

The following transcript is provided for your convenience, but does not represent the official record of this meeting. The transcript is provided by the firm that provides closed captioning services to the City. Because this service is created in real-time as the meeting progresses, it may contain errors and gaps, but is nevertheless very helpful in determining the gist of what occurred during this meeting.

--AUDIO DIFFICULTIES--

>>Leslye Corsiglia: ... in Santa Clara County. So work together collaboratively with the private sector and with our other government partners and chronic homelessness. One of the really big pieces to this and probably one of the most complex is how we deal with people coming out of our institutions. Right now, the institutions are not set up to help prepare people necessarily for life after that institution. So whether it is the hospital system, the jail system, even foster care. Those are areas where traditionally people have moved out of those institutions, and often into homelessness. So what we wanted to do is talk to you about what efforts are out there and what we're doing with destination home in partnership to address those issue and so I'm going to hand it over to Kelly.

>> Great, thank you. So the housing department's homeless program engages in a variety of activities to end homelessness and prevent homelessness in San José and throughout Santa Clara County. We work very closely with destination home to provide those activities and those services, and we follow their lead on how and where to prioritize our funding and our programs for homeless residents, and of course, as Leslye mentioned, one of those priorities is to prevent homelessness for those discharging the hospital system and the local correctional facilities. We recognize there are several other partners involved in these efforts but for the efforts of this presentation I wanted to concentrate on the two of our entities because we have both been involved since day one. Okay, so destination home's priorities, destination home focuses on chronically homeless individuals and veterans and people leaving public systems. The concentration on these populations is simple. It's because they cost the most. They cost the most to our public systems. Destination home's priority is on saving public resources and ending the cycle of recidivism. What we know that's the care of one chronically homeless person using emergency room services and in cars ration cost taxpayers an average of \$61,000 per year. Permanent supportive housing including treatment and care would only cost \$16,000 a year. Housing people saves money. And it saves public resources. So the reality is that hundreds of county hospital patients, and thousands of county jail inmates are are discharged into homelessness each year and they don't have income. They don't have a home. They don't have family and they don't have any other support system. So the goal is to end our current silo syndrome, that's what we've been calling it by changing the institutional systems and practices. Our current system is very disjointed and disconnected. And we want to integrate, streamline and realign our county

services to break down the barriers so that homeless individuals can access the services they need. This will enhance the continuity of care for homeless patients and inmates, and ultimately lead to permanent housing and stability. Destination home is charged with leading the process of systems change. All right. So one thing that you all the following initiatives have in common is that they're all breaking down barriers to access through systems change and importantly very importantly collaboration and partnerships. So the medical respite program has been extremely successful. It opened in 2008, there are 15 beds currently, and it has saved \$2 million to the hospital system. 238 homeless people have received medical care. The program has freed up 888 hospital beds. And 95% of the patients who complete their stay at the medical respite center enter permanent or transitional housing which is pretty remarkable. We are the City of San José's housing department has secured a \$471,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and human services. The health resources and services administration department to increase the number of beds and to double the number of exam rooms and case management offices and we are looking at a construction time line ending in August of this year. Another initiative that we are currently working on is called Innovation 6. And the goal of innovation 6 is to reduce recidivism and break down barriers to systems change. Sounding kind of familiar. The program will increase access to services for up to 50 discharged county jail and juvenile hall clientele who have mental health needs. The county's mental health department they are very involved and their primary partners include the faith based community which is very innovative. Innovation 6 is launching this month so we are very excited to see about that. Another initiative that is in the works and will be launching next month is the prerelease service agreement, and that is also going to reduce recidivism and break down the barriers for systems change. The program will access Social Security benefits so inmates have benefits soon after they're released from jail. It usually takes about 12 months, sometimes longer sometimes less to receive public benefits in the form of Social Security and usually you have to apply couple times. So what this will do is decrease the wait-time and provide the access inside the jail so we're really excited about that one too. Another initiative in the works is skills to succeed. And this is a two-year pilot reentry project and it will provide 50 incarcerated or recently released women with the tools and the training they need to get apprenticeships and to be employed. The goal is also to break the cycle of recidivism through the skills training and access to resources and the housing department secured a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to launch this program in the spring. So what we're looking at now are the challenges that lie ahead. The governor has proposed cuts in his 2011-2012 state budget, could potentially impact us in a local

