

February 11, 2020

**RE: Item 12 Consider recommendations relating to the Children, Seniors, and Families
Committee Special Hearing on Child Sexual Abuse held on November 20, 2019**

Dear Santa Clara County Executive Jeffrey V. Smith and Board of Supervisors,

We would like to respectfully request your support for Supervisors Cindy Chavez and Dave Cortese's Board Referral 100307 recommendations to implement solutions to address the system improvements necessary to protect our most vulnerable community members, our children, from child sexual abuse and ensure access to comprehensive victim services.

Councilmember Arenas championed the effort to addressing the rise in sexual assaults in San José alongside Councilmembers Magdalena Carrasco, Dev Davis, Maya Esparza, and Pam Foley by agendizing a series of public hearings. The City of San José worked with the Santa Clara County Children, Seniors, and Families Committee to engage community experts at the Joint Special Hearing on Sexual Assault in April 2019 and the Special Hearing on Child Sexual Abuse in November 2019. In addition, during the City of San José's previous Special Meeting on Sexual Assaults held on November 12, 2019, we learned that the largest number of sexual assault victims were children under the age of 12 and that child sexual abuse is a crime of opportunity.

The City of San José is working to formalize a sexual assault working group between the City Administration and the County Executive, as well as any other relevant agencies to create a regional response that will disrupt the rise of sexual assaults and cease these opportunities for child sexual assault crimes. We are in support of Supervisor Chavez and Cortese's Board Referral to establish the Child Advocacy Center in Santa Clara County by December 2020, establish best practices for evaluation and provision of services for victims of child sexual abuse, and identify and close gaps in victim services and mandated reporting in Santa Clara County.


Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Councilmember Sylvia Arenas


Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco


Councilmember Dev Davis


Councilmember Maya Esparza


Councilmember Pam Foley

Considered: 02/11/2020