



# **CITY CHARTER**

Adopted in 1965 and  
as Amended by Voters through November 2022

Updated July 2024

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## **ARTICLE I INCORPORATION AND SUCCESSION**

### **SECTION 100. Name.**

The City of San José, in the County of Santa Clara, State of California, shall continue to be a municipal corporation under its present name of “City of San José.”

### **SECTION 101. Boundaries.**

The boundaries of the City of San José shall continue as now established until changed in the manner authorized by law.

### **SECTION 102. Succession, Rights, Powers and Liabilities.**

The City of San José shall remain vested with and shall continue to own, have, possess, control and enjoy all property, rights of property and rights of action of every nature and description (including but not limited to all pueblo lands and pueblo rights) owned, had, possessed, controlled or enjoyed by it at the time this Charter takes effect, and is hereby declared to be the successor of the same. It shall be subject to all debts, obligations and liabilities which exist against the municipality at the time this Charter takes effect.

## **ARTICLE II POWERS OF THE CITY**

### **SECTION 200. General Powers.**

The City of San José shall have the power to make and enforce all laws and regulations in respect to municipal affairs, subject only to such restrictions and limitations as may be provided in this Charter and in the Constitution of the State of California. The City shall also have all other rights, powers and privileges which are not prohibited by, or in conflict with, the State Constitution or the Charter and which it would be proper to specifically set forth in this Charter even though such are not herein set forth. It shall also have the power to exercise and all rights, powers and privileges heretofore or hereafter established, granted or prescribed by any law of the State, by this Charter or by other lawful authority, or which a municipal corporation might or could exercise under the Constitution and laws of the State of California.

The enumeration or specification in this Charter of any particular power shall not be held to be exclusive of or any limitation upon the generality of the foregoing provisions.

## **SECTION 201. Special Powers.**

The City shall have the following special power: To acquire any property outside the City limits by eminent domain, or otherwise, for municipal purposes.

## **SECTION 202. Procedures.**

The City shall have the power to act and may act pursuant to any procedure established by any law of the State, unless a different procedure is established by this Charter or by ordinance.

## **SECTION 203. Continuity of Government in Event of Disaster.**

In order to provide for continuity of City government during any emergency resulting from war, enemy-caused calamity or other disasters of whatever nature, and in order to otherwise handle any such emergency, the Council is hereby empowered, anything elsewhere in this Charter to the contrary notwithstanding, to:

- (a) Provide for the appointment or designation of persons to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of any City offices, whether elective or appointive, during any such emergency, in the event the regularly elected or appointed incumbents of said offices are killed, missing, disabled or for some other cause unable or unavailable to perform the functions and duties of their respective offices, until said incumbent officers perform or resume performance of their functions and duties or until, where an actual vacancy exists, a successor is elected or appointed, pursuant to other provisions of this Charter, to fill such vacancy;
- (b) Provide for the preservation of essential records needed to protect the rights of individuals and to conduct emergency operations;
- (c) Provide for the establishment of emergency locations for City government so that the City could continue to operate;
- (d) Provide for the formulation of plans to use all personnel, facilities and equipment of government for emergency actions;
- (e) Do such other things as may be authorized by the laws of the State of California for such purposes.

## **SECTION 204. City Government - Ethics.**

The citizens of San José expect and must receive the highest standard of ethics from all those in the public service. City officers and employees must be independent, impartial and responsible in the performance of their duties and accountable to the members of the public.

*Added at election November 6, 1990*

## **ARTICLE III FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

### **SECTION 300. Form of Government.**

The municipal government established by this Charter shall be known as the “Council-Manager” form of government.

## **ARTICLE IV THE COUNCIL**

### **SECTION 400. Powers Vested in Council.**

All powers of the City and the determination of all matters of policy shall be vested in the Council, subject to the provisions of this Charter and the Constitution of the State of California.

### **SECTION 401. Composition of Council.**

The composition of the Council shall be as follows:

- (a) **NUMBER OF MEMBERS.** The Council shall consist of eleven (11) members, one of whom shall be the Mayor, each of whom shall have the right to vote on all matters coming before the Council.
- (b) **DISTRICTS.** Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter and excepting the Mayor who shall be elected at a Regular Municipal Election from the City at large, each member of the Council shall be elected at a Regular Municipal Election by one of ten (10) Districts designated by number within the City. The term “by Districts” shall mean the election of eligible persons, as defined in Section 404, to the office of member of the Council by the voters of each District alone.

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

### **SECTION 402. Mayor and Council Member Term Limits.**

The regular term of office of each member of the Council shall be four (4) years. The Mayor and Council members shall be subject to the following term limits:

- (a) **MAYOR.** No person who has been elected to the office of Mayor for two (2) successive four-year terms shall be eligible to run for election to the office of Mayor, nor to serve as such, for any additional successive term; but the above shall not disqualify any person from running for election to the office of Mayor, nor from further service as Mayor, for any term or terms which are not successive; nor for any parts of terms which are not

successive. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Charter, to transition the election of the office of Mayor to the same year as the presidential election beginning in 2024, the term for the office of Mayor beginning on January 1, 2023 shall be for two (2) years concluding on December 31, 2024. However, the person holding the office of Mayor as the incumbent for this two-year term will be eligible to run for election to the office of Mayor and serve as such for two (2) additional successive four-year terms.