level. In regards to mental health, our county's mental health department who we work very closely with, uses proposition 63 resources, to fund multiple housing and case management programs. And they could risk a lot of cuts with the cuts from the budget. The proposal to shift state prison inmates to local jails will increase the number of inmates that we see in our county jail system and thereby inevitably increasing the number of people discharged in our community into homelessness. And of course, by reducing the funding for the emancipated youth THP plus program more young adults are being discharged from foster care into homelessness as well. So while the priority has been, on chronically homeless adults, we do believe that concentrating efforts on homeless children and at-risk youth is extremely important because they will be the next generation of chronically homeless individuals, and we do recognize that that is an important population to focus on. Funding our discharge planning efforts is a struggle, but we are hopeful and we're looking into the future. We will see significant savings to our public resources as a result of our increase systems change efforts and within the new partnerships and the innovative collaborative program models we will research and acquire new funding sources, we're confident about that. So this concludes our presentation. And of course we're available to take any questions from the committee members.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: If I could just add a couple of things. The state budget is clearly a financial concern but we also have concerns both at the local level and the federal level. Right now we do not have a current year federal budget. We're working on continuing resolutions. And it's all very much up in the air, what might happen to our community development, our housing and our homeless programs for the current year, as well as for the fiscal year 2012 budget that they're already starting to work on as well. And then at the local level we've depended a great deal on our housing trust fund which funds homeless programs and what's been able to really jump start a lot of these program efforts. Those dollars are now reduced and so we're working with a more limited budget. And I think going forward that's going to be one thing we're going to focus on is how do we raise more money for that housing trust fund so we can continue these efforts. In the long run our hope is that we've got systems in place and the systems change efforts that we do reduce the homeless population, and therefore, we can start looking at other things to do. And our goal is not to have anyone sleeping on the streets at night. And to have everyone have a permanent house to call their own.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Ready for questions? Pete?

>> Councilmember Constant: Well just a comment. Thanks for the presentation. And thanks for giving me the preview presentation when we had the meeting in my office, and just wanted to let you know I don't know if you saw it but I gave you a plug in the newsletter that went out to District 1 this week, because I think it's really important that each of us in our council districts get the message out, so they know what the resources are out there. A lot of people think the homeless issue is restricted to just the downtown but we know it's throughout our district so I encourage everyone to know with it and spread the word.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Kansen did you have a question? Don?

>> Councilmember Rocha: As far as this presentation thank you very much. Extremely helpful as I try to get up to speed on some of these issues. Can you explain to me a little bit in terms of the process of what got you to this point? It's probably a very long question so please make it as short as you can or if you feel it's necessary to go.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: We'll have Maureen O'Malley Moore come down and answer.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you.

>> Good afternoon, committee members. My name is Maureen O'Malley Moore project director operation home. For 14 years I was working for supervisor Gage, when he and Mayor Reed were co-chairs on the blue ribbon commission off solving homelessness. Discharge planning was an initiative that was brought forth after a year long body of work and the recommendations within discharge planning was looking at a medical respite facility as it related to discharging homeless folks from the county institutions. So the medical respite facility came first and now we're really focused on discharging folks reentering our community who are leaving our jail systems. So custody mental health, custody health services, the homeless folks who have been treated and stabilized once they're in the jail are discharged back to the street without any connection to the community and our efforts are to try and have these connections in place prior to the folks hitting the street. And for our purposes,

it's very narrowly focused on the homeless mentally ill folks in jail, as it relates to this presentation and discharge planning. We've worked with José and we've worked with Mayor's gang task force in looking at the general population in re-entry, but this is a very narrowly focused homeless population.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you, very helpful. Now, it seems a little heavy on the county side of services, and our role more on the homeless housing side of things. So help me understand a little bit of why we may be the grants request, or am I reading that correctly? I mean, there's different roles, partner, lead agency, et cetera. Can you help me understand a little bit of our heavy role or maybe that's my impression of it. I'm just trying to understand it.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: Sure. I think that over the years the homeless issue, while -- you're absolutely right. I think a lot of the systems that we're talking about systems change and a lot of the places we'll see cost savings is at the county level. But in the past the homeless issue has really been a city issue. We had -- we used to have folks who picketed City Hall and who camped out at City Hall and who expected the mayor and the council to address homeless issues. And as a result, we took on a broader, bigger role. I think over the recent years and after the blue ribbon commission came on board, the county is now taking a bigger role and more visible role and so some of that transition is happening now. But we've applied for a lot of grants, we've continued to be very active with homeless programs because of the attention the city has received.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you so for then me looking ahead next step, besides the next step for all this but the next step for some what we're trying to do seem to me jobs, or job training. Are we working with our Work2Future folks and can you share with me a little bit about how you see that doesn't?

>> Yes, definitely we work very closely with the Work2Future program and we wrapped up a program called project hope this year and we've actually extended it to work with up to 75 at risk youth, project green cadre. We're working on some definitely work programs and Work2Future has been a huge partner in that.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Is there any grant that you're looking at that complementing as well or is that all on the Work2Future side?

>> We secured the grant for project hope through the Department of Labor. It was a -- how much was it? Almost \$400,000 grant. And then the green cadre is an additional 99 or so. It is part of it. So yeah, we have been the requestor of the money as Leslye said.

>> Leslye Corsiglia: I think the challenge for us really is that there isn't a good source of money to go out and get. You'll see when Kelly's mentioned the various sources it's been from all these different federal agencies that we've applied for those funds, in little bits. And we are challenged right now, because a lot of the federal program efforts and the opportunity to access these funds is restricted, given their current budget circumstances.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Are they -- is the amount to administer these grants pretty consistent normally of 5, 10% for us I guess so to speak?

>> Leslye Corsiglia: I'm not sure we get -- do we get administrative funds for these? We don't get administrative funds for these so these are funds we administer as a part of our homeless programming, just another part of our program.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you.

