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>> Mayor Reed: Good evening. I would like to call the San José city council meeting to order. This is a special hearing dedicated to public testimony on our budget matters, which are on tomorrow afternoon's agenda for action. Tonight is the night to hear from the public on our proposed operating and capital budgets for this next fiscal year which starts July 1st and my budget message which makes recommendations to the council on how to close the \$84 million gap that we're looking at in next year's budget. I want to thank everybody that has come out tonight to testify. This is the end of a process we started back in January. We have heard from thousands of people. We've done a survey of a thousand residents, and we've had numerous community meetings, all part of a community based budgeting process that culminates tomorrow with a council vote on next year's budget. So I want to thank everybody that's participated, both residents, businesses and employees that have participated in this process to get us to where we are today. Tonight's hearing is just that. We'll take testimony. The council will not debate the budget tonight. We will do that tomorrow. This is an opportunity for the public to put in their comments. So if you want to speak, fill out the yellow card. We have lots of people here. Lots of people want to speak. And I'm going to limit testimony to one minute in order to allow everybody a chance to speak. Before we have to take action tomorrow. This year, as I mentioned, we're trying to figure out how best to close an \$84 million gap in our General Fund. That's approximately 8 -- well, about 10% of the General Fund is the gap. It's a really big number. The budget message that I have published ten days ago makes recommendations on how to close that gap. And I'm confident that the council will adopt a balanced budget and that we will balance our budget for this year, as we have for the last seven years, even though we've had shortfalls to contend with. What I'm not confident about is what the state of California might do. So there are some uncertainties as we go into this budget process and begin to solve our problems. One of the most significant risks to our revenues is the California state budget deficit. Many of our revenues pass through the state before they come to us. And the state has often taken part of those revenues to balance its own budget. And if you look over the last dozen years or so, the State has taken several hundreds of millions of dollars from us. And there's -- continue to take funds. And this year they are looking at taking \$20 million of our property taxes, \$22 million of gas taxes, another \$13 million from our redevelopment agency, and funding for the COPS program, supporting Public Safety and booking fees, are also at risk. That's a total of about \$58 million that we have to worry about. So the budget message that I have made my recommendations in, and the work that the council has done does not solve those problems. But I have joined with other mayors from California, to try to keep the legislature from taking our money. I'll be in Sacramento next week with the big city mayors, the top ten largest cities in the State of California to work with the legislature, to try to make them understand that if they take money from us, it results in cuts in services to the people they represent as well as the people we represent. But nevertheless, we have to worry about what might happen at the state of California. In addition, we know that starting in 2010, in July of 2010, we're going to have to start making extra payments to our pension plans to cover the losses suffered in the investments over the last couple of years. That will add to our problems in next year. This year, this budget which we have about two weeks left to finish out this year, now has another problem that we found out today. When the state of California calculates the tax revenues from sales taxes, we don't know what we're going to receive until after the quarter is closed. So we now know that the quarter, January, February and March of this year, we will receive \$7 million less than we thought we will receive on sales taxes. Because that quarter, compared to the last year's quarter, the same time, revenues have dropped 29% from last year. So that will affect not only the city, it is likely to affect other sales tax revenue agencies like the county and the valley transportation authority. But nevertheless, we have to deal with this \$7 million problem and we have to deal with it immediately. There's not very much time left in this year so we'll have to plug this hole by using the reserves that we have set up for just this kind of contingency. We will solve the problem. It doesn't solve it for next year. We'll have to take it up after we finish out the work for getting out of this year and beginning to look at next year's revenues. In my budget message, in solving the problems that we're facing for this year, we were faced with the possibility of closing fire stations 30 and 33, eliminating the park ranger program, closing six community centers, disbanding the horse mounted unit, cutting library hours and laying off probably 150 people, more or less. My budget message, I have tried to work it out so that everybody is sharing the responsibility between the city council, our employees, and the community, on how we deal with these problems. Through this cooperative effort with our unions, we have made some painful reductions and concessions. I want to thank our bargaining units that have already stepped forward, ABMEI that's taking furloughs which will be the equivalent of a 10% pay cut, CAMP, which is our management employees union, are giving up their raises for next year, and this allows us to save jobs and vital services. The City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, City Auditor, and councilmembers are taking 3.75% pay cuts, of course we're not getting raises. We hope that others will follow this lead. If they don't, then we'll have to make some additional cuts that we don't want to make. But in summary, my budget message proposes that we save by moving some money around, reinstate fire stations 30 and 33, the park ranger program, six community centers, including Los Paseos, St.

James, Northside, Capital Park, Alma, and Hank Lopez to be kept open for this year, to restore some of the hours to the branch libraries, keep the horse mounted unit, keep the traffic enforcement unit and some additional funding to stabilize our arts organizations. With that, we'll now open it up for public testimony on all of these budget matters. I have a stack of cards. I will call a few names at a time. Please come on down to the front when I call your name. There's seats in the front row or you can sit down here or stand down here. Try to get close to the microphone so we don't have a lot of time between speakers, and that will help everybody get out of here before it gets really, really late. So our first speaker would be Terry South followed by Tom Bradford and then Walter Lynn. Please come on down. And after that Consuelo Esparsa.

>> Good morning good -- good evening, mayor and councilmembers. Thank you for allowing this time to speak. I work for the airport communications center. We have a minimum staffing of three. We are the first responders for any emergency. They have taken one third of our staff and will be having us be two minimum staffing, which will allow only one person in the room. This is unsafe. We are the fire department for the airport. We are the one who monitors the system. We are the person who listens to the crash phone if there is an airplane coming in and it's in distress. We are the ones to notify the manager on duty. With only one person in the room it's going to be impossible to do that and monitor all of our alarms which go out into the AOA which is our main priority. Our deputy director advises they don't know how they're going to cover our lunches and our breaks with the short staffing. They haven't figured that out yet. That was as of last Friday they didn't know. It's crucial that we get back with four people so that we can keep the city safe.

>> Mayor Reed: Thank you. Tom Bradford followed by Walter Lynn and Consuelo E. sparsa.

>> Honorable mayor distinguished councilmembers, thank you for allowing me to approach you this evening with just my reflection on being a CSO at the airport. We do as my co-worker just told you that are responsible for being the first responders in case of emergencies such as notifying the fire department, for emergencies as well as crash phone in case there's issues with planes coming in. All these require our abilities to be top-notch to provide safe services at the airport. You're asking -- these cuts would ask my co-workers to work 12 to 16 hour days. This would make them fatigued and overworked, getting time off would be almost impossible, as well as it would impact those city budget -- operating budget at the airport dramatically more due to overtime. I know those are things you guys are concerned with. I only ask that you remember us when you look out on the 18th floor, look a little north and we're up -- we're just a little bit above you guys, as well as the fact that being a member of the airport communications center I don't feel that these cuts would do the airport justice. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Tom Bradford, Walter Lynn, Consuelo Esparza, Tiffany Nguyen.

>> Mayor Reed and the members of the city council, I've been a city employee for over 11 years, and I do love my job. And speaking with fellow employees, they also love and value their jobs, as well. These employees have families and homes, just like everyone else in our communities. In these difficult economic times, I am certain we do not want to increase the hardship to our employees who in turn are our friends. I believe we all want to maintain services to the community and to ensure that our employees have good jobs to continue supporting their families. If this is truly what we want, then let's make it happen. Please assist saving and protecting our jobs which will ensure we -- which will provide the best services to our community. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Consuelo Esparza, Tiffany Nguyen, Raymond Wong.