- (b) COUNCIL MEMBER. No person who has been elected to the City Council as a Council member in any Council District in the City for two (2) successive four-year terms, after the effective date of this Section, shall be eligible to run for election as a member of the Council in any Council District, nor appointed to serve as a Council member for any additional successive term. Any person appointed or elected to the City Council as a City Council member to fill an unexpired term of two years or less in length shall be eligible to serve two successive four-year terms upon the expiration of the unexpired term for which that person was appointed or elected. Any person appointed or elected to the City Council as a City Council member to fill an unexpired term of more than two years in length shall only be eligible to serve one successive four-year term. The above shall not disqualify any person from running for election to the Office of Mayor or for any term or terms which are not successive. The effective date of this Section shall be January 1, 1991.

*Amended at election June 2, 1970*

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election November 6, 1990*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

*Amended at election June 7, 2022*

### **SECTION 403. Elections by Districts.**

For the purpose of electing members of the Council, excepting the Mayor, the City shall be divided into ten (10) numbered Districts as nearly equal in population as practicable. The boundaries of the ten Districts shall be established initially by reference to that certain map of the City of San José, entitled “Election Districts of the City of San José”, filed and displayed in the office of the City Clerk, and drafted according to data contained in the official census of the City as taken in 1975 and certified by the City Clerk. Thereafter the boundaries of such Districts shall be subject to alteration and change under the provisions of this Section.

Following the taking of each federal decennial census, commencing with the 1980 federal decennial census, the Council shall, by ordinance, redistrict the City into ten (10) numbered Districts. If time permits, such ordinance shall be enacted no earlier than three (3) months and no later than eight (8) months following receipt by the City Clerk of data containing an enumeration of population by blocks derived from such census. In no event shall such ordinance be enacted later than October 31 in the year following the decennial census. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Council may enact an ordinance to adjust the deadline to

enact the redistricting ordinance if the results of the federal decennial census are not delivered to the States by April 1 in the year following such census.

The redistricting ordinance shall be adopted according to the provisions of Article VI, Section 604 of this Charter and shall become effective at the expiration of thirty (30) days after adoption of the ordinance; provided, however, that if the redistricting ordinance becomes effective on or after the first day on which nomination papers may be filed for an election to the office of member of the Council, excepting the Mayor, then the ordinance shall not apply, or be deemed to apply, to that election or to the person elected to the office of member at such election.

By no later than February 1 in the year following the decennial census, the Council shall appoint an Advisory Commission whose purpose shall be to study and make appropriate recommendations with respect to such redistricting. This Advisory Commission shall consist of one (1) member from each District, who shall be appointed by the Council member from that District, and a Chairperson chosen from the City at large, who shall be appointed by the Mayor. The membership of the Commission shall be representative of the ethnic make-up of the City at large, to the extent practicable.

The Advisory Commission shall conduct at least three public hearings, at various locations in the City, concerning its recommendations regarding District boundaries, and shall submit its report and recommendations to the Council within the time prescribed by the Council. If the Council fails to prescribe a time, the Advisory Commission shall submit its report and recommendations to the Council within one hundred twenty (120) days following its appointment.

The Council shall duly consider the report and recommendations of the Advisory Commission and in adopting any redistricting ordinance. However, the Council is required to adopt an ordinance within the period of time required under this Section even if the Advisory Commission fails to provide recommendations or reports as specified in this Section.

Except as provided hereinabove, such Districts shall be used for all elections of members of the Council, including their recall, and for filling any vacancy in the office of member of the Council, subsequent to the effective date of such ordinance and until new Districts are established.

Any territory which is annexed to or consolidated with the City but not included within a District shall, prior to or concurrently with completion of the proceedings therefor, be added to an adjacent District or Districts by the Council by ordinance, which shall become effective at the expiration of thirty (30) days after adoption and shall apply to all elections held on and after its effective date.

Any ordinance adopted by the Council and establishing, changing, or altering the boundaries of any District shall describe the new boundaries by reference to a map on file in the office of the City Clerk and/or by a metes-and-bounds description.

In any redistricting, the Council shall make the Districts as nearly equal in population as may be practicable, and may, in establishing the boundaries of the Districts, give consideration to (a) natural boundaries, street lines and/or City boundaries; (b) geography; (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory; and (d) community of interests within each District.

Upon any redistricting pursuant to the provisions of this Charter, each incumbent member of the Council will continue, during the remainder of the member's term, to hold office and to represent the District by which the member was elected prior to such redistricting, notwithstanding any provision of Section 404 requiring a member to be a resident of the District represented by such member.