>> Councilmember Pyle: I want to say how much I appreciate all that you're doing to address the issue. It's so much more logical to help people, rather than to condemn them to a life of homelessness and all of the horrendous accompaniments of that situation. This is something that I think would appeal very much so to the corporate community. There isn't a corporation that I can think of that wants to see homeless on the street, you know, that wants to see downtrodden people and it makes so much sense to, I don't know, I don't know if you've tried connecting with them, but telling the story, it's completely logical it makes a lot of sense and it can be an ongoing solution to a tremendous dilemma. I've often thought when people have come out of prison we just throw

them right back into the very environment where they got in trouble in the first place. So this puts an end to this cycle and provides the help that they need. Congratulate you for the wonderful model and we do have a speaker in the form of David Wall and if any of the others in the audience wish to speak you just need to fill out a yellow card which is found at either of these stations here. Good afternoon, David.

>> David Wall: It's always in the pleasure to be in the presence of Your Honors, and of course the Attorneys, and the City Manager, others as well. I compliment the housing department for their non-ending attempt to create a heaven on earth. This program doesn't stand a prayer's chance anyway. And I don't mean it in a derogatory sense, but let's look at the reliance and the obligations of these grant funds. This could put the city on the hook for an undue period of time. It could also accelerate the City of San José as it as in the past, has becoming a magnet for people to come here to get government give aways for whatever reason. The source and sustainability of these funds, with special reference to Work2Future should be thoroughly discussed and analyzed before moving forward with any type of program hike this. This program has, in all its facets, the stench of an entitlement principal which is not sustainable under any circumstance. What is needed, to ask the president for which was asked by a citizen about a year ago, is one battalion of military police units, that's roughly about four companies, stockade infrastructure, logistical support and rations to maintain this, with a variations of a works project administration to find some form of active work, picking up the -- sweeping the streets, picking up trash, whatever. These Work2Future program scenarios putting them in homes in neighborhoods, once the citizens find this out, I'm sure that there will be quite a clamor, to reject this current program out of hand. I cannot underestimate the need for military police to be invited into the San José due to constitutional arrangements due to what is going to occur in the future. Thank you.

>> Councilmember Pyle: You just made the time on that. Good, you're getting good at that. All in favor? Aye. Then it's approved. (inaudible).

>> Councilmember Pyle: Move on now to learn more about animal services. So John Cicirelli is here. And John you have a lot to brag about in your report, don't you?

>> Madam chair and committee members I'm Dave Sykes the acting director of Public Works. I'm joined by John Cicirelli. I just wanted to point out with our recent consolidation animal care and services is now part of Public Works. Over the last two months I have been learning a lot from John about the care and sheltering of animals, but I won't be doing the presentation today. I will let John do that.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you David.

>> Just to point out this report is for the calendar year 2010 at least the statistics are so it's not comparing fiscal year to fiscal year necessarily. And for quick background and context the animal control provides services not only to the City of San José but also to the residents of Cupertino, Saratoga, Los Gatos and Milpitas. So our total area is five cities with about 1.2 million people in it which is about two-thirds of the human population of the county and that of course is typically increasing because we continue to annex pockets within our own city. So I want to go first to the second page of the report. And just talk a little bit about field operations and what's been going on there. In the last year our officers responded to about 24,000 calls for service. That's physical response where they actually go into the field and do something. We categorize our calls into three categories, priority 1, 2 and 3, with 1 being the most urgent and 3 being the least urgent. There on page 2 you can see a graphic that breaks down the top five types of calls that our officers are going to be responding typically. You can see about 14% are dead animals, that includes wild and domestic. 12% are confined stray domestic animals or wild animals. Sometimes people end up with wild animals in their house. Another 15% are municipal code investigations. Those tend to be infractions, anywhere from allowing the dog to run loose to not cleaning up after the dog in the neighborhood those sorts of things. About 15% are related to bite investigations, a big part of what we do is rabies control and we have to quarantine biting animals dogs and cats in particular. And then can you see a little less than 10% are loose animals, typically it's going to be dogs and cats running around and all that comprises a little over 60% of the call load is just those five types of calls. Our call load did decrease compared to the previous year. It's primary because we took a different tact would I say in terms of how we provide services because we did have some budget reductions so some of the lower priority calls, if we -- if a person calls in to complain about a neighbor they're having a problem with their animal, if they can give us the owner's information we'll send a letter telling we got that complaint, what the violation could be how they could correct it those sorts of

