

Dear Councilmembers:

During the last six years I have worked diligently, at your direction, to improve the quality of San Jose city government. First, as Finance Chairman of the Work Force Investment Board and Second as a member to the Voice over IP Validation Committee. In these assignments I have documented the value of the Public/Private Partnerships. Such unions help us to improve city governess, making city process and your council actions transparent and understandable to the public at large. I believe that these efforts have lead to enhanced credibility in and appreciation for your good work as Councilmembers.

With this in mind I want to caution you in your deliberations concerning the fait of the EVP Project, headed by your fellow councilmember Dave Cortese, and the future of the Evergreen Community and its hard working children and families.

My concern is that you may not be mindful of or have not full considered the following:

First, the accumulated hard work of the EVP Task Force is a product of eminence value to San Jose and the Evergreen Community and it citizens. Twenty months, over 28 formal meetings, untold informal and round table meetings, in all, totaling an estimated 6,000 hours of all volunteer effort. And all at no cost to San Jose. I suggest you view this work as the definitive statement of community prerequisites for any future development and not as a some foundational exercise to some yet undefined specific planning process.

Second, the current, unfavorable reaction, of the Evergreen Community should not be underestimated. Your apparent dismissal of concerns for continued self-direction through the EVP Process and your apparent non-responsiveness to an outreach by Task Force members seeking compromise is doing little to build community trust. I suggest that you reject the proposal before you tonight as it offers you and San Jose little, if any, true value. Instead, I suggest that you empower the EVP Task Force to complete its work for you, for San Jose and for the Evergreen Community.

As these concerns and suggestions indicate I am fearful for you, for without a full understanding of fact, you were persuaded on the 19th to dismiss the best efforts of the Evergreen Community to plan for its future and since that time have been afforded little, if any, opportunity to engage the EVP Task Force or to educate yourselves on community concerns: schools, parks, traffic, safety and other important impact issues in preparation for tonight's meeting. As they say "at the end of the day" each must ask and answer:

Can it possibly be, that I will simply dismiss the work of the largest Public/Private Partnership, of it kind, in San Jose history, without full consideration and understanding of its work or fail to engage it in a meaning community dialog?

Failing to answer this question in a clear, open and transparent manner will open you and your council once again to new charges, perhaps charges focused on unnamed special interest, that will undermine the value of your legacy to all the citizens of San Jose.

Paul Robichaux, CEO
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