*Amended at election June 2, 1970*

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election November 6, 1990*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 3, 2020*

#### **SECTION 404. Eligibility.**

A person shall not be eligible to take office as a member of the Council, including Mayor, unless the person satisfies all of the following conditions:

- (a) The person must have been a citizen of the United States for at least one year immediately preceding the commencement of the term for which the person is elected or the date upon which the person is appointed.
- (b) The person must have been a resident of the City of San José and, excepting the Mayor, of the District represented by the person as member, for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the last day specified by law for the filing of nomination papers with the City Clerk for such office or, if appointed, preceding the date of the person's appointment to fill a vacancy.
- (c) If elected to office at a Regular Municipal Election, the person must have been a registered elector of the City of San José on the last day specified by law for the filing of nomination papers with the City Clerk for such office.
- (d) If appointed to such office, the person must have been a registered elector of the City of San José at the time of the person's appointment.

A person shall not be eligible to be a candidate at any election for any Council office, if the person would not be eligible under the above provisions of this Section to take office if elected. Any determination as to whether a person has met the eligibility requirements shall be made at the time the nomination papers are filed and at the time of taking office.



The incumbent must, at all times, during the term of office continue being:

- (a) a citizen of the United States;
  - (b) a resident of the City of San José and, except as provided in Section 403, of the District which they represent; and
  - (c) a registered elector of the City.
- Amended at election June 2, 1970*  
*Amended at election November 7, 1978*  
*Amended at election November 8, 1994*  
*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

#### **SECTION 405. Judge of Qualifications.**

The Council shall be the judge of the election and qualification of its members, including the Mayor, and of any other elective officer, and of the grounds for forfeiture or loss of their respective offices, and for that purpose shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of evidence. A member, or the Mayor, or the holder of any other elective office, charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture or loss of their office shall be given, if they so demand, an opportunity to be heard in their own defense at a public hearing after reasonable notice to such members.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*  
*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

#### **SECTION 406. Holding Other Office.**

Except as authorized by this Charter, no member of the Council shall hold any other City office or City employment, other than Mayor, during the term for which they were elected to the Council; provided and excepting, however, that a member of the Council may become a member of any advisory, administrative or governing body of any special purpose district, entity, organization or committee when such is authorized by State law or where the offices are not incompatible.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*  
*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

#### **SECTION 407. The Council; Salary.**

Each member of the Council, including the Mayor, shall be paid a salary for their services as a member of the Council, which shall be established in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth in this Section. No salary shall be established for any member of the Council, including the Mayor, except as provided in this Section.

- (a) Between March 1st and April 30th commencing in 2019, and every five (5) years thereafter, the Salary Setting Commission shall set the amount of base salary which it deems appropriate for the members of the Council, including the Mayor, commencing July 1 of that year. The amount set for each member of the Council shall be the same, except that the amount set for the Mayor may exceed that of the other members of the Council. The base salary shall be in an amount which takes into account the full time nature of the office and which is commensurate with salaries then being paid for other public or private positions having similar full time duties, responsibilities and obligations.

No determination of base salary amounts shall be made except upon the affirmative vote of three (3) members of the Commission. Failure of the Commission to make a determination of salary amounts in any year within the time prescribed shall be deemed to mean that no change to the base salary be made.

- (b) The Salary Setting Commission's determination of the Mayor and Council base salaries, together with the reasons therefor, shall be made in writing and submitted to the City Manager no later than May 1, so that funds can be budgeted and appropriated for that purpose. Before it submits any such determination to the City Manager, the Commission shall conduct at least one public hearing on the matter. When such a determination has been submitted to the City Manager, it shall not thereafter be amended by the Commission.
- (c) Commencing July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter in years in which there are no base salaries set by the Salary Setting Commission under Section 407(a), in order to provide a cost of living adjustment, the base salaries of the Council and Mayor shall increase by a percentage equal to the percentage increase of the preceding calendar year's annual average of the Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U), or successor index, for San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, as determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In no event shall the CPI-U salary increase exceed 5% per year.
- (d) The Council may, at any time, by ordinance, reduce the salaries of the members of the Council, including the Mayor. In any salary reducing ordinance adopted hereunder, the salaries for each member of the Council shall be the same, except that the salary of the Mayor may exceed that of the other members of the Council.
- (e) For each member of the Council, except the Mayor, a sum, as established by the Salary Setting Commission, shall be deducted from the salary of such member for each regular meeting of the Council, other than regular adjourned meetings, which they fail to attend in each such calendar month; provided, however, that such deduction shall not be made for their failure to attend any meeting during which they are away on authorized City business, or from which they are absent because of their own illness or the illness or death of a close

family member. No deduction shall be made from the Salary of the Mayor because of their failure to attend any Council meeting.

*Amended at election June 7, 1966*

*Amended at election June 5, 1973*

*Amended at election November 4, 1980*

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 6, 2018*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 408. Reimbursement.**

The members of the Council and the Mayor shall receive reimbursement, if and to the extent such is authorized by the Council, for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties or functions of office.