>> [Spanish] Hank Lopez senior citizens center -- [Spanish]

>> Oh, my God. I'm so nervous, and then you come and interpret. [Spanish] heart attack. [Laughter] Okay, let me start all over. I'm sorry. I took all of your time. But I'm a senior, you know, I have my senior moments.

>> Mayor Reed: We got the message, Hank Lopez Senior Center. Keep it, right?

>> I personally am very happy with Hank Lopez Community Center. For me and let's say for the sake of my mind, it's very good. We have bingo to distract ourselves from our everyday problems or from being lonely. I've seen so many persons there in a wheelchair. That it's the only decent meal that they get.

>> Mayor Reed: Okay, I'm going to have to ask you to stop. Took quite a bit of time here. Thank you very much. We got the message very clearly, both times.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Okay, Tiffany Nguyen, Raymond Wong, Sylvia Lowe.

>> Good evening, everyone. Thank you for having me here today. My name is Tiffany Nguyen and I'm from Independence High School. I'm a part of the Chinese Moon Festival committee at Overfelt Gardens, and I'd like to say several things. First and foremost, thank you very much for keeping our rangers. They are very important for the safety of our community. We do appreciate the job of the policemen, but in the park they're not kid-friendly. The parks radiate an atmosphere of family. Kids like to be together and have fun. Families like to spend time together at the park. And in our park there are high school students like us, who are in the park to get ready for moon festival or doing school projects. When the rangers see us they come talk to us and see how we are. The policemen might come to us and see if we're getting into trouble. Thank you for keeping our rangers because they preserve the true atmosphere of the park.

>> Mayor Reed: Raymond Wong, Sylvia Lowe, Rebecca Jao.

>> Hello, my name is Raymond Wong. I'm from independence high school also. I'm part of the Chinese moon festival over at the Overfelt gardens. Today I'm here to say thank you very much for keeping the rangers in the park. They are our rangers, and they do so much for us in our community. They are our community friends. I didn't think about it until we almost lost them. They are a part of our neighborhood. They help us when we plan moon festival. They watch out for us when we do our homework in the park. We feel like we are a part of the community, and when we see them, we participate even more. So we become even better citizens. We know from the rangers how City Hall is doing. And they give us a lot. Even this opportunity to stand up and speak to you today. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Sylvia Lowe and then Rebecca Jao and Teresa Anaya.

>> Hello, my name is Sylvia Lowe. I've known the rangers since the beginning of the program because I do volunteer work at Overfelt gardens. The kids who have been speaking to you are partly of my leadership group the Chinese moon festival. The kids and I feel like we're partnership with the raker staff. The kids feel a part of the programs they present because of the wonderful relationship that has been forged over the years. This is a remarkable side effect of the rangers. This feeling of inclusiveness and belonging is often the glue to the community of thousands and thousands of people who come into our parks. No one ever mentions this added benefit of their work. They are more than park rangers, they are our friends. They are there taking care of the park, our environment and teaching us. They watch our public manners, they make sure we do the right things. You'd think they are your first line of PR. We think they are. And because they are there, you are also there with us. They are your go-between. They represent City Hall to us. Thank you so much for supporting them.

>> Mayor Reed: Rebecca Jo -- or Jao, Teresa Anaya and then Dan Fenton.

>> Hi, my name is Rebecca and I am also from Independence High School. I'd just like to say thank you for saving our rangers because even if the police took over the place of the rangers, my parents would doubt if going to the park is safe, even for our moon festival leadership project. So I would like to thank you for keeping this program going. I was afraid I might not get to be a moon festival leader. Thank you for saving all our rangers.

>> Mayor Reed: Teresa Anaya, Dan Fenton, Steve Mahan.

>> Hello. [Spanish] I gather many signatures from my friends from Hank Lopez. [Spanish] so to see if they can listen to us for our petition. [Spanish] to continue going to Hank Lopez because for me and for everybody else it is like our second home. [Spanish] because we spend a good time over there. [Spanish] therefore I show up here in here to ask for this petition. [Spanish] if it is possible, please don't close the center, because that's a place where people where the elderly get together. [Spanish] we have a good time all of us, me and my -- the people that get together over there.

>> Mayor Reed: Okay, I'm going to have to ask you to stop. Your time is up.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Thank you. Dan Fenton, Steve Mahan, Tony Nguyen.

>> Thank you, Mr. Mayor and members of council. Dan Fenton with Team San José and the San José Convention and Visitors Bureau. We just wanted to thank the council, the mayor for two issues in particular. One is really recognizing the fact that during this economy and during what we think is an exciting time when the hotels have clearly talked about the future of the convention industry that the need for funding for the Convention and Visitors Bureau is vital during a time like this and also we want to thank the mayor for the recommendation to make sure that fund 536 which is the area that Team San José essentially works out of is also stable over the next several years, so thank you on both counts, and we really look forward to an exciting development in the convention industry and working on these projects and others with you. Thanks very much.

>> Mayor Reed: Steve Mahan, Tony Nguyen, and Quinn Vung.

>> Mr. Mayor and councilmembers, I'm Steve Mahan, and I'm the executive director of the Santa Clara Valley Blind Center. On behalf of those of our community, that that is the blinds, we want to thank the city for the support that's been given to the blind center in the past and for your diligent efforts to try to be equitable and fair in the distribution of funds. In our case, we believe that we have a situation where process is ahead of people right now. And we know that's not the intent of the city. We certainly beg the city to find in its general budget, if it cannot be found in the HNVF funds, an opportunity to continue to contribute to the well-being of the blind center, and to serve our community of very, very needy folks that the city has recognized in the past. We thank you for your help in the past, we look forward to your continued support in the future. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Tony Nguyen, Quinn Vung, Hung Truong.

>> My name is Tony Nguyen, president of Edenvale friends. I want to thank you for being the library liaison. I think the mayor shows great wisdom when you put in your budget the full fund -- quote, the full funding for parks, pools, community centers and libraries will be one of your five guiding priorities and goals for your budgets for the next three and five years. I hope this is real and not simply symbolic. When you mean you say you will fund libraries full, I hope that means seven days. Seeing the libraries go from seven to six to five days it doesn't feel like anything is being restored. It feels like days are actually being lost. When if community lost our Sundays a lot of working class families were disenfranchised. Losing another day, I know Edenvale will lose another 2,000 families by losing another day. I hope you work out your budget problems with the unions. Coming from the tech center I've lost 35% of my salary this year and that's the baseline I'm looking at when I'm looking at salary sacrifices. Thank you very much.

>> Mayor Reed: Quinn Vuong, Hung Truong and Eula Lou Anaya.

>> Good evening. I'm Quinn Vuong. I'm the ED of ICAN. We have been partnering with HNVF in the past three years to serve the Vietnamese community. I want to thank all of you and thank all of your staff in HNVF staff and the HNVF leadership committee for your empathy towards the hard times that we are facing. We appreciate the move from funding 42 proposals to the top 53 proposal. However, it's a great step in the direction, but it's not enough. And let me explain to you why. The cycle 10 ask are very high compared to cycle 9, on average about 240% of cycle 9. So if you have a project A in cycle 9 getting 25,000, and in cycle 10 asking for 45, that's one thing. You have a project getting 25 in cycle 9 asking for 150,000 in cycle 10, and if you go down the list and you simply say, I'm going to fund 80% of 45 and 80% of 150, you're letting the guy who was inflated as walking away with 400% of what he got last year.