things before we would contemplate actually sending an officer. Those would be only in situations where we did not think that the call presented a direct Public Safety or Public Health concern. And so because of that we were able to handle the reduction in resources. On page 3, you could see in the second paragraph there the -- our response time is one of our metrics that we measure. We measure our response time to priority 1 calls. Those are the emergency type calls so those are going to be typically those are going to be dogs acting aggressively out in the streets, charging people or hurting people. That's going to be assisting the police with things like arrest or the fire department with things like medical emergencies or fires where pets are involved. Those are injured animals which are hit by the car or something like that but still alive or out on the street. Our metric for that is to get to those calls within one hour or less at least 85% of the time by which might not seem like a very shortly response time but consider that we only have about ten officers responding to calls in the City of San José, and they're spread out over seven days so typically we're not going to have more than three or four officers in the entirety of the city. So that metric actually went up. Our response time was 91% of the time we got there within that partly because we were focusing a little bit less on some of those lower priority calls and freed up and unencumbered some of our officers and their ability to respond to some of those injuries so we're pleased to see that result. In the shelter operations we took in 18,600 plus domestic animals, so that's mostly dogs and cats with a few things like rabbits and Guinea pigs and such but mostly dogs and cats. Our total intake actually increased very slightly, but once you really start to look at the numbers, two different things are going on. Our dog intakes actually went up pretty significantly, 14%, it's almost a thousand more dogs in one year. And our cats decreased by 7%, almost 800 cats fewer. And we believe a big part of that is Chihuahuas. Right now, one out of every three dogs coming into the animal shelter and we took in almost 7500 dogs last year, excuse me I'm fighting a bit of a cold one out of three is a Chihuahua. We've just had an explosion here in San José and in particular here in California so we are trying to track grant funds to be able to target Chihuahua spay neuter get that out in the community so we can reduce the number of dogs out there breeding. And the cats we think part of the reason they're going down is we do put money out there, we do invest in our low cost spay neuter clinic with cats, doing about 5,000 low cost clinics every year for Katz. We see that as a matter of where you spread your resources. You can see at the bottom of page -- what page is that, the third page, there we go. This affects our live release rates, the intakes, and you can see in this graph, our live release rate is actually improving which is a good thing. You want to see it go up. This is actually directly related to the number of animals we euthanize. So really it's a percentage and so

the way we measure is how many we save and that's the live release rate. And so you can see in the last year or so that's improved quite nicely. It combined was 63% for the year which was an 18% improvement over the previous year and far exceeds any national standards that are out there or I should say national averages that are out there and it also is approaching our five year goal. And all of that really was driven by a new program that we started, at the beginning of last year, where with our feral cats, feral cats are a big problem in an animal shelter because there aren't a lot of options for them. So you have a cat that's otherwise healthy but behaviorally unsound. You can't really adopt them into a person's home without incurring some sort of liability or making it dangerous for the person. Because their behavior is much like a wild animal, so our only option is typically to euthanize them. Under the state code when we have exhausted all other options and have elected to euthanize a dog or a cat the state code provides that a nonprofit animal rescue group can demand that we turn them over to them. Under this program that's what we do. We ensure that the cats are spayed and neutered, computer chipped, vaccinated against things like rabies and communicable cat diseases among cats, and then they take them back out to wherever they were found and then they work with the neighborhood, in an ongoing way to resolve whatever conflict there is coming about because of these cats. So typically they're overbreeding or somebody's overfeeding them or usually there are things you can identify that are causing problems. In certain situations where the conflict is too great they don't release the cats to the area, in some cases we still wind up euthanizing them or in some cases they are able to find a different place to take them to but in most cases they're able to work out whatever the ongoing issue is in the community and provide them with the resources to continue to help combat the problem they're having with too many cats. And so as a result our euthanasia rates for cats dropped more than 43% in one year. Which is pretty amazing. We've been struggling with the euthanasia rate for quite a while and not having a lot of effect on it. So we're very pleased to see that kind of effect. And our adoptions also went up during the year. They went up about 13% which is a very nice increase. We were participants in and as I previously reported in this committee meeting, about six months ago we were participants in a challenge to increase the number of animals we saved over a certain period of time compared to the previous year. And the reward was \$100,000. We did not win but we did place third out of all the groups which is about 50 nationwide. And we were the highest placing government agency. We were primarily competing with nonprofit humane societies and SPCAs which certainly have a lot more flexibility to do some of the thing so we were pleased with our performance although disappointed to not maybe take first prize. And then revenues is another

area that we focus on and primarily I'm going to talk about licensing revenue. Our licensing area is another area in the last couple of years where we've invested some resources and taken some pains to go after revenues that are out there that we are not collecting. So in the case of licensing in the last two years we've seen an increase of 72% in that category ending last year. And I will point out last paragraph on the bottom of page 4 under revenues end of first sentence fiscal year 2010 licensing, that is actually calendar year 2010 licensing. That is actually incorrect there. But year to year we were up 21% over the previous year and we expect the growth to continue. We still believe we're at the beginning of this growth curve but can you see from the graph we have there how steep the curve is getting. And we have a few things coming, including online licensing which we just kicked off yesterday. So that should be running with any luck within 30 days, and certainly by 60 days, which hopefully will make it easier and more convenient and therefore more likely that people will license their dogs and cats and of course that will improve revenues. Overall, our revenues in the division are -- should approach or exceed 50% cost recovery within the next 12 to 18 months as long as the programs we're doing continue to produce in the way we believe they're going to produce. We believe that's a great sign particularly for a program that's largely regulatory and mandated by law and you know we struggle for ways to fund these things so it's nice we're able to find some ways to take the burden off the General Fund. Lastly we do have some municipal code changes that we will be proposing. We're going to be taking them through a public process through our animal advisory committee. These are primarily around some improvements to the dangerous dog codes, updates to the care and conditions regarding grooming standards or accumulation by feces by owners who aren't cleaning up around their animals. Some issues we have run related to farms and trying to -- pardon me -- trying to prepare for a budget proposal we do have in the process right now. So assuming we as we get closer to that, it looks likely that we'll go that direction. We're thinking about doing another amnesty. We did one about seven years ago, amnesty around licensing, it was very successful, raised our revenues quite nicely but we would have to do some work in the municipal code to be able to get there. So next steps and toals, of course licensing and rabies compliance and that focus on that revenue getting the online licensing up and going. Looking at other revenue sources including grants, we are in line now for what is for us a very large grant, somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 to \$500,000. We expect to collect on that so to speak this spring. That will help us do things like provide resources for chihuahuas and those kind of spay neuters that we need to provide in the community to reduce the number of animals coming into the facility which reduce the overall cost for us to operate the facility. Of course we