## **SECTION 409. When Office Becomes Vacant.**

The office of a member of the Council or of the Mayor becomes vacant on the happening of any of the following events before the expiration of such officer's term:

- (a) The death of the incumbent;
- (b) Insanity of the incumbent, when determined by a final judgment or final order of a court of competent jurisdiction;
- (c) Resignation of the incumbent;
- (d) The incumbent ceases to satisfy any requirements for retention of their office which are set forth elsewhere in this Charter;
- (e) Removal of the incumbent from office;
- (f) Absence of the incumbent from the State of California for more than sixty (60) days, unless either upon business of the City or with the consent of the Council. In the case of illness or other urgent necessity, and upon a proper showing thereof, the time limited for absence from the State shall be extended by the Council;
- (g) The incumbent ceases to discharge the duties of their office for a period of three (3) consecutive months except when prevented by sickness or when absent from the State with permission required by this Charter;
- (h) The incumbent being convicted of a felony or of any offense involving a violation of their official duties;

- (i) The refusal or neglect of the incumbent to file their official oath or bond, if such is required by law, within the time prescribed by law;
- (j) The decision of a competent tribunal declaring void the incumbent's election or appointment;
- (k) The making of an order vacating the incumbent's office or declaring their office vacant when the incumbent fails to furnish an additional or supplemental bond if such is required of the incumbent by law;
- (l) The commitment of the incumbent to a hospital or sanitarium, by a court of competent jurisdiction, as a drug addict, dipsomaniac, inebriate, or stimulant addict; but in such event the office shall not be deemed vacant until the order of commitment has become final;
- (m) The incumbent's absence from five (5) consecutive regular meetings of the Council, unless excused by written resolution of the Council. No such excuse shall operate retroactively. No resolution shall excuse an incumbent's absence from more than five (5) consecutive regular meetings immediately following the date of adoption of such resolution although additional resolutions may be adopted excusing an incumbent's absence from not more than five (5) additional regular meetings immediately following the date of each such resolution. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings from which an incumbent has been absent shall not be deemed consecutive if separated by one or more regular meetings at which such incumbent has been present or their absence from which has been excused by the Council. Also, for purposes of this subsection, "regular meetings" shall not be deemed to mean or include "regular adjourned meetings", "special meetings", or any committee meetings.

*Amended at election June 2, 1970*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

#### **SECTION 410. Filling of Vacancies.**

If, for any reason, a vacancy, as defined by Charter Section 409, occurs in the office of Mayor or Council member, the Council shall either fill the vacancy by appointment by a majority of its remaining members, or call an election for the purpose of filling such vacancy.

- (a) **APPOINTMENT.** If the vacancy is filled by appointment, the appointment shall be effective until the end of the unexpired term of office or January 1st following the next Regular Municipal Election after the appointment, which ever first occurs.

- (b) ELECTION. If the vacancy is to be filled by election, the election will be for the entire unexpired term of the office. The election will either be conducted at a Regular Municipal Election, a General Election or at a Special Municipal Election, as determined by the Council. The election will be conducted in accordance with Section 1600.
- (c) INTERIM APPOINTMENT. If a vacant office is to be filled by election, the Council may make an interim appointment to fill the office until a candidate has been duly elected and the results of the election have been officially certified. A person who is appointed during the interim period shall meet the eligibility requirements to hold office under Section 404 of this Charter.
- (d) ADVANCE REPLACEMENT. When a vacancy is, for any reason, anticipated in advance of its actual occurrence, the Council may initiate the appointment or election process in anticipation of the vacancy. The member who will be vacating the position may participate in the process.
- (e) NO REMAINING MEMBERS. If the offices of all of the Council members and also of the Mayor should become vacant and no member of the Council remains to fill any vacancies, the City Clerk shall call and conduct a Special Municipal Election, as soon as reasonably possible, to fill such offices for the remainder of the unexpired terms.
- (f) ELECTION DATES. All dates for elections to fill vacancies shall be set by resolution.
- (g) ELECTION IN 1994. The election held on November 8, 1994 to fill a vacancy effective January 1, 1995 in Council District 7 shall be deemed to be an election pursuant to this Section. The person so elected shall serve for the full term of that office.

*Amended at election June 6, 1967*

*Amended at election June 6, 1972*

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

#### **SECTION 411. The Council; Interference With Administrative Matters.**

Neither the Council nor any of its members nor the Mayor shall interfere with the execution by the City Manager of their powers and duties, nor in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any City officers or employees whom the City Manager is empowered to appoint except as expressly provided in Section 411.1. However, the Council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the City Manager anything pertaining to the appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under Section 416, the Council, its members and the Mayor shall deal with City officers and employees who are subject to the

direction and supervision of the City Manager, City Attorney, City Auditor, Independent Police Auditor or City Clerk, solely through the City Manager, City Attorney, City Auditor, Independent Police Auditor or City Clerk, respectively, and neither the Council nor its members nor the Mayor shall give orders to any subordinate officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 3, 1992*

*Amended at election November 5, 1996*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 411.1 Department Heads; Policy Objectives; Consent to Hire.**

- (a) The Council shall adopt a written Statement of Policy for each City Department which is under the administration of the City Manager. Said Statement of Policy shall set forth the broad goals, objectives and aspirations to be accomplished by that Department.
- (b) When the position of head of each Department becomes vacant, the Council shall review and, if necessary, amend the previously approved Statement of Policy. The Council also shall adopt a set of questions which are intended to elicit responses from each prospective appointee concerning the goals, objectives and aspirations in the Statement of Policy.