>> Mayor Reed: I'm sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you. You got the point.

>> Mayor Reed: Hung Truong, Eula Lou Anaya, and then Ann Hun.

>> Good evening, Mayor Reed and city council members. My name is Hung Truong. I'm a resident of Almaden Valley, and I am a board member of ICAN. I would like to recommend that the city council fund all 65 returning HNVF projects and accommodate new projects at the fair starting point. I understand that the 65 returning projects received \$3 million last year. With a budget of \$4 million this year, you have \$1 million to fund 13 new projects at 45K each and still have a lot of emergency funds left. ICAN and other agencies' projects will cap at 25K when they initially enter the HNVF system, so 45K is still a very good starting point. Furthermore among the 13 new projects recommended for funding, some of them are from agencies already funded. Again, let's fund all existing projects plus new projects and take another year to further refine the initial scoring system. I believe this is the simplest, most equitable, and most inclusive funding strategy of all. I urge the council to adopt this funding strategy to support both existing and new projects and promote that spirit of sharing that you exemplify when you voted last week to reduce your own salary. Thank you for your continued support.

>> Mayor Reed: Eula Lou Anaya, Ann Hun, Terry Reilly.

>> [Spanish] My name is Mr. Anaya. [Spanish] I have a petition. Please don't close Hank Lopez. [Spanish] because why does it always happen to Latin people that ... [Spanish] This center is like a second home for us. [Spanish] We spend the best time over there. [Spanish] Because we aren't home, we are even more sick than we feel and that's why we go to the center. [Spanish] Therefore please don't close it. [Spanish] Instead of closing it, please make a bigger one because there are a lot of Latin people that would go to that center. [Spanish] If you close it over there, then where else shall we go? [Spanish] Shall we go to another senior center? Where are we going to? That's the closest one to our house for all of us. [Spanish] Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Ann Hun, Terry Reilly, Cassandra Houseini.

>> Terry Reilly, co-founder friends of the San José rose garden. A week ago you passed the new volunteer policy, a policy developed in part as a response to the deteriorating conditions of our park. I believe that was a step in the right direction. However after we've built the friends of the San José rose garden, a volunteer group now used as a model throughout the United States we find the original staff recommendation would remove two city workers from the park, our direct line of support leaving us high and dry. We are understandably shocked. It was a real slap in the face. Mayor Reed, I commend you for putting the rose garden, a historic lands mark, back in your budget. Councilmember budget memo number 20 saves the fountain and although we appreciate that it still removes the city workers from the park. That is not how you motivate volunteers. It sends a chilling message that volunteer efforts do not get supported in San Jose. Please support the Mayor's Budget Message.

>> Mayor Reed: Cassandra Houseini, Jessie Dominguez, Wayne Cohen.

>> Good evening. My name is Muy Quin. I been working as associate teacher for ten years at Pop Wade Child Development Center. I also work as a parenting workshop instructor for ICAN. I want to ask you to fund ICAN, because ICAN's programs (Vietnamese) it very good, very helpful, and very important to the Vietnamese parents and grandparents. We help them understand how to take care of their young children and their lives in America. In our culture, force-feeding is okay, because they meant well for the children. In America, force-feeding is considered child abuse and may get them into trouble with the law. People like our workshops. We have 20 people on average. We even have a rating for every quarter.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> People showing up.

>> Mayor Reed: I'm sorry, your time is up. Thank you. Cassandra Houseini, Jesse Domingues, Wayne Cohen.

>> My name is Cassandra Houseini. Last year my father was murdered after he exited the Bank of the West on First Street. After one year working tirelessly, vigilantly, five suspects were arrested for their involvement in my father's murder. Luckily the San José PD had the resources to work hard on this case and other cases and take murderers off the streets and into jails where they belong. I strongly believe that if my father's murder occurred in

any other city, this case would not have been solved. Unfortunately, there are still ongoing unsolved murder and violent crime cases that might never be solved if the city council votes to make cuts to public safety. My father's life is priceless, and there is no price that can be paid when it comes to our safety. San José went from the number one safest city down to the number four. At a time when our city has been plagued with violent -- gang violence and murder, the last thing our city needs is to make cuts to our public safety and crime prevention programs. If anything, San José is in desperate need for more police officers and crime prevention programs. The City of San José and its citizens cannot afford to make cuts to public safety because someone's life can depend on it. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Jesse Dominguez, Wayne Cohen. [applause]

>> Members of city council, my name is Jessie Dominguez, and I just have a few questions I'd like to ask the city council if I may. You know, I'm a voter. I voted for some of you on this board. One of the questions that I ask is, you know, when people ask me to vote, why is it that people that are ready for offices, you know, they're very considerate, and they're very compassionate and they're very respectful. Once they get into office, the compassion, the respect, is out the window. We come to the city council with good intention and respect and yet we are felt as if we are begging you for this money. This is money that -- this is stuff that you guys have promised to serve the people with. And I'd just like to ask one more question.

>> Mayor Reed: I'm sorry your time is up.

>> I'd like to ask one more question.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up sir, we've got lots of people who want to speak. Everybody is going to get a chance. One minute. Everybody gets one minute tonight because there's so many people. Wayne Cohen, Wilma Hashi and Ernesto Salazar.

>> Excuse me. My position has been cut because of the proposed HR employment model. But unfortunate that I'll stay a senior analyst. I feel bad for every employee facing demotion, redeployment or worse. I urge you to restore as many positions as possible. In late 2006 management partners issued a report showing the City's L function is proportionately least staffed government agency they studied. Now the same consultant recommends cutting ten positions. It boggles the mind. This reduction creates great risk, a mistake is inevitable. Something's going to get overlooked and the city's going to write a check that's going to wipe out any salary savings and then some. Then the scrutiny is going to come. My family is down to one income, with two family members in college and another facing a serious medical issue. CAMP was one of the first to approve a true zero, and even though it's going to hurt, this is the way to go. I urge you to please reconsider the decision regarding the employment model. Not because it would make my life easier but that's because it's best for the city. Thank you so much.

>> Mayor Reed: Wilma Hashi, Ernesto Salazar, Ed Tathankshian.

>> My name is Wilma Hashi. I'm president of the Pearl Avenue Library Friends, but I'm speaking as a citizen who recognizes the importance of the libraries to the communities. I appreciate the work that the mayor and the council have put into putting together a budget that provides for the needs of the community. I want to thank you for restoring eight hours to library hours, there seems to me to be a lot of distrust on the part of the unions towards city management. In the past, unions have been treated differently, depending on which union they're with. The community thinks all city employees are overpaid, when the truth is many make a living wage but many are not getting rich on their salaries. Many could make more if they worked for private companies. I think it's time that the unions and the city sit down as a group, rather than each union trying to negotiate separately. This is one city and we need to work together to make it the best city there is. It is time to put aside differences and make work to make it a great city for all of us. I hope that the unions and city management can get their acts together and work out a budget that restore all 13 hours to the libraries and other crucial services to the 10th largest city in the United States. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Ernesto Salazar, followed by Ed Tathankshian and Jeff Weber.

>> Once you get to know me, you know I'm sweet, short, and simple, and to the point, blunt. All we need is food, water shelter, and clothing. So if we need to shut down the fire department, police, parks, libraries, then I think we should shut down 80% of City Hall. Thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Ed Tathankshian, Jeff Weber, Nancy Walby.

