

SAN JOSE CONSERVATION CORPS + CHARTER SCHOOL

Board Officers

President

Sandra Murillo
Retired - COO
Housing Trust Silicon Valley

Vice President

Liz Hunt
Asian Americans for Community
Involvement

Treasurer

Leslie Brown
Manager Customer Care
Peninsula Clean Energy

Secretary

Fidel Gonzalez
SJCC&CS Alumnus &
Valley Water

Past President

Hamid Saadat
Founder & Chairman
CSIX Connect

Board Members

Mahmood A. Khan
President - G-ESI

Steve Lopes

President
Western States Oil Company

John Medina

Project Superintendent
Devcon Construction

Jim Stoch

Independent Consultant

Ramon Zaragoza

Sr. Mechanical Engineer
Applied Materials

Chris Cruz

Park Management Program
Director
West Valley College

Brenda Burks-Herrmann

Retired – District Director
California Conservation Corps

Dorsey Moore

Executive Director/CEO

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Chavez
President, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

RE: Support of Zoning Ordinance Amendments for Portable Dwelling Units

Dear President Chavez:

San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School (SJCC+CS) has been serving transition-age youth for over 30 years, providing job training and high school diplomas. SJCC+CS has dedicated their efforts to supporting these young adults emotionally, as well as treating them as family, by helping them turn their lives around and become healthy and productive men and women.

The program provides professional development as well as training in the trades of conservation and construction, giving them a sense of pride in who they become and the skills they gain to earn beyond a living wage in Silicon Valley.

However, the housing crisis has hit home, and more than a third of the students are housing insecure or homeless, which adversely impacts their ability to successfully complete the program. Transitional housing has been heavily impacted, and permanent affordable housing cannot be built fast enough. In order to rapidly house students and stem chronic homelessness, SJCC+CS has been forced to develop its own solution.

SJCC+CS has developed a job training-housing model where students learn to build **portable dwelling units** (PDUs) (aka tiny homes on wheels or movable tiny homes), where they can live while attending the program. SJCC+CS would lease backyards of single-family homes and homeowners would receive rental income—ideally the homeowners will be low-income or seniors on a fixed income.

However, the program cannot be implemented without the proper zoning to allow the PDUs to be placed in backyards. Portable dwelling units have been incorporated into the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) zoning ordinance as movable tiny homes and has been approved by the Planning Commission. The zoning amendment will be brought forward to the Board of Supervisors on **Tuesday, February 11th** and we urge you to consider and approve the changes.

The ability for SJCC+CS to provide transitional housing to our students, which is the fastest growing population of homeless, will help stabilize their lives and enable them to study and gain marketable job skills in the trades—all of which is a win for our community!

Sincerely,



Dorsey Moore

Executive Director/CEO, San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School
408-439-6653; dmoores@sjcccs.org



CHANGING LIVES
EDUCATING THE WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE

San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School
1560 Berger Drive, San Jose, CA 95112 Main Phone: 408-283-7171
www.sjcccs.org 501(c)(3) Federal Tax ID: 77-0155997