For purposes of this section, the term “department” shall mean any department specified in Charter Section 807 as well as any department created by ordinance pursuant to Charter Section 800.

Prior to appointing any Department head, the City Manager shall submit to the Council, for its review, the responses to the Council’s questions submitted by the proposed appointee, and shall seek the Council’s advice and consent. The appointment shall be made only if the Council, by the affirmative vote of a majority of its members, advises the City Manager that it concurs with the proposed appointment. This section shall not apply to the appointment of any “acting” department head to serve in an interim capacity.

*Added at election November 4, 1986*

## **SECTION 412. Meetings of the Council.**

The Council shall provide, by ordinance or resolution, not inconsistent with other provisions of this Section, for the time, place, and manner of holding its meetings. Copies of such ordinances or resolutions shall be kept on file in the office of the City Clerk where they shall be available for public inspection. To the extent that they are not inconsistent with other sections of this Charter, the provisions of Chapter 9 of Part I of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended, insofar as they relate to the right of the public to attend meetings of the Council, the adjournment of regular or adjourned regular meetings, the calling of special meetings and the holding of executive sessions, shall

govern meetings of the Council. No business shall be considered at any special meeting other than such as is specified in the notice of such meeting.

#### **SECTION 413. Citizen Participation.**

Within the established rules for the conduct of its official proceedings, no person shall be denied the right personally, or through authorized representatives, to present grievances or offer suggestions for the betterment of municipal affairs at any regular meeting of the Council.

#### **SECTION 414. Quorum.**

Except as otherwise specifically provided elsewhere in this Charter, a majority of the entire membership of the Council shall be necessary to constitute a quorum to do business, but a lesser number may adjourn from time to time.

#### **SECTION 415. Rules and Procedure.**

The Council shall establish rules for the conduct of its proceedings, and to preserve order at its meetings. It shall cause a record of its meetings to be maintained and this record shall be open to public inspection.

#### **SECTION 416. Investigations.**

The Council may make investigations into the affairs of the City and the conduct of any City department, office, or agency, and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence. Disobedience of any subpoena or the refusal to testify upon other than constitutional grounds shall be punishable by contempt proceedings.

## **ARTICLE V THE MAYOR**

#### **SECTION 500. Mayor.**

There shall be a Mayor of the City of San José, elected at large, who shall be the eleventh member of the Council. Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in the Charter, the Mayor shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast citywide at a Regular Municipal Election, for a term of four (4) years from and after the first day of January following the year of the election. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Charter, to transition the election of the office of Mayor to the same year as the presidential election beginning in 2024, the term for the office of Mayor beginning on January 1, 2023 shall be for two (2) years concluding on December 31, 2024. However, the person holding the office of Mayor as the incumbent for

this two-year term will be eligible to run for election to the office of Mayor and serve as such for two (2) additional successive four-year terms.

The office of each member of the Council, including the office of the member who is Mayor, is a separate office to be separately filled. Any incumbent member of the Council may run for the seat of Mayor, and the Mayor may run for the seat of Mayor or for any other seat on the Council for which the Mayor is otherwise eligible; however, no member of the Council shall hold more than one seat, and no person may be a candidate for more than one seat.

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

*Amended at election June 7, 2022*

## **SECTION 501. Political Position.**

It is the intent of this Article that the Mayor shall be the political leader within the community by providing guidance and leadership to the Council, by expressing and explaining to the community the City's policies and programs and by assisting the Council in the informed, vigorous and effective exercise of its powers. Political leadership shall be concerned with the general development of the community and the general level of City services and activity programs.

## **SECTION 502. The Mayor; Powers and Duties.**

The Mayor shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) The Mayor shall have the power to make recommendations to the Council on matters of policy and program which require Council decision.
- (b) Not less than annually, the Mayor shall address the citizens of the City concerning the current status of City affairs and articulating the policy plans which the Mayor proposes for the City during the ensuing year.
- (c) In addition, the Mayor, at other times during the year, may inform the citizens concerning any matters of policy or program which the Mayor believes are for the welfare of the community.
- (d) If the Mayor recommends any increases in the City budget, the Mayor shall recommend the method of financing such expenditures. If the Mayor proposes the curtailment of any service, the Mayor shall provide specific recommendations and the reasons for the proposal.
- (e) The Mayor shall preside at meetings of the Council and shall have a vote as a member of the Council. The Mayor shall have no veto powers;



- (f) The Mayor shall have authority to preserve order at all Council meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any meeting of the Council for disorderly conduct, to enforce the rules of the Council and to determine the order of business under the rules of the Council;
- (g) The Mayor shall have the power to direct and supervise the Public Information Office of the City.
- (h) The Mayor shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council, provided the same are not inconsistent with this Charter.