>> A year ago May there was a article in the San José Mercury News stating that the city's to collect every cent it's owed. On this note, it was \$20 million identified that was 19 years old, some of the bills, parcels the city didn't know they had, and uncollected taxes. So my question to the council is, and I sent an e-mail to all of you a month ago, I didn't get any responses except for Pierluigi Oliverio who sent me an acknowledgment. But I'll read basically what's I'm asking in the e-mail regarding this article that was in the San Jose Mercury News a year ago. It's been 13 months. So how much of the money's been collected? How much money is still outstanding and overdue and how much money is written off? There is \$20 million which is one fourth of your \$80 million deficit.

>> Mayor Reed: This isn't a question-and-answer period. Sir, you got ten seconds left. If you want to speak, okay.

>> No, I left handouts for you guys to read later.

>> Mayor Reed: That's fine.

>> There is 20 million bucks lying on the floor.

>> Mayor Reed: Thank you. Jeff Weber, Nancy Valbe, Kathy Kimball.

>> Mayor and councilmembers, thank you for seeing me tonight. Two recurring themes have been made very clear by the council, because I've been sitting in on these meetings. One is that the city has a very good commitment to being a safe city, and second, to be fiscally responsible in balancing the budget. I'm here regarding the fire investigator position that may still be on the chopping block. This position is vital in keeping the City of San José a safe city and also has the ability to provide revenue that would assist in lessening the budget deficit. San José consistently has a higher rate than arson crimes than the national average and the crime of arson is specifically tracked by the FBI to determine which are the safe cities in the nation. To eliminate that position would reduce the workforce by 25%. This would adversely affect the arson unit's ability to detect and prosecute the crime of arson, conviction rates would drop, I guarantee it. I was in the unit for 20 years, and this would not make for a safe city. Second, fiscal responsibility. The arson unit has the legal ability to recoup investigative costs from persons who are convicted of initiating arson and negligent fires. Arson conviction statistics in San José indicate that the arson unit can recoup between 750,000 and \$4 million a year in the cost recovery program.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up. Nancy Valbe, Kathy Kimball, James La Rear.

>> Honorable Mayor Reed, and members of the city council, my name is Nancy Valbe and I have been a YSI volunteer and supporter for over 30 years. I'm currently a member of the board of directors representing YSI tonight. First I'd like to thank you for preserving the park ranger program. This is a critically important service to our community. However, we remain deeply concerned about the proposed closing of Alum Rock park for even one day a week. More than 12,000 of the 30,000 children that YSI serves annually are San José residents whose teachers count on YSI to fill a critical need for hands-on nature-based science education. A one-day closure reduces our availability to San José schools by 20% and may lead to a reduction in the number of San José children we can serve. It could potentially eliminate our summer camp program at Alum Rock park.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> And we also question if it's cheaper to keep closed. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Kathy Kimball, James La Rear, Ray Cedeno.

>> Mayor Reed and city council members, my name is Kathy Kimball. I'm the executive director of the San José Institute of Contemporary Art. I'm here this evening as a representative of the San José arts alliance, and that includes Angie Helstrop Alvarez, executive director of MACLA, and Kathleen King, the executive director of the San Jose Stage Company. We're here to thank you for your leadership and support to maintain funding for the arts in San José. We're extremely grateful for your recognition of the important role the arts play in San José's economic health and success. In order for San José to survive and thrive, the arts need to sustain this current economic storm. Your leadership in protecting vital funding for San José arts organizations will help make this possible. On behalf of my alliance colleagues, thank you again for your support.

>> Mayor Reed: James La Rear, Ray Cedeno, Peggy Elwell.

>> Good evening, mayor, and city council. I am here to support crime prevention. There are two wheels -- two ways to deal with crime prevention, one is reactionary, and one is preventive. Of course we need to reach for the reactionary event that happened, especially with outside influences. But also we -- it does start with crime prevention. We need crime prevention to teach us to fish. There is a downstream benefit to having crime prevention to have that knowledge. It makes stronger and more solid neighborhoods. It teaches our children how to be safe as well. They care about community and they stay out of trouble. For the first time in 14 years, of this great San José experience that I've lived, I'm considering moving, because I feel that if my family is not safe, nothing else matters. I'm sure there's some very important points on the board here, but crime prevention is very important, and we need to start with that. Please maintain crime prevention in its current form, thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Ray Cedeno, Peggy Elwell, Bill Adams.

>> Good evening. Prevention, intervention, suppression. That's the way the San José police department works and that's what makes this city an outstanding city. Within the last four years we have seen the increase in crime, and now, the council wants to shut down the prevention part of San José police department. We serve anywhere from 5 to 10,000 individuals in this city. That means that's going to be five to 10,000 individuals that are going to be deterred from the life of crime. You may want to consider shutting down the prevention part of the San José police department, because it is a vital educational part of the San José police department. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Peggy Elwell, Bill Adams, Roberta Roche.

>> Hi. I'm a city resident, and a librarian at the Biblioteca Latinoamericana and a member of MEF, which represents the lowest-paid section of San Jose city workers. I really enjoy being a librarian, and I believe in the services that we provide. We are people with the rent and the mortgage due, children and aging parents to support, a car payment to make, and a bus pass to buy. Over a third of MEF people are part-time, which means they either have no health care benefits or shoulder over half the cost themselves. Some work less than 20 hours a week, and many have to have a second noncity job. I personally know two young part-timers in their 20s who shoulder great responsibilities within their families for the mortgage on the family home which they are in danger of losing. Part-time workers also receive no city pensions. So if we are going to sacrifice our negotiated wage and take a true zero, it has to all go to save our fellow MEF workers from layoffs, and we need an enforceable agreement backed by a grievance procedure and arbitration. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Bill Adams. Sorry on the handwriting, Nobesto or Norberto Roche, Bill Adams, Dan Florez, Laurie Wallace, Bob Brownstein, come on down, folks.

>> Mr. Mayor and the council, I'm a member of Hank Lopez, and I'm representing the poor seniors to help them keep their center open. And I suggest that they let the city close the satellite houses that they have purchased for officers and use the vacant library, public library, on Ocala and Adrian way there for the youth and their other businesses. Now, Mr. Mayor, you are doing the wrong thing by picking on the poor people in this area here which I'm a resident for 41 years.

>> Mayor Reed: I'm sorry, your time is up.

>> Uh oh, already?

>> Mayor Reed: Already, it goes very quickly. Mr. Roche.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Dan Florez. Thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: And then Laurie Wallace followed by Bob Brownstein.

>> Good evening, Mr. Mayor, honored members of the county. It's a great honor to be here. I'm sorry that my personal representative couldn't make it. But I have her stand-in. I'm looking right at her as we speak. And I know that she will speak for me. I am here to pretty much -- I'm ad-libbing so bear with me. I'm here to speak on behalf of the seniors at Hank Lopez, but most of all for all the seniors. We're a vulnerable group but as a group we do take note of what goes on and we do vote. And toward that end, I'd like to remind you that most of -- well, a good number of us, were totally dependent on these centers, in some way, somehow, there should be a way to keep them open. For the sake of myself and my fellow seniors. Thank you for your time.

>> Mayor Reed: Thank you. Laurie Wallace, Bob Brownstein and then Zachary Burnham.

