

From: [Severino, Lori](#)
To: [Downtown West Project](#)
Cc: [Hill, Shannon](#); [Han, James](#); [Tu, John](#)
Subject: FW: Support Letter for Downtown West
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 8:17:07 AM
Attachments: [Support letter for Downtown West.docx](#)

From: Joshua DeVincenzi Melander [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 1:10 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Peralez, Raul <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>; Manford, Robert <Robert.Manford@sanjoseca.gov>; Severino, Lori <Lori.Severino@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Letter for Downtown West

[External Email]

Please see the attached support letter and development comments on behalf of Little Italy San Jose regarding the Downtown West Project.

Joshua DeVincenzi Melander
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President - Little Italy San Jose
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May 21, 2021

To City of San Jose City Council,

Little Italy San Jose would like to send a letter of support for the Downtown West Mixed Use plan. The opportunity to master plan an underutilized and underdeveloped section of San Jose that will become an extension of Downtown is a great opportunity for the City of San Jose, downtown businesses and stakeholders. Having Google as the partner to bring this to fruition will bring tremendous growth and cement San Jose as the Capital of Silicon Valley. Google has been a great partner thus far and is listening to concerns of affordable housing, social equity, historic preservation and the addition of public parks.

As President of Little Italy San Jose, we have been working with Ricardo and others in regards to preserving and moving the historic home and Poor House Bistro business to our Little Italy San Jose Cultural center site and appreciate the efforts and generosity of Google to save this historic building and we are embarking on substantial efforts to complete our construction of the Little Italy Museum & Cultural Center that will also feature this historic home as a new Venetian Carnevale/Mardi Gras Restaurant.

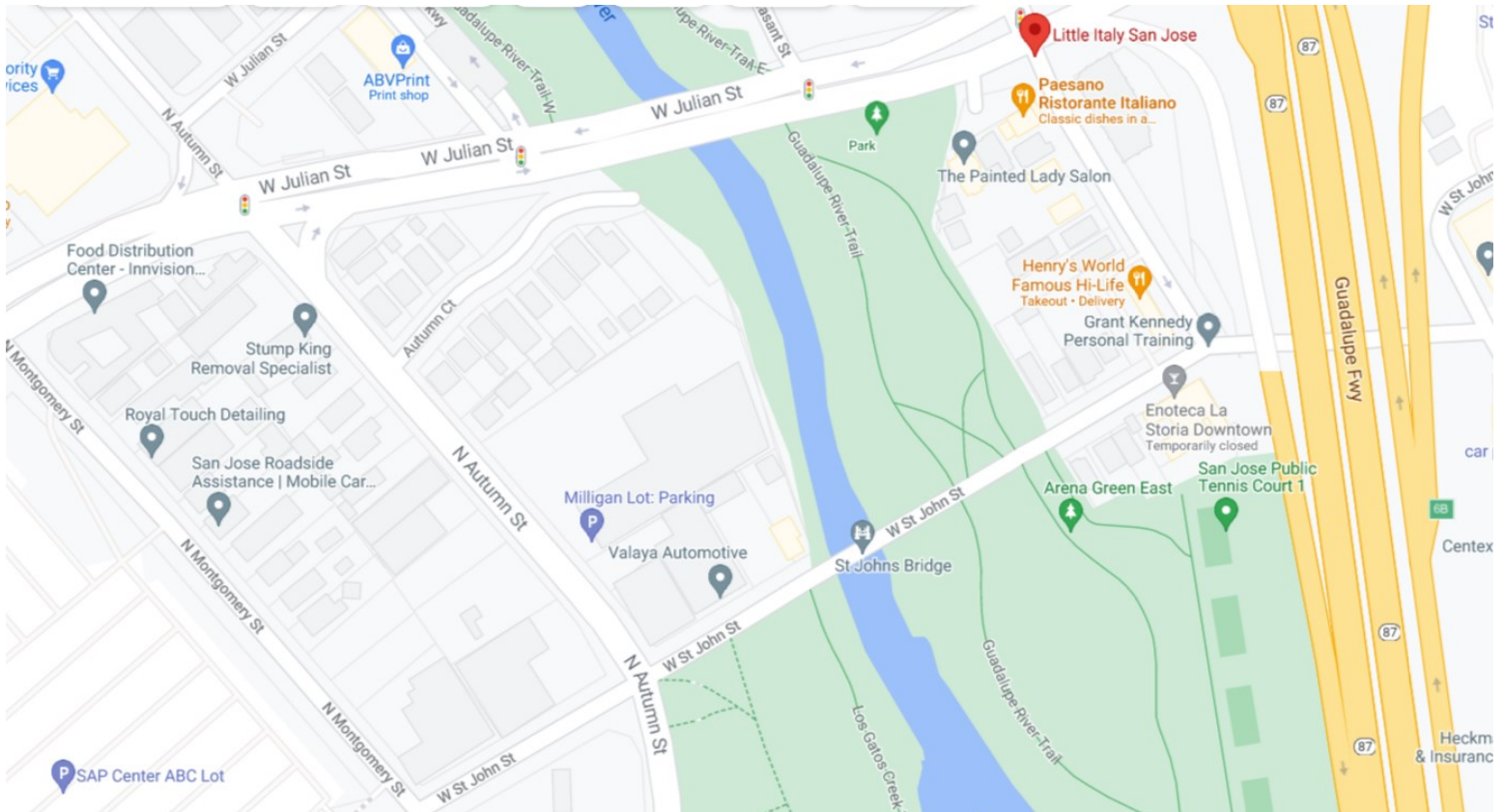
Our only constructive comment is to urge Google and City of San Jose staff to work with existing established districts in this area such as Little Italy San Jose. Doing so is an opportunity to build on the theme and efforts that have already been in place to place mark an area and create housing and commercial opportunities/public spaces that fit into that particular theme.

In particular any properties owned by Google or the City of San Jose between Julian street and Santa Clara street and crossing N. Montgomery, Autumn and Autumn Court are an opportunity to expand on the footprint of Little Italy San Jose and create viable commercial, housing and office use developments that can be master planned with the support of Little Italy San Jose, GRPG and the SAP center.

We know there are numerous project in the works in this project area and hope this area could be officially considered as "Little Italy" instead of expansion of homeless program projects and affordable housing. Italian Banquet hall at Forman's Gym/Valaya Racing on Autumn/Saint John, Italian American Senior Housing/Italian Restaurant mix use, Bocce courts in the Guadalupe Park and a 2nd Gateway arch are all concepts we hope could be explored.



Here is a map of the area that we hope could be considered “Little Italy San Jose” in our continued efforts to make this area a destination for the City of San Jose and tourists to our City. We understand there are many other stakeholders and projects such as the Autumn Street connection and potential parking garage to consider, and we also ask that you think of Little Italy. This can only happen with the support of the City of San Jose and Google as the primary land owners of all the properties in this potential expansion.



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