Nothing in this Section shall be construed in any way as an infringement or limitation on the powers and duties of the City Manager as Chief Administrative Officer and head of the administrative branch of the City government as prescribed in other sections of this Charter. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, the Mayor shall possess only such authority over the City Manager and the administrative branch as they possess as one member of the Council.

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 503. Vice-Mayor.**

At the second meeting of the Council following the end of each even-numbered year within which a Regular Municipal Election is required to be held, the Council shall elect one of its members as Vice-Mayor who, until a person is appointed to succeed them, or until their office otherwise becomes vacant, shall serve as Vice-Mayor during the temporary absence or inability of the Mayor to discharge the duties of their office.

In case of the temporary absence or disability of both the Mayor and Vice-Mayor, the Council shall elect one of its members to act as Mayor Pro Tempore.

*Amended at election June 6, 1972*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 504. Vacancy.**

The office of Mayor shall become and be deemed vacant immediately upon the incumbent's ceasing to be a member of the Council.

## **ARTICLE VI LEGISLATION**

### **SECTION 600. Council Action; Method.**

The Council shall act only by ordinance, by resolution or by motion made, seconded and adopted. The vote on all ordinances, resolutions and motions shall be by “ayes” and “noes.” The individual vote of each member of the Council shall be entered in the minutes of the Council, except that where a vote is unanimous, it may be so recorded. Upon request of any member, a roll-call vote shall be taken and recorded on any vote. Whenever a roll-call vote of the Council is in order, the City Clerk shall call the names of members in alphabetical order except that the name of the presiding officer shall be called last. All members present shall be required to vote unless disqualified from doing so by law. All written ordinances and resolutions shall be signed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk.

### **SECTION 601. Council Action, Vote Required.**

Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, no ordinance, resolution or motion shall be passed, adopted, or become effective unless it receives the affirmative vote of at least either (a) four (4) members of the Council, if the vote is taken on or before December 31, 1980; or (b) six (6) members of the Council, if the vote is taken on or after January 1, 1981.

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

### **SECTION 602. Ordinances, When Required.**

The following acts of the Council shall be by ordinance:

- (a) Those acts required by specific provision of this Charter to be by ordinance;
- (b) Each act the violation of which will constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or other penalty;
- (c) Each act imposing a new or additional tax, other than the annual property tax;
- (d) Each act granting a franchise.

### **SECTION 603. Ordinances, Requisites of.**

Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing. The enacting clause shall be “Be it Ordained by the Council of the City of San José”. Each ordinance shall contain a title which shall state in general terms the subject or subjects contained in the ordinance. No section of

any ordinance or of any code shall be amended unless the whole section to be amended is set forth as amended.

#### **SECTION 604. Ordinances, Procedure for Adoption.**

Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, and with the exception of ordinances which take effect immediately upon adoption, hereinafter referred to in this Article, no ordinance shall be adopted unless (a) it is first passed for publication of title, (b) the title of the ordinance is published as hereinafter provided in this Section, and (c) at least six (6) days have elapsed between the date it was passed for publication of title and the date it is adopted.

The title of an ordinance shall be deemed to have been “published”, as said term is hereinabove used in this Section if such title is printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the City no later than the third day immediately preceding the date of its adoption. No part of any ordinance, or proposed ordinance, other than its title, need be published.

Ordinances which take effect immediately upon adoption, hereinafter referred to in this Article, may be adopted without compliance with the above provisions of this Section.

*Amended at election June 2, 1970*

#### **SECTION 605. Ordinances; Effective Date.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, each adopted ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of thirty (30) days after adoption or at any later date specified therein.

The following ordinances shall take effect immediately upon adoption:

- (a) An ordinance calling for or otherwise relating to an election;
- (b) An ordinance declaring the amount of money necessary to be raised by taxation, or fixing a rate of ad valorem taxation or levying the annual tax on property;
- (c) An ordinance providing for a tax levy or appropriation for the usual current expenses of the City;
- (d) An ordinance adopted as and declared by the Council to be an urgency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, containing a statement of the facts constituting such urgency, if adopted by the affirmative vote of at least five (5) members of the Council if the vote occurs on or before December 31, 1980 or by not less than eight (8) members of the Council if the vote occurs on or after January 1, 1981;
- (e) An ordinance relating to a bond issue;
- (f) An ordinance adopted pursuant to a State law by virtue of which such ordinance shall be effective immediately.

Nothing contained in this Section shall be deemed to require an ordinance when an ordinance is not otherwise required.

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

#### **SECTION 606. Codification.**

To the extent that it has not already so done, the Council shall cause to be codified all general ordinances in force, and cause the same to be printed in book, pamphlet or loose-leaf form for the use of the City, its officers and the public.