>> Hello, my name is Laurie Wallace and I'm a resident of San José. I was born and raised here. I also happen to be an employee of the City of San José. I'm member of MEF. I love San José. I am here because I love the city and I want to do the best I can, and I volunteer regularly. I do my part all the time, in my private and my work life. And I'm willing to do my part in the zero, the true zero request. But I have a couple questions. One of them is, I'm a special funded position. And so the 6.5% wage increase that I would get, I'd like it to ensure that there is someone that is getting replaced with that funding. And I don't know how that's going to work when I'm special funded. So that's one question I have. The other is, is I have a senior in high school that just graduated and the 6.5% is going to come straight out of his pocket in his college tuition. I want to you take that into consideration. That as a resident I'm rooting for all of us to work together but we really have to look for the sacrifices that we're asking for people and the true zero we need it to be enforceable. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Bob Brownstein. Followed by Zachary Burnham and then Scott Knies.

>> Bob Brownstein: Mayor Reed, members of the council, the mayor's budget calls for shared sacrifice between the city employees and the community. And I want to endorse that philosophy. I support it. But under the category of the city, we should include the redevelopment agency which should not be exempt from shared sacrifice. Other cities have found ways to use redevelopment resources to pay for Public Safety, if we have to adjust the way we collect data to be able to do that, too, we should begin that effort now. In addition, the redevelopment agency owes the city's parking fund \$6.8 million. A debt that is supposed to be repaid in 2009. The minute that debt is repaid, those funds can be used for General Fund purposes. There is no legal reason why they can't be transferred on any Tuesday. What is needed is for the redevelopment agency to do its share to help San José get through the budget crises we're facing. Thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Zachary Burnham, Scott Knies and then Helen Chapman.

>> Good evening, mayor and councilmembers, I'm Zachary Burnham and I represent CCPI, California Community Partners for Youth. It's a mentorship organization that I've been a volunteer at for seven years. And in that seven years I've seen it gain steam and grow from one school to two. We take kids in the East Side Union at YB, Yerba Buena, and Overfelt High School, and we teach them how to take responsibilities for their lives and to make choices and not just let life happen to them. I have seen kids from one at the beginning of the year not do their homework and not want to do anything but just you know walk down the streets and bang or whatnot to the next year, wanting to get their kids -- their friends involved in the program turn around they're doing their homework and they're becoming responsible members of the community. We need to keep this program running so we can continue gaining steam and continue affecting our community from the inside out. Thank you very much.

>> Mayor Reed: Scott Knies, then Helen Chapman and Alisa Ginsborg.

>> Good evening, mayor, members of the council. We're trying think how we avoid being here again this time next year, having this same discussion, and looking at a bigger deficit, and looking at community centers and service cuts, and looking at perhaps raiding enterprise funds and eating our seed corn for the future to grow our way out of the deficit. The budget has got two premises: Increase revenues, decrease expenses. A lot of the things in this budget, you've got some creative ways. There's 30 downtown entertainment businesses that are going to be contributing a quarter million dollars for policing. There's a half a million dollars already coming out of the parking fund. The redevelopment agency already contributes on a number of levels to help the General Fund. The issue really in the room is, on the expense side, and we can't take a big enough bite together out of this problem, if we don't address the larger unions and the 6.5% increases that keep us apart from realizing --

>> Mayor Reed: Your time is up. Helen Chapman, Alisa Koff Ginsborg, Ann Sandoval.

>> Good evening, Helen Chapman, long time resident of San José former parks commissioner and appointed member of many public task forces. It's clear to me that we're only able to tackle complex problems when we all work together. By we, I mean people who represent all different interests and all who care about our city. These may be neighborhood activists, businesses, unions, open space advocates, housing advocates, city management, and the list goes on. These points are not critical to a crisis but willing to work together and accept imperfect but workable solutions is. I'm saddened to hear that progress is slow and from what I read the statement that the city negotiator has not authorized to consider any proposals from the union or make counteroffers. Everyone needs to set aside their past history with others holding compete being interest. The message the city council sent was clear: Lets work together. Let me leave you with this quote by Mark Twain. The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking through your complex, overwhelming task into small, manageable tasks and starting on the first one. Thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Alisa Koff Ginsborg, Ann Sandoval, Elizabeth Manley.

>> Good evening, mayor and council, I'm Alisa Koff Ginsborg from Working Partnerships. On April 27th I attended the Community and Economic Development Committee meeting where chairperson Pyle asked the staff if an August time line would allow any outsourcing as part of the budget to be considered in the CED committee. Deputy City Manager Ed Shikada replied, "As the council adopts the budget, that certain things may be put into motion by virtue of that adoption, but those will be very explicit discussions." It's disappointing that the budget you are voting on tomorrow assumes that the food, beverage, and retail concessions in the renovated Happy Hollow Park be outsourced. There has been no explicit discussion of this being an agenda item for the CED committee in August. This discussion on outsourcing should not be made before the question of whether city employees be allowed to compete to provide this service comes before the CED committee.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Ann Sandoval, Elizabeth Manley, Tony Martinez.

>> Hi. I'm a student of criminal justice at Sacramento State, but San Jose is my home. I'm here because I was excited to see the recommendations of the community budget working group that focused on using RDA funding to supplement the cost of extra police services. When looking at extra police services, we've been running off of the same number 1400 roughly officers in San José PD. This is the same number since the '90s. If you've noticed our population has nearly doubled in that. We have the lowest officer per citizen ratio in the nation. If we want to continue keeping up our stats, and staying one of the safest cities in the country, the biggest safest cities, I think that is definitely vital to our continuing. I'm here tonight because this recommendation was deferred in the Mayor's Budget Message. The Mayor's Budget Message suggests that because of legal and other questions a discussion of this issue should be delayed until the RDA releases its budget August 31st. We agree that using RDA funds for city services comes with questions and we will take significant work to implement. This is precisely why we needed to get started immediately.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry your time is up. Elizabeth Manley, Tony Martinez, Paul Prangey.

>> Good evening, mayor and council. I'm Elizabeth Manley, vice chair of the downtown parking board and chair elect. We on the downtown parking board are acutely aware of the difficult decisions before you, but we do not support the use of the parking fund for city services. That use is not appropriate, to offset the General Fund. This deficit this year or any year in the future. Members of the DPB voted unanimously on June 3rd, 2009, to reject both budget memo number 20 recommending the one time transfer this year of \$500,000 and the Working Partnerships U.S.A. recommendation to transfer the interest, nearly \$500,000 annually, to the General Fund. It is our position that the fund is to be used only for park downtown per the park management plan of 2001 and its update of 2007. It diminishes the public trust to transfer those funds when we promised the paid evening parking revenues would go to parking improvements. It is a clear violation of the restrictions of the bond covenant for the 4th and San Fernando garage to transfer interest before all payments have been ascertained met for the year.

>> Mayor Reed: I'm sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Tony Martinez, Paul Prangey, Cynthia Martinez.

>> Hello, mayor and council. Len Orvis here. I just want to say that when I found out about tonight, I didn't want to show up, because I was thinking to myself, and I heard from other people, what's the use? You know, the mayor, some councilmembers, I know we have some support of five. But the ones that aren't in favor of us are going to make their decision anyway. My children, my wife, you know, they're going to be affected with this decision if we're outsourced or if I am going to be laid off. And of course, that doesn't just hurt me. It hurts my children. And I'm going to fight for my children, and I'm sure all of you who have children, got grandchildren, will do the same. Thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Paul franke, and then Cynthia Martinez and Sonia Azavedo.

>> I'm a resident of San José. I have a family. You've heard my son earlier probably. I'm also a long time city employee. My union is MEF. The employees are a great resource for the city and a difficult one to replace. Please preserve this resource. But we are not just a resource. We are people with families that are active in our communities. We have mortgages. We have car payments, and we have futures to dream of and plan. Help us to continue to dream and plan our futures. Thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Cynthia Martinez, Sonia Azevedo and then John Lopez.

