



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Vice Mayor Chappie Jones
Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco
Councilmember Matt Mahan

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: November 24, 2021

APPROVED:

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Community and Economic Recovery
Budget Adjustments**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Accept staff's recommendation for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocations, with the following modifications:

1. Allocate up to an additional \$1.6 million towards the SJ Bridge program to expand the transitional jobs program from 100 to 150 participants (\$950,000) and offer housing solutions to the additional 50 participants (\$650,000) through June 30, 2023; and
 - a. Reduce the potential program cost by modifying the housing voucher, requiring SJ Bridge participants to pay some modest portion of their earnings for rent, thereby helping them to rebuild credit history and improve prospects securing rental housing post-program. For example, requiring 150 participants to pay \$250 per month for rent could save approximately \$450,000 annually.
 - b. Return to Council or the appropriate committee in January with the identification of the additional hotspots identified for cleaning in the City, along with outcomes to date, and proposed metrics for ongoing program evaluation. Hotspot identification should reflect equitable consideration of those neighborhoods that have tolerated the most burdensome blight and trash in recent months.
 - c. Execute the initial contracts awarded for the Request for Proposal (RFP) as directed in the June Budget message while working towards contract amendments for the expansion contemplated in #2 above.

2. Allocate additional funding for Food Distribution as follows:
 - a. Add \$1.8 million for the Food Distribution Resilience Corps workstream to support at the 75% level to enable Second Harvest to transition away from a labor-intensive “boxed meal” model from April to June.
 - b. Add \$2.025 million for the Food Services workstream to support the remaining providers at the 75% level from April to June with the conditions that:
 - i. As a condition of the extensions of the contracts, providers will have clear metrics for signing up clients for CalFresh and WIC between January and June 30th to enable a more sustainable approach to meeting food needs; and
 - ii. City staff and providers will consult with County with regard to a shared responsibility for food provision, given the County’s role as subdivision of the State of California.
3. Allocate \$250,000 for leases of license-plate reading cameras (LPR’s), data storage, and software to enable SJPD to better deter and make arrests in armed “smash-mob” burglaries and robberies, auto thefts, and drive-by shootings, with the following restrictions:
 - a. LPR’s may only be utilized for investigation of felonies – not for misdemeanors, such as vehicle code violations.
 - b. No data nor images gathered from LPR’s may be shared with federal immigration authorities, nor used in the investigation of any matter related to immigration status of a San José resident.
 - c. Staff shall return to Council or the appropriate Council committee in the first quarter of next year to review City policies regarding the collection, use, and retention of LPR data, and to consider changes where appropriate.

BACKGROUND

With minor additions, we appreciate and agree with staff’s proposed amendments to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan to reflect expenditures necessary to keep our most essential programs afloat for residents. While we appeal the State’s initial determination regarding the characterization of certain tax revenues, it’s imperative to retain flexible ARPA dollars that could offset potential impacts to the General Fund.

With this memorandum, we propose modest increases to address four urgent issues: food insecurity, homelessness, blight, and crime. Our additional expenditure for food reflects the reality of the continuation of this pressing need in our community. The funding tapers downward, however, to reflect a dramatically improved job market relative to 2020 and the imperative that the County share in the responsibility for food provision required by this pandemic, with an expectation that food providers will transition to less costly delivery approaches as the pandemic gradually abates.

The SJ Bridge program provides transitional, living-wage jobs to members of our unhoused community who clean and beautify public spaces while receiving job training and housing. Our SJ Bridge partners have confirmed that they have the capacity to scale up from 100 to 150 participants by March 2022 with sufficient funding. The urgency of our homelessness crisis and the blighted condition of too many streets and public spaces merits this immediate investment.

Finally, at a time when many of our struggling retailers and other small businesses vitally depend on a strong holiday-season showing of customers, roving bands of armed robbers and burglars have disrupted livelihoods and peace of mind throughout California. This measure amounts to a long-overdue investment in LPR technology--in fact, one that repeats Council direction from years-old budget message that was never implemented by SJPD--to improve our ability to detect criminal activity and arrest perpetrators.

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.