always want to increase adoptions. And then there on the street, I put two addresses up there, our main address for our Website, SanJoséanimals.com. But also we're on Facebook now. So if you have a Facebook profile or anything, get on there and "like" us. We love to see that number go up, but certainly we'd love you to put that information out in your newsletters. Certainly, if you are doing newsletters or e-newsletters, we would be happy to provide you with information or photos of pets or pets of the week or the month, or whatever it is you're interested, we'd love to get the word out to your residents just as much as we know you do. So you can work with us to do that. So with that, we'll take any questions you have.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you for a wonderful report. I'm so amazed at the amount of money that you've been able to recover and what I'm curious about, I'm going to go first this time, is you have over 24,000 calls. How much of a staff do you have to handle that?

>> We have ten animal control officers serving San José, Milpitas and by contract we have three other officers that are paid for by the combined cities of Saratoga, Los Gatos and Cupertino. We have a total of 13 officers, but three of them are obligated primarily elsewhere outside of the city.

>> Councilmember Pyle: So they're pretty busy?

>> They're very busy. Yeah, we typically have a backlog of calls of between 5 and 600 calls that we are not getting to on any given day.

>> Councilmember Pyle: And you don't have volunteers for that?

>> Not for that, unfortunately, no.

>> Councilmember Pyle: You never know.

>> If you know of anybody who wants to pick up some dead animals --

>> Councilmember Pyle: Absolutely, we can mention that in our newsletters. And who knows, and maybe people would love to do that. So with that, are there questions? David Wall comes to mind. (inaudible)

>> Councilmember Pyle: David!

>> That was a joke, David.

>> Councilmember Rocha: She meant picking up the dead animals. (inaudible)

>> Fair enough. Yes, yes. Great idea. And we have done that. We do have one that rolls through there although we may need to update it. We still have the standard still frame information, here's what you call for this, that and the other. We do have some stuff rolling through there. We need to look at the videos. Like he said, people respond to animals, particularly kittens and pickupies.

>> Councilmember Rocha: I have one.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Go for it.

>> Councilmember Rocha: The funding agreement and arrangement we had with other jurisdictions, can you share a little bit with me on that?

>> It's really two categories. So there are three what we call west valley cities of Saratoga, Cupertino and Los Gatos. When we negotiated those agreements, we essentially negotiated as a group. Milpitas was a separate negotiation altogether. So speaking just to those three we have 20 year service agreements they're full service agreements so we provide the people in the field, the people in the animal shelter, the housing for everything we take care of their licensing, everything. And it pays for all those services. And that's how those were designed. The contract with Milpitas is a little different. Milpitas has, we want these services provided but they're

not tied directly to employees. So they pay an overall fee and we renegotiate that every three years. So their next contract is up for renewal in 2012. When you renegotiate you look at the pricing of the contract. Whereas the west valley cities that I was talking about we have price elevators built into the contract. And they're tied to the CPI, and they're tied to what we do as a city, in terms of if we're giving wage increases to our benchmark employee, which we use an animal control officer as our benchmark, if we're giving wage increase, we compare that to what the CPI is for the area, and then there's a formula we use to determine what's the appropriate cost increase.

>> Councilmember Rocha: And so far the arrangement has been fair I guess on our end as far as we're concerned?

>> Yes, there is some concern the auditor actually did an evaluation of all of them in 2009. The two west valley contracts they found were fine. And Milpitas they had more concern once you factor in head rate it looks like it was getting into the red. The recommendation from the auditor's office when you are up in 2012 you need to consider bumping up the cost of the contract to make sure we are considering what we perceive to be the overhead. So we'll be certainly doing that. The.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Is the county.

>> Which is roughly now about 100,000 people.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you. I couldn't help but notice that you have some animals that you put into some of the pet food stores.

>> Yes.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Pet food express is the one that I went to take a look at and people are adopted those animals. It's amazing. If you change the location they'll be ready to take a look.

>> Absolutely. One of the things we suffer from, people don't know where we're. If you get out to locations where people are like pet stores you're going to have more success.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you very much for a wonderful report. May I have a motion? We are approved unanimously. And we're ready now to move on, to Matt. Are you leading this discussion here?

>> Matt Cano: Yes, I am.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you. So we're ready to hear your report on grant and bond-funded parks and recreation projects.