>> Mayor and councilmembers, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My husband is Tony Martinez. He is a city worker for custodial services here at City Hall. And I came out in support of him and to urge you to please opt for the true zeros. We have a young family, and when he took on this job it came along with hope and dreams of sending our kids and giving our kids a better future than we had, as uneducated parents. If he gets laid off, not only are you guys doing budget cutbacks, but you're cutting into people's hopes and dreams. And force us as parents to tell our children that perhaps they can't go to college. And as parents, we all know that we want what's better for our children. So I urge you to please reconsider, and give them the option of the true zeros. We can survive on that. We don't live extravagantly. We don't make lots of money but we can survive on that. We can't survive on him being laid off without knowing if he could even get unemployment with state budgets. So again I urge to you please reconsider.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Sonia Azevedo, John Lopez and then Tom Ryan.

>> Good evening. My name is Sonia Azevedo. I work in the San José police department crime prevention unit. I am an instructor with the Challenges and Choices program which serves third, fifth, and seventh grade students throughout the City of San José. Two weeks ago I brought 80 third-grade kids here to San José City Hall. We sat in this room. We talked to the kids about who makes the choices for how the money in the City of San José is

spent. And we talked to the kids about every single one of you people. We showed them your pictures, we told them what part of the city you're from. And we said that they're the ones who are going to decide whether or not challenges and choices stays around for future children. So in their words, please save C2. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: John Lopez, Tom Ryan and then Jeff Bornfeld.

>> Hello, thank you for the opportunity to be able to speak. I'm here on behalf of CCPY, California Community Partners for Youth and their funding for them. I would like to say that I am -- had the privilege to become a mentor two years ago to these youth at risk. I saw three of my mentees become volunteers to help other youth younger. That's the pay back, the future. Cindy -- Liccardo, you came to my house once when you were running for campaign. You sat on the stoop with my wife and we talked, and you said what can I do for you? Keep the kids funding, please, thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Tom Ryan, Jeff Bornfeld, Eric Sahn.

>> Good evening and thank you for the opportunity that you gave to me last year from CCPY. I was a mentor for the first time last year. And as a senior citizen, I really didn't think it was going to be much hope in what these people at CCPY were going to do. But the amazing thing to me after the first meeting or second meeting, really, I didn't think there was much hope after the first, but the community of youth came together, along with the mentors, and what grew out of that was a tree community who could show love and support for one another. I'm totally amazed at how much these youth were given the opportunity to grow. And I especially want to thank you for the opportunity that it gave me to grow and to realize that the youth that are coming up today do have a chance if given the chance. So I thank you for that opportunity. And I ask you to continue to support us if you possibly can. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Jeff bornfeld, Eric Sund and Penny Aguilar.

>> Can these young people stand with me? Come on up. So thank you, mayor and council. I'm Jeff Bornfeld with CCPY. I couldn't agree with you, on everybody has to take cuts. That's not currently happening with funding on HNVF. They actually currently want to cut 24 returning agencies who are partnered with the city delivering services. And they want to do that in such a way that 25% of the money go to five agencies who are getting between 200 and 400% increase over their funding for last year. You're taking a 3.75% decrease. We'd all be happy to hold even and you can fund all 65 returning agencies who have data to prove that they applied that money well, you can still give a 10%, all ten of them, all 65 of them, plus the ten other agencies that are new that were being and accepted. All that was decided without any data. There was no records, no performance data being used at all. It was all done on the value of someone's ability to read a proposal. Not based on the data.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you, sir.

>> Mayor Reed: Eric Sund, Penny Aguila. Susan Bailey.

>> Thank you, mayor, city council. I'm president of the downtown association and I represent 2400 businesses downtown. Over the last year or so our businesses have experienced closure. Our revenues are down like the city has seen their sales tax, 30%. Businesses have been forced to lay people off, to reduce salaries, to reduce benefits. We need to share the pain more widely. I certainly respect the difficult decision the council has to make and the choices you need to make to figure out how to balance your budget. I would urge you to look forward to see how you could make more structural fixes, so like Ms. Figone's, City Manager Figone's hands won't be tied when she makes budget decisions that you do things like ending the binding arbitration in the city charter and advocate that kind of charter amendment. Thank you very much.

>> Mayor Reed: Penny Aguila, Susan Bailey, Lam Tran.

>> Mayor Chuck Reed, members of the city council, councilman Sam Liccardo. Thank you so much for the consideration of staying the Northside open, Northside community center. My name is Penny Aguila, I'm with the

American legion auxiliary unit 858 housed at Northside Community center, and I'm also working with the ethnic and cultural community advisory committee that delivers services for the veterans and the youth and their family members down at Northside community center. Thank you all for the consideration in keeping Northside community center open.

>> Mayor Reed: Susan Bailey, Lam Tran, Thui Vo.

>> In this big era of big government, we are faced with huge debts at all levels of government, in the millions, billions and trillions. This debt is the result of overreaching government programs and policies, far beyond what the founding fathers envisioned for our country. The United States of America was founded on the belief in individual freedom, unencumbered by government, but free to pursue economic stability and success by working hard and doing for ourselves, and our families not expecting the government to take care of us. Unfortunately, the government has progressively taken over more and more of our society. Encouraging people to become dependent upon government, thereby increasing the power of government, and weakening the power of the people. San José officials are faced with some hard choices to rein in the deficit spending and save our city from bankruptcy. Our city council needs to lead by example, cutting their own compensation to show how resolute they are in balancing the budget.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Lam Tran, Thui Vo and then Heather Riter.

>> Mayor and city council, my name is Lam Tran. I'm a resident of San Jose and a long-time supporter of ICAN. I'm so proud of ICAN's work with the community that gives young people new direction and at the same time giving our parents and grandparents a change for the better. However I'm awfully troubled that neither ICAN or VIVO has been recommended for funding, which means that the Vietnamese community gets no resources from the HNVF \$4 million budget. I'd like to propose a simpler solution that will solve your problems. Fund all 65 returning projects and accommodate new projects at a fair starting point. The 65 returning projects got a total of \$3 million last year. If you only give them 10% increase you will still have \$700,000 left from the \$4 million budget to fund new projects. Returning projects should be grateful because they all get funded with a little increase, and new projects should be very happy if they get \$45,000 because in the past ICAN and new projects were capped at \$25,000. So if you voted to cut down --

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Thui Vo, Heather Riter or Reiter and Hang Lu.

>> [Vietnamese] Quick translation, my name is Thui Vo, grandpa, two years in the U.S, ICAN bridge to two cultures, ICAN gave us knowledge raising children, ICAN is best child abuse prevention program, because it tells us what to do and what not to do, and ICAN saves lots of money from having to deal with problems later on. Thank you. [Vietnamese] thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Heather Reiter, Hang Lu, Leanne Houseini.

>> Hello, my name is Heather Reiter, and I am a San José park ranger, and I wanted to say thank you for saving our programs. I wanted to thank you for listening to the community, I wanted to thank you for listening to us and our colleagues, and I want to thank you for reaffirming your commitment to public safety and for truly keeping your Green Vision safe in the truest sense of the word. So thank you again, I appreciate it.

>> Mayor Reed: Hang Lu, Louanne Houseini, Ross Signorino.

