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

March 2, 2007

Dear Mayor Reed, San Jose City Councilmembers, and members of the Sunshine Reform Task Force:

On behalf of the San Jose Coalition for Immigrants Rights, we urge you to support a strong policy of open records for the San Jose Police Department. We understand that you are currently considering new policies for making the City of San Jose more open to the public.

The San Jose Coalition for Immigrants Rights was formed in 2006 to organize the large immigrant rights rallies of April 10th and May 1st last year. Our member organizations are advocates for fair and equal treatment of immigrants in our communities. We also call for comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level.

Interactions with law enforcement officers are among the many concerns shared by immigrant communities. Immigrant families want to be treated fairly by police officers, regardless of our ethnicity or country of origin.

Members of our community engage in direct dialogue with the San Jose Police Department. It is also important that we have the ability to independently review SJPD policies and records. It is very important that our local government be open with the community. This is especially true for the San Jose Police Department.

Unfortunately, the San Jose Police Department does not currently release copies of its police reports to the public. As a result, immigrant rights advocates cannot review SJPD reports to get independent answers to important questions. These questions include the following:

- Do SJPD officers ever treat people differently when they believe them to be immigrants?
- Are SJPD officers more likely to use force against Latinos than other members of the population?
- How often do SJPD officers work with federal Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officers (ICE)?

# San Jose Coalition for Immigrants Rights

- How often do SJPD officers apprehend undocumented workers?
- Are SJPD officers involved in actions that lead to the deportation of undocumented workers? How often?

Other major police departments in Northern California already share their records with the community when asked. This is true for the San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley police departments. We believe that the same should be true for the city of San Jose.

Sincerely,

San Jose Coalition for Immigrants Rights (SJCIR)

On behalf of the SJCIR Steering Committee:



Salvador Bustamante  
First Vice President, SEIU Local 1877

Martha Campos  
Immigrant Rights Advocate

Father Jon Pedigo  
St. Julie Billiard Parish

Teresa Castellanos  
Community Activist

Cc: San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed  
San Jose City Councilmembers  
San Jose Sunshine Reform Task Force