>> Matt Cano: Thank you. Matt Cano, division manager, parks, recreation and neighborhood services. With me is our senior analyst, Ragesh Adone. He does handle the work I'm going to be talking about today. This report is to talk about our grant activity for our PRNS capital improvement program for the last half of 2010. And some quick highlights of that program. During that period we received about 765,000 in reimbursement dollars, revenue into the city for from grants we had already received. We applied for 11 new grants during that period. Very active, and Radesh and his team are working pretty hard. We actually received seven grants for seven projects totaling \$3.15 million. Those projects were most -- about a third of that was for Los Gatos creek trail reach five which will help us provide the design documents for that final connection for the Los Gatos trail through the Del Monte area to the Guadalupe river park so that will be a really exciting project. We received a Water District congratulate for the Penitencia creek trail for \$300,000. Right now we have about \$19.9 million of grant requests that are pending. The biggest of those are requests from the State of California, under their prop 84 nature education facilities grant program for an amphitheater and bat exhibit at Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, and education center at Guadalupe River Park, and brand-new nature center at Family Camp. We hoped to hear back -- we heard late spring from the state, so we hope to hear back sometime in April, and we are really hopeful we can get at least

one of those projects, hopefully many more. On the next slide, there's a number of new grant opportunities that we're tracking in this six-month period we're currently in. A few of the highlights. We're working on two grants for the three creeks trail. One is with the Santa Clara Valley Water District that came to the council a few days ago to help us repair a trestle bridge, which will allow us to open that trail once we purchase it from the Union Pacific. That's in Willow Glen. We're working on a grant for the Coyote creek trail construction in North San José from 237 to Tasman. We're actually looking on another grant for Penitencia creek reach 1 to get into Alum Rock park. Our hope is to fund as much of that project as possible, to get that finer link into Alum Rock park through grants so we don't have to use city funding to build that important connection. We're also tracking the second round of the state prop 84 program. In the first round we applied for a number of projects last year and we received grants for two of them, Nisich Park in District 7 and Buena Vista Park in District 6. And we're right now putting together recommendations for the second round of projects which are due in July, and that will provide construction for new neighborhood parks. On the next slide, prop 40 is a program where we received grants in 2000 and 2002 and we're really closing up those programs but there were two specific projects, one was the acquisition of the three creeks trail in Willow Glen and another one is installation of a milestone parker and signage system along our trail system. The milestone marker project is very important. We had an incident on the Los Alamitos Creek Trail a few years ago where a woman unfortunately died through a tragic accident, and things like that remind us that we want to make sure that when we do have incidents along our trails, people can call 911 as soon as possible and tell the 911 center where they are at. And this milestone marker program will make that much easier and will actually be -- the 911 system will know where all these milestone markers are. So if something happens on a trail you can look for the nearest milestone marker and tell 911 center and they'll know where you are. These projects unfortunately had been delayed and we were supposed to finish them up this month. We weren't going to get in done in time and we were in danger of losing the grants. But we worked with assembly member Beall's office, and he was able to get us a one-year extension. So we'll definitely finish both these projects in time for that extension. On the last slight slide is a quick update on our park bond program. Getting close, Bascom community center is completed. Guadalupe river trail reach 6 which connects the children's discovery museum downtown south to Virginia street or willow -- Virginia street should be completed in about one month. The happy hollow project as you all know has been open for about a year now but the bridge to get from the new parking lot on the east side is not completed yet. That should be completed by next month as

well so we're really excited about a regrand opening of the bridge happy hollow park and zoo. And the only two remaining projects after that from the 2000 park bond are the sports parks. We're working closely with the City Manager's office on bringing a proposal to the city council by the end of this fiscal year for the operations and development of the four sports fields on the FMC site near the airport. We still need to get formal council approval of that action in June but we're tracking towards that date. On the softball complex, we're working on making a final recommendation on the locations to place a softball complex and we're expected to go to the parks and recreation commission by May or June and that would probably follow with a formal council selection of the sites in August-September time frame and with that we'd be happy to answer any questions.

>> Councilmember Pyle: You've been busy, this is really great news. Questions? Don.

>> Councilmember Rocha: The sports park mentions here can you expand a little bit on that?

>> Matt Cano: Sure. As part of the parks bond measure the \$228 million parks bond measure passed in the year 2000 we've committed to do sports parks as part of that and the concept that we've been carrying throughout the last ten years is, we would build a softball complex and a soccer complex. So we're progressing towards, in working with -- there's a lot of city departments involved regarding the soccer complex but for that site we have budgeted \$15.4 million in the bond capital budget, and we have at least tentatively selected the FMC site near the airport. We would build four artificial turf, lit soccer fields, and we're working towards getting an outside operator for that site. And we actually are in the process of our RFP for that operations right now. So it would be four artificial turf, lit soccer fields. We will need to come back to council in about June to get formal approval of that site once we've ironed out some internal details.

>> Councilmember Rocha: The cost and design of that facility is that part of that budget?

>> The 15.4 million.

>> Councilmember Rocha: That's the money we have right?

>> Matt Cano: That's the money we have. That budget is based on the Public Works estimate, so the intent is that's what it's going to cost.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Specific to that site or in general industry?

>> Matt Cano: In general, there is a little more expensive in that site. There is some overheadlines. It is on the back of the FMC site next to the railroad tracks. There's some overheadlines and some environmental issues on that site as well. That's not adding an extreme cost to the site. Really the artificial turf with the lice and small concession and restroom building and parking as well would add up to that cost.

>> Councilmember Rocha: And we own that property, though?

>> Matt Cano: The city owns that property, yes.