>> Good evening. My name is Mohan Lu, I've been work as a childcare provider for ten years. And as a parenting workshop for (inaudible) I have been with ICAN for two years now. I want to urge the city council to continue to fund ICAN so that we can continue to serve families with children age 0 to 5. We really need a lot of help. In our Vietnamese culture, the grandparents end up taking care of the children while parents go to work. Many of them don't speak English so they cannot get to the information English anywhere else. They listen to Ican's value and come to the Ican's workshop. We help them take care of their young children and the lays in America. In our culture, there is no such things as respect and self esteem for the children. From the very young age children are taught to listen to parents and go with what parents say. That not happening in America Lot agencies may have workshops in Vietnamese too, but it is not the same. Our parents and grandparents needs for ICAN to help them. They come to ICAN because they trust ICAN because they can talk to ICAN --

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Lee Ann Houseini, Ross Signorino, Alofa Taliva.

>> Hey, everyone. I'm a widow. My husband was taken away June 3rd. He was shot May 23rd. I found out through some meetings and stuff that we've had that the city, our side. Should have 2600 police officers. We have 1360. Instead of being out on the streets doing what they're supposed to be doing they're doing a lot of administrative work. We need to re-fund our police department, put it up to where it should be at 2600 which we know is a dream, we didn't think this would happen to our family. It did. It could happen to yours. You guys really need to not do any cuts and put some of the resources that were tooke away back into the San José police department. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Ross Signorino. Alofa Taliva, Will Bick.

>> Ross Signorino: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, members of council. Not too long ago I understood the deficit was about 80 -- \$73 billion, million, and now I hear you say tonight, Mr. Mayor, \$84 million. And you talked about what the state might do to us. Mr. Mayor, when you speak, you scare me every dime. I would prefer that you didn't speak at all. [Laughter]

>> Ross Signorino: You know, I know all of you are trying very hard to keep all of this going, the departments and the services that we have. But you know, then tomorrow you got to hear what the unions might come up with, that's going to be another horrendous meeting. And then of course there's the other thing that you mentioned, Mr. Mayor, another scare that you gave us, how we're going to, might have to support all the pensions that we have in this city and that's going to hurt our General Fund as well. And there are all the cities along the peninsula, you keep hearing how broke they are and even Oakland is saying they may have to lay off 100 policemen. And although this is not on the table, but they're mentioning the B word, it's talked about quite a bit, the B word, that means bankruptcy and that's a sad thing to have to do but thank you all very much.

>> Mayor Reed: I'm sorry, your time is up. Alofa Taliva Will Bick, Angelina Gonzales.

>> Good evening, mayor and councilmembers. My name is Alofa Taliva. I represent Sierra Neighborhood Association, which is in the East Valley SNI NAC. I'm here to speak in favor of supporting Public Safety services such as gang prevention, crime stoppers and especially, crime prevention. These programs are vital to the communities, and we cannot afford to reduce, downsize or eliminate at all. These programs are working in the neighborhood. Right now, I'm speaking, I'm on in the middle of organizing neighborhood watch in my community. And these programs, they are very important to the community, so this way they know what to do and what not, and you know, you can see that they're paying attention, because they're asking questions, and participating more in these programs. So I'm here to urge you to please do not eliminate these vital programs to the community. These are very useful and I'd like thank you mayor --

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry your time is up.

>> -- for taking leadership in the Public Safety. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Will Bick, Angelina Gonzales, and then Richard McCoy.

>> Good evening, my name is Will Bick. I'm here to support the San José park ranger program. I want to say thank you, and I encourage you to continue with your plan to save the program in its entirety, especially in these hard economic times, keeping our green jewels in their great condition, cannot be done without stewards like the San José park rangers. And in addition, I want to let you know about a cost savings that you haven't factored in, with the mitigation for the proposed elimination of the program, in addition to installing signs, call boxes, hiring account clerks, you'd also have to contract out the closing of all the parks every single night. And you don't have to make that payment now, if you continue to save the park ranger program. So thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Angelina Gonzales, Richard McCoy, Wa Ta.

>> Good evening. I'm an instructor at UCSC for the teacher training program. And for our community and community worker esteem, I teach that the parks are a great resource in our community and that children grow their cultural roots there. I would like to continue to teach teachers, children, and families, that the parks are protected by rangers, and that rangers are community helpers and friends. They teach us ways to save and to help save our environment. Please, mayor and councilmembers, help us save the ranger program. Thank you very much and good night.

>> Mayor Reed: Richard McCoy, Wai Ta, Ivy Vung.

>> Good evening, mayor and city councilmen. I've been a resident of San Jose for 30 years and a resident of Santa Clara Valley for 60. I've seen it gone from orchards to concrete, asphalt and silicone. A lot of silicone I've laid down myself, being in the valley here. I became active last year with a lot of council activities to help the city and seeing how much usefulness they have to the citizens. I think losing them would be a great shame, and I want to spend the remainder of my 50 seconds in silence for the death of those programs.

>> Mayor Reed: Your time is up.

>> Thank you mayor.

>> Mayor Reed: Wai Ta, Ivy Vung, Yolanda Cruz.

>> Good evening Mayor Reed, and councilmembers, my name is Wai Ta, and I'm a resident of San Jose and a board member of ICAN. I'm concerned that many current partner agency of HNVF have been left out to make room for new projects. HNVF approved the plans to fund the top 53 projects of which 41 were returning projects and 12 were new projects. So HNVF effectively push out 25 existing projects to accommodate the 12 new projects with an average asking of 109,000. I think the most inclusive and credible strategy is to fund all 65 returning projects and then accommodate some new projects. This funding option is financially feasible with the \$4 million budget that HNVF has. Existing agency has been great partner with HNVF in the past three years, I urge the city council to continue to support them better in time of need. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Ivy Vung, Yolanda Cruz, Gay Gail.

>> Hi, mayor Chuck Reed, and San José city council. My name is Ivy Vung, I'm a board member of ICAN. I live in San Jose and have my own business in downtown San Jose here. I'm really troubled that neither ICAN or VIVO has been recommended for funding. This means that the Vietnamese community get no resources from HNVF \$4 million budget. We account for 10% of San José population and yet our needs are consistently overlooked. Our solution is simple, I urge the city council to fund all 65 returning projects and accommodate new projects at a fair starting point. From our own analysis, this allocation strategy is financially feasible from all the budgets that HNVF has. New projects should cap at 45 K and they should be happy if they get 45 K because in the past Ican and all the new projects were capped at 25 K. When they first enter HNVF --

>> Mayor Reed: I'm sorry your time is up.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Yolanda Cruz, Gay Gail, Trish Glassy.

>> Good evening, mayor Reed and city council. My name is Yolanda Cruz, and I'm the president of AFSME-MEF, the largest bargaining unit for the City of San Jose. As you have heard from many of the members who have spoken before me, we are committed to doing our part to share in the City's budget deficit to help solve the budget deficit. We have provided a proposal to the city that clearly defines our willingness to do this. We have offered the true zero for -- that you have requested from us. And we are willing to do that. In return, we are asking that we have the ability to enforce that contract, and also, that the money saved from the sacrifices that our family are making, to go to save other AFSCME jobs. We are committed to the services that we provide to the City of San José. We want to see as many of those services preserved as possible, and it is our commitment and our desire to do so. We hope that you will direct the city to get to the table and work with us so that we can get this resolved as quickly as possible. Thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Gay Gail and Trish Glassy and then Irene Zuniga.

