

**From:** [Katrina Stevens](#)  
**To:** [The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo](#); [District1](#); [District2](#); [District4](#); [District5](#); [District 6](#); [District7](#); [District8](#); [District9](#); [District 10](#); [City Clerk](#); [District3](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on agenda item 10.2 at May 25 City Council meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 6:14:13 PM

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Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and members of the City Council,

I am writing to encourage the City Council to approve the proposed development agreement for Downtown West at next week's meeting.

As president and CEO of The Tech Interactive, one of my highest priorities is to ensure that meaningful educational opportunities — the kind that spark imaginations and open doors to viable career paths — are available to all in our community. I am certain Google's presence in downtown San Jose will help expand these kinds of opportunities.

Google has listened carefully to San Jose residents and as a result has a deep understanding of their needs. The company's plan for a \$200 million community benefit fund demonstrates its expansive and modern view of corporate citizenship; this type of forward-looking public-private partnership is essential to the future of San Jose.

Too many young people in Silicon Valley graduate high school without the skills and mindsets needed to go to college and, ultimately, join the tech workforce that drives so much economic opportunity. This is damaging, and not just to these students' individual prospects: The tech industry can't develop solutions that work for all without a diverse workforce. The Google community fund can help expand pathways to career success for our most under-served students while helping ensure Silicon Valley companies have the workers they need.

I also believe the Downtown West development will add vibrancy to our city while bringing new visitors to San Jose — and to The Tech Interactive. Over the long term, this will improve our financial viability and, in turn, support our mission to inspire the innovator in everyone.

Google's commitment to our community is not new. The company has a long history of partnering with us to develop and deliver impactful programs, including \$2 million in cash and in-kind support over the years for programs like The Tech Challenge, The Tech Awards, and field trips for Title I schools. I look forward to continuing to work with Google's leaders to create even more educational opportunities for San Jose's young people.

For all these reasons and more, I urge you to approve the Downtown West development

agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Katrina Stevens

**Katrina Stevens**  
President and CEO

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