>> Councilmember Rocha: So we would be paying the city to buy the land, or lease it, or are these all questions that are in the future that I shouldn't be asking you now?

>> Matt Cano: Those are actually details that we're talking -- we're working really closely with the City Manager's office to figure all that out because that's a very complicated site so we'll be coming back and detailing that all in our report in June.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Okay just seems 3, 4 million a field seems very expensive field or nice field so I'm hoping we could come in under budget on that.

>> Matt Cano: So am I.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Second question was family camp. I notice the grant is still under consideration. Is that the mention there, grants still under consideration?

>> Matt Cano: Yes thank you. So family camp we are right now proceeding --

>> Councilmember Rocha: Nature center,.

>> Matt Cano: Yes it is a nature center. We are currently under construction to rehab the dining hall at camp. That construction is going very well and right now it's going well so we would be able to open up this summer but long term we do need another solution for that dining hall and so the grant is to essentially replace that dining haul with we'll call it a nature education facility that could serve as a dining Hall hall, education for the campers. We are working internally based on council recommendation and action from last year. We are working on a plan to talk -- come back to council right after the summer to talk about the future of family camp and make some recommendations on long term for that site.

>> Councilmember Rocha: So with the nature center is also the dining center?

>> Matt Cano: Yes.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Creative use, or dual use, I like it.

>> Matt Cano: Yeah, two-story small building on almost the same footprint as it's currently located.

>> Councilmember Rocha: It's interesting to be able to use a grant for San José but in an area that is not within the boundaries of the city.

>> Matt Cano: Correct, yeah, so this is a state grant program through proposition 84 they had a specific program for what they call nature education facilities. And so we know we need to replace that dining hall. Right now we're just doing a temporary fix, and so we hope this opportunity pans out.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Fantastic and again I'll use the word creative. Thank you for your work on that and look at all the grant opportunities it would be nice if we could get some grant opportunities for updating that facility in any way we can. Thank you.

>> Councilmember Pyle: I've never seen such effort poured into getting grants. That's the name of the game isn't it? Thank you for all your hard work. I'm waiting for a second -- a move and a second. Whichever. All those in favor? Aye. Are we confusing you Susan? Okay I'm glad to hear that. And last but certainly not least we're going to hear from Ernest Guzman about the neighborhoods commission update, so welcome Ernest.

>> Madam Chair, honorable councilmembers, Ernest Guzman, executive analyst, City Manager's office. Thank you for the opportunity to once again update you on the pilot project for the neighborhoods commission. The report that you have in front of you carries some of the highlights over the last three or four months since we've given a report. The first section dealing with the 2010 neighborhoods commission community caucus meetings gives you the schedule and the breadth citywide of all the different meetings that were held to really do a different section of what the commission is charged to do. Which is to give a public report back to the neighborhood groups that help to select them to be appointed by the council. So this was really a series of community meetings at which the commissioners, three from each district, reported back to neighborhood groups, about what the commission had accomplished and also at the same time, were charged with getting ideas and comments back from the community in relation to what they eventually will encompass in their recommendations as part of their discussions this year on their work plan. The second piece that is different about what happened in the fall of 2010 was that the original caucuses were held in the spring of 2008. So as a result, what the commissioners in the pilot phase wanted to try out was, would there be a difference in terms of attendance, and would it be easier to hold meetings in the fall as opposed to the spring. The interesting thing was that coming out of the this evaluation, the caucuses actually were more successful in the springtime when they were held in May and June

as opposed to the fall. The attendance did drop some. Actually, District 1 had the largest attendance in terms of about 24 attendees. And there were some patterns that emerged. Among them were the fact that the more successful attendance really was piggy backed on existing leadership groups that were established in certain council districts. The second piece of that was that in looking at the time period, in the fall, it seemed certain challenges for neighborhood groups were -- had emerged. Schools were coming back into session, parents were very busy in terms of getting their kids back on weekends and activities. So as part of the recommendations that the commission is considering, is really, if it's approved as a permanent commission, moving it back to the springtime makes more sense for the most amount of participation. So the commission has taken its role of really trying different things out to see how successful it would be to get the maximum amount of community involvement. The second piece about police chief recruitment, the commission has emerged as a stopping point for city departments in terms of not just gathering the information, in terms of response to presentations by various departments but also it's used as a focus group for different efforts to reach as much citywide participation at one table. So in this case the City Manager came and did a presentation on the police chief recruitment. The consultant was actually introduced to the commission. And then there was an actual -- an exercise where the commissioners were allowed to participate in putting together the criteria for the eventual selection of the new police chief. The result of that was that last night at the commission meeting the new police chief attended and was introduced to the commission, at the same time gave an overview of the priorities for the department, both in terms of service delivery this year, and secondly as a forecast of away might happen with the current budget challenges next year. But more importantly also talked about how to connect up with the neighborhood groups represented by the commission in terms of building more community interactivity between the police department an the commission and neighborhood groups. So that's very important. One of the invitations that the police chief gave last night was that he would like to actually have the commissioners in small groups come to see the 911 facility. Because it's important for them to understand the response times and actually what the city faces in terms of responding to neighborhood concerns. The variety of different presentations that are given in the memo, I'd like to focus on a couple of them that are probably of more importance in terms of what the commission's doing and is currently in their work plan. One of them has to do with examining the challenges faced by the City of San José in enforcing its street trees policy. And this of course impacts every single neighborhood and resident throughout the city. So in December of 2010 a working group of the executive committee and other members of the commission