>> Good evening, mayor and council. I'm very proud to be the president of the largest management organization in the city, employee organization in the city, and we voted to forgo our raise for this year with no strings attached. We did it so that as long as it saves jobs of our colleagues. There's one job that was overlooked, however, in the mayor's budget message and I wanted to bring it forward to you, because I think the elimination of the insurance risk manager is a critical deficit for the city. This person supervises \$2.3 billion worth of property to make sure that it's properly ensured and just recently, due to the Willow Sr. center fire, recovered a \$300,000 recovery that would not have happened if she had not been on the meeting. She also manages over \$2 million in liability insurance for the city, and \$3.9 million will be returned to the city because of the insurance arrangement she made, and our safe construction of Concourse A.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you very much.

>> Mayor Reed: Trish Glassy, Irene Zuniga and Fred Fears.

>> Mayor Reed, I'm Trish Glassy, president of the Confidential Employees organization. AFSCME CEO represents 232 employees in the city of San Jose. We are primarily budget, human resources, legal and program analysts, staff technicians and administrative assistants, supporting city services in every department. We have a contract with the city that will expire in September, 2011. We have agreed to meet with the city to discuss how we can do our part to help preserve some of the vital services that we provide to the citizens of San José. We've given a proposal to the city that meets Mayor Reed's request for bargaining units to give a true zero by forgoing our 1.5% wage increase and freezing salary steps for one year. We also feel it's extremely important for us to keep our focus on addressing the medical crisis. With this in mind we propose that the city delay negotiations on retiree health care for future employees for one year. Any amendments related to retiree health care for future employees will not produce immediate cost savings for the city.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up. Irene Zuniga, Fred Fears, Paul Alvarado.

>> Hi, good evening. I'm here to thank you for extending the use of Alma senior center and other centers throughout San José. I know for a fact without these centers our families would not know of resources that are available. My mother at this time is 90 years old, and she's having some work done at home through the city grants. This is very important for her, for her safety, to be able to live at home. Since we just lost our father at the age of 95, a few months ago, Ralph the senior director at Alma center has helped our family, has helped my mother through some very tough times. So again I'd like to commend you each one of you for all your work and especially since families of the communities that live where the senior centers are located, and again, I know how wonderful every community center is to our city. And back in the '60s and '70s I remember model cities being a very active organization. And I'd like you to go back to that again. We'd like to be ranked number one.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Fred Fears, Paul Alvarado, Deep Vung..

>> Hello. I work for PRNS Alum Rock park, the oldest park in the city of San José. My position got selected for a cut, I don't know why. Are people snooping into my deferred comp deposits, or what? I mean, I'm missed not at park rate bid level of maintenance is going to go way down. I think that you're very unfair. You should do across-the-board cuts, okay? Police, the fire department, and everybody except the rangers. And I don't know, I think this mismanagement on your side, you don't know how to manage your money right, something's going wrong. I mean, the level of maintenance is going to go way down from that park, I've worked out of classification, I would have worked in a higher class several times and everything like that, not just working as an AMA, I'm working as the equipment operator and everything like that. So I think it would be a mistake, have my position taken out of the park there, getting removed there.

>> Mayor Reed: Sorry, your time is up. Paul Alvarado, Dip Vun, Mel Irwin.

>> Mayor, city council, thank you. I'd like to start off first by commending the city council for taking a pay cut, for showing an effort, and making something happen. Actually I heard on the news on the way over here, Santa Clara judges are going to be taking a pay cut, which is going to help there. Hopefully what you're doing creates a landslide and other people in city government and people who actually are making a lot of money give something back. I appreciate everything you've done. I'm here for Alma, and you're supporting Alma. And you're supporting a lot of other things. But it's tough, your position that you're in, where you are, everything you have to deal with. And I hope some of the people that are bringing recommendations are giving you notes and then papers that you can read, and maybe go through, that might help. I don't know, that depends on what they have and whether it's feasible or not. Everybody says their idea is feasible but that doesn't necessarily make it that way. I appreciate everything you've done. You've got a really tough job and today I came to support you. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Deep Fong, Mel Irvin, and then David who wants to speak about CCPY.

>> Hi, my name is Deep Fong. I'm here with ICAN. I'm concerned that proven partners HNVF are pushed out under the current recommendations. You will be putting 25% of the total \$4 million in the hands of five organizations out of the 75 organizes that applied. A simpler and more equitable solution is to fund all the 65 returning projects, and use 20% of the fund for new projects. You wrote it for the cap of \$25,000, a new project at HNVF three years ago. I urged you to be consistent and fair with your vote this time. The question I have for you is, is there a compassionate desire to support your proven partners and the political will to be flexible and responsive to community needs during these harsh economic times. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Mel Irwin, David, and then Donna Thurmond.

>> Thank you, Mr. mayor, councilmembers, I thank you for your time tonight. I live in San José, my family lives in San José, I work in San José but I don't represent anyone. I'm not a union member. I don't even use the community centers. My wife uses the library. You about I'm here tonight to ensure that we keep Public Safety where it should be in this budget. For example, one of the line items I noticed was a \$50,000 gift to a mariachi festival. And when we are talking about eliminating 150 jobs and many of those in the area of public safety, I just have to tell you tonight that I -- when any citizen in this city that looks out their window and sees a crime being perpetrated, they lot rather see a police officer there, than a mariachi band. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: David, Donna Thurmond, and then Art Calderon.

>> Hello, I just want to tell you guys that CCTY is a great program. That it's helped me a lot. I know that my neighborhood is high on like in gangs and stuff. And I'm really proud to say I'm not in gangs, I'm still in school. And CCPY has helped me have confidence. I want to help CCPY. They really have a close bond. I did tubing them about anything. You are making a big mistake if I guys don't fund it. That's it. Thank you for your time. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Donna Thurmond and then Art Calderon. That's the last card I have. If somebody else wants to speak, get the card in now, please.

>> Hello, my name is Donna Thurmond. Much like my colleague Laurie Wallace, I'm a special funded employee and not directly affected by the budget cuts, but I feel compelled to speak tonight, because a lot of my colleagues do provide vital city services like custodians who empty out trash and recyclables and our parks maintenance personnel who maintain our vital facilities. These are refuges for the public. Our libraries, our community centers, our parks. I would encourage you if you haven't been to a facility outside of your district to beto do so, to see what other communities are served other than those that you represent. A note about Public Safety, I live in the Northside area. I've been a resident for ten years and yes, I voted for Sam Liccardo. My home was invaded the other night. Someone jumped my fence. I heard later on that they were escaping a gang beating. The police were called and nobody came. So I'm specially affected by Public Safety as well but many I encourage you to support city employees to provide direct public services. They're all important. Please find a way to balance budget. Thank you.

>> Mayor Reed: Art Calderon. [applause]

>> My name is Art Calderon. I work, live and play here in San José. I volunteer here in San José. And I'm here to support Public Safety, and intervention programs, and what you have for safety. Thank you. [applause]

>> Mayor Reed: Thank you. I want to thank everybody who came out tonight to talk to us. We have very difficult decisions to make, and hearing from the community is really important. That's why we created a community based budgeting process. We have heard from thousands of our residents and our employees, and our businesses, and I want to thank everybody that's taken the time to get engaged. We've got thousands of ideas, many of those ideas have been helpful, and some of them have been great and have helped us a lot. So I want to thank everybody for their help. This will conclude the public testimony on this item. We will not debate this tonight. We will not make a decision on this tonight. We will take this up tomorrow in the afternoon sometime. Thank you all for coming. We're adjourned.