#### **SECTION 607. Code of Ethics.**

The Mayor and City Council shall adopt and maintain a Code of Ethics to provide guidance to City officers and employees in their conduct while discharging their public responsibilities. This Code of Ethics shall include, but not be limited to, ordinances relating to the following areas of regulation:

- (a) Limitations on and requirements for reporting of campaign contributions and post-election contributions to candidates for elected City Offices.
- (b) Reporting and registration requirements for local government lobbyists who act to influence any governmental action of the City of San José.
- (c) Limitations on the acceptance of gifts by City officers and employees including elected officers and members of Boards and Commissions.
- (d) Limitations on the acceptance of honoraria by City officers including elected officials, Council appointees and members of Boards and Commissions.
- (e) Regulations regarding disqualification of former City officers and employees in matters connected with former City duties or official responsibilities.

The Mayor, on a biennial basis beginning in 1993, shall conduct a review of the City's Code of Ethics including any ordinances relating to ethic standards. The Mayor shall make any recommendation for amendments or changes to the Code of Ethics and its implementing ordinances to the City Council.

No amendments or changes shall be adopted which in any way lessen the ethical standard in regulations except by a two-thirds vote of the City Council.

*Added at election November 6, 1990*

#### **SECTION 608. Racial and Social Equity.**

The Mayor and City Council shall adopt and maintain a statement of values, as permitted by law, promoting racial and social equity, inclusion, and racial and social justice which shall

provide guidance to City officers and employees in their conduct while discharging their public responsibilities, including development and implementation of decisions, policies, budgets, programs, and practices of the City of San José.

*Former Section 608 repealed at election June 2, 1970*

*New Section 608 added at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 609. Violation and Penalty.**

The Council may make the violation of its ordinances a misdemeanor for which a violator may be prosecuted in the name of the People of the State of California and may prescribe punishment for each violation by a fine in an amount not to exceed that set by State law or by imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months, or by both fine and imprisonment. Such violations may also be redressed by civil actions.

*Amended at election November 6, 1984*

## **ARTICLE VII CITY MANAGER**

### **SECTION 700. Appointment, Term and Compensation.**

There shall be a City Manager. The Mayor shall nominate one or more candidates for Council consideration for appointment to the position of City Manager. The City Manager shall be appointed by the Council for an indefinite term. The Council shall fix the compensation of the City Manager.

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

### **SECTION 701. City Manager; Powers and Duties.**

The City Manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the City. They shall be responsible to the Council for the administration of City affairs placed in their charge by or under this Charter. Without limiting the foregoing general grant of powers, responsibilities and duties, the City Manager shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Subject to the Civil Service provisions of this Charter and of any Civil Service Rules adopted pursuant thereto, and except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, the City Manager shall appoint all officers and employees of the City; and, when they deem it necessary for the good of the service, the City Manager may, subject to the above-mentioned limitations, suspend without pay, demote, discharge, remove or discipline any City officer or employee who under this Charter is appointed by the City Manager;
- (b) Except as otherwise provided elsewhere by this Charter, the City Manager shall direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the City;

- (c) The City Manager shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, other than closed executive sessions where the City Manager or another Council appointee is the subject of discussion, and to take part in its discussions, but not to vote. The City Manager shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Council unless prevented by illness or physical incapacity or unless their absence has been authorized by the Council;
- (d) The City Manager shall be responsible for the faithful execution of all laws, provisions of this Charter, and acts of the Council which are subject to enforcement by the City Manager or by officers who are under the City Manager's direction and supervision;
- (e) The City Manager shall prepare and submit the annual budget to the Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 1204.
- (f) The City Manager shall submit a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the City as of the end of the preceding fiscal year to the Council at a public meeting to be held within three (3) calendar months following the close of each preceding fiscal year. The annual report, which shall be personally certified by the City Manager to be accurate and complete shall contain a statement indicating:
  - (1) Whether the revenues budgeted for the preceding fiscal year were actually received, and an explanation concerning any material differences between the total revenues budgeted and the revenues actually received;
  - (2) The extent to which expenditures budgeted were actually incurred, and an explanation for any material variance between budgeted expenditures and actual expenditures;
  - (3) The amount of the financial reserves of the city;
  - (4) All other information which, in the opinion of the City Manager, is necessary to provide an accurate and complete picture of the fiscal status and condition of the city.

The report shall be in a form which is susceptible to confirmation by audit. It shall be made available to the public in the Office of the City Clerk.

- (g) The City Manager shall make such other reports as the Council from time to time may request concerning the operations of City departments, offices and agencies subject to their direction and supervision; shall keep the Council fully advised as to the financial condition and future needs of the City; and make

such recommendations to the Council concerning the affairs of the City as they deem desirable or as requested by Council.

- (h) The City Manager shall exercise such other powers, and shall perform such other duties, as are specified in this Charter or may be authorized or required by the Council.

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 702. Removal by Council.**

The Council may remove the City Manager from office at any time.

## **SECTION 703. Removal by People.**

The City Manager may be removed from office by the People of the City pursuant and subject to the provisions of Section 1604 of this Charter.