met with department representatives after a presentation from those various departments at an earlier commission meeting and actually began to address how residents can be actively involved in meeting the needs of what the residents need to do citywide in terms of maintaining their trees. The impetus of this obviously has come out of a couple of different situations that occurred over the last three years. One was the incident in Willow Glen where there was a -- the destruction of several trees. And so that led to a wider discussion about street trees. And then the second one was the incident about a year or so ago where a young infant was killed as a result of a poorly maintained tree. So the commission's taken that on as something that it sees impacts residents citywide. They're coming up with a series of recommendations that will be sent to the Department of Transportation, to eventually come as policy recommendations to the mayor and council. They are not actually going to offer you the direct recommendations themselves, but work closely with the departments to try to put together best practices and ideas on how residents can interface with city departments to cover some of those gaps that actually exist right now. The second one is, public outreach policy for pending land use and development proposals. Otherwise known as public policy 630. That's also in the commission work plan. It has to deal with the notification process, in relation to capital developments throughout the city. This policy hasn't been revised for several years. The director of planning came to the commission, a small working group of commissioners has been working closely with them, with Joe to come up with some recommendations that he will then pass on to yourselves and the mayor, to look at improving that process so that residents become more actively aware of what's going on in their neighborhoods when capital projects are proposed. The last two items, the fire chief presentation, being one where public safety is a priority for the commission, so as well as the police chief we asked the fire chief to come and do a presentation about what currently is going on with service delivery this year. But one of the components that was key was, and it's laid out here, the fire chief presented at least four different items for consideration by the commission, as to how not just the commission, but residents, could participate with the fire department in helping to augment with the challenges the fire department is going to face in the future because of the budget cuts. And finally of course, it comes down to budget. And this is a priority for the commission. And they have been actively involved. Last year they put together a series of budget recommendations that came forward to the mayor and council. They're heavily involved with that process now. They attended the mayor's budget discussion with the community back at the end of January. At least half of the commissioners were there. There is a budget committee that commission has put together that is looking

closely at making new recommendations to yourselves as the process comes forward. There was a presentation last night by the City Manager's office, an overview of where the budget currently is. There is a call to action to have the commissioners come and actually work with the mayor, the council office, with the City Manager's office, in getting the outreach effort out to get as many residents out to your own discussions that will be happening starting April, so that many residents can come and talk about the budget, find out what's going on, and give you ideas in relation to what you might want to consider in these very challenging times. In a nutshell that's what's encoming passed in this memo. There was a discussion last night as recommendations that will eventually coming to your committee as early as April to the look at what the commission and staff feels should be the future of the neighborhoods commission. But that will be an item for future discussions. Any questions, please?

>> Councilmember Pyle: You must have done the best job of explaining so there's no questions to ask. We really appreciate all the hard work that you put into this.

>> Thank you.

>> Councilmember Pyle: And it makes it that much more understandable. And it's so important to bring the community along with us, and you're doing a splendid job of making that happen. Appreciate that.

>> My only comment is this really is a team effort. It's a wonderful group of commissioners that have been working for almost three years. It's a tier pilot but they waited for a year to be appointed. Certainly though with support from the council and you've been very supportive over the course of the last almost two years, this is great work that is being continued so thanks very much.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you and would you please convey to your group our appreciation for all their efforts. With that do I have a motion to approve?

>> Yes you do.

>> Councilmember Pyle: And a second? All those in favor, we are ready to move on to just bring to your attention the calendar for the remaining part of the year. We don't need to take any vote on that, right, Norberto, it is just for your edification so you can see what's coming up. With that we are at open forum. I have one card, David Wall.

>> David Wall: First of all, the clerk is bringing you a very priceless gift. It's part and parcel -- oh, yeah, you can even plant them and grow them. These are beans. Each one of you got a different type of green beans. And this is in keeping with my attempts to convince your learned honors that image change must occur here in the City of San José. This capital of Silicon Valley, this moniker is a dead, rotting corpse. It needs to be buried. The valley of the heart's delight. We're just the valley of the heart's delight encompasses everything about this city. It's far broader than this horrible moniker. In addition we could put an accent on the E and be even more correct. I can't say enough about growing food here in this valley. At parks, at schools. Our deputy director over here has done an outstanding job. It needs a lot more help in this regard, and the rest of you too need to get more involved in agriculture. Because agriculture is one of the commodities, food, that is going to be continually increasing. If you can attack where commodities are increasing people have additional revenue to spend on a variety of things. This could go along with the airport name change, too. I'd just call it San José International. Japanese folks -- and I point them out because of this airport business -- they love gardens. The valley of the heart's delight. They like that type of stuff. But everybody else will like it, too. That's what San José used to be, when it was a prideful, historic city, until this business with Silicon Valley. And let me put, as I close, Silicon Valley is never going to come back. It's had its heyday. Tech can still come here, but under the moniker of the valley of the heart's delight. Thank you.

>> Councilmember Pyle: And with that, unless there's further business that you'd like to bring forward, we are adjourned.