## **SECTION 704. Acting City Manager.**

The City Manager may appoint, subject to approval of the Council, or if they fail to do so the Council may appoint, an officer of the City as Acting City Manager to exercise and perform the powers and duties of the City Manager during the temporary absence or disability of the City Manager.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

# **ARTICLE VIII ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**

## **SECTION 800. Administrative Organization; General Provisions.**

Subject to the limitations hereinafter specified in this section, the Council shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) The Council, in its discretion, may at any time establish such City offices, departments and agencies, in addition to those established by this Charter, as it may desire; and shall prescribe the respective functions, powers and duties of such additional offices, departments and agencies. The Council shall also prescribe the respective functions, powers and duties of those departments which are established by Section 807 of this Charter. The Council may at any time add to, take away, reduce or otherwise change the respective functions, powers and duties of any of the above mentioned offices, departments and

agencies. The Council may at any time abolish or discontinue any office, department or agency other than those established by this Charter. The Council may also, at any time, prescribe additional functions, powers or duties for those offices and departments specified in Sections 803 to 807, inclusive, and may at any time take away, reduce or otherwise change all or any of such additional functions, powers or duties;

(b) Subject to the limitations hereinafter specified in subsection (c) of this Section, the Council may:

- (1) Contract with any “public agency” for the exercise or performance by a “public agency” for or on behalf of the City, of any of the powers, duties or functions of any office, department or agency of the City established by or pursuant to the provisions of this article;
- (2) Contract with any “public agency” for the exercise or performance by the City, for or on behalf of any “public agency” of any of the powers, duties or functions of any “public agency”;
- (3) Contract with any “public agency” for the joint exercise or performance by such “public agency” and the City, for or on behalf of any “public agency” and/or the City, of any of the powers, duties or functions of any office, department or agency of the City established by or pursuant to the provisions of this article and/or of any of the powers, duties or functions of any “public agency”;
- (4) Contract with any “private agency” for the exercise or performance by a “private agency” or jointly by a “private agency” and the City for or on behalf of the City, of any of the powers, duties or functions of any office, department or agency established by or pursuant to the provisions of this article;
- (5) Contract with any “public agency” for the purchase or acquisition by a “public agency” by the City, or jointly by both, for or on behalf of the City, a “public agency” or both, of any real or personal property, or for the construction or making by a “public agency,” by the City, or jointly by both, for or on behalf of the City, a “public agency” or both, of any public works project or public improvement.

Each such contract, excepting contracts for specific improvements or projects, and also excepting contracts for specific studies or reports to be completed within five years, shall be terminable by the City at any time following the expiration of one (1) year from and after the date of such contract or at any time following the expiration of such shorter period of time as may be specified in the contract.



In case of and during the term of any such contract, any provisions of this Charter, or of any ordinance, resolution or other City regulation, providing for the exercise or performance of said powers, duties or functions by a City office, department or agency established by or pursuant to the provisions of this article, or specifying a procedure for or otherwise controlling or regulating the manner in which such powers, duties or functions may be exercised or performed by any City office, department or agency established by or pursuant to this article, shall be deemed suspended to the extent that they are inconsistent with the performance or exercise by a “public agency” or “private agency” of any of such powers, duties or functions pursuant to or as provided by such contract. Also, the provisions of Section 1217 of this Charter, and of any City ordinance, resolution or other regulation relating to the matters mentioned in said Section 1217, shall not apply to any acquisitions or purchases of property, nor to any public works projects or improvements, made, constructed or done by a “public agency” for or on behalf of the City pursuant to any contract above mentioned in sub-paragraph (5) of this sub-section (b), provided that the “public agency,” in doing such things for or on behalf of the City, complies with such procedural requirements as would be applicable to it if it were to do such things for or on behalf of itself.

As used in this sub-paragraph (b), “public agency” means the United States of America, the State of California, any division, department, office, agency or political or administrative subdivision of the United States or of the State of California, or any county, municipal corporation (other than the City of San José), district, authority or other governmental body or organization; and, as used in this sub-section (b), “private agency” means any private corporation, firm, association, organization or person.

- (c) Anything hereinabove in this section to the contrary notwithstanding, unless authorized by other sections of this Charter, no power, duty or function assigned by this Charter to the office of City Clerk, City Attorney, City Auditor, Independent Police Auditor or to the Finance Department, shall be discontinued or assigned or transferred to any other office, department or agency of the City nor to any “public agency” or “private agency” as said terms are hereinabove defined; excepting, however, that the Council may provide for the furnishing or performance of special services by another office, department or agency or by a “public agency” or a “private agency” to assist the office of City Clerk, City Attorney, City Auditor, Independent Police Auditor or the Department of Finance in the exercise or performance by them of those powers, duties and functions which are assigned to them by this Charter if and when such assistance or service is requested or recommended by the head of such office or department.

*Amended at election June 7, 1966*

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 3, 1992*

*Amended at election November 5, 1996*

### **SECTION 801. Direction by City Manager.**

Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, all offices, departments and agencies established by or pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall be administered by an officer appointed by and subject to the direction and supervision of the City Manager.

### **SECTION 802. Organization, Conduct and Operation of Departments.**

By action not inconsistent with other provisions of this Charter, the Council shall provide for the organization, conduct and operation of the several offices, departments and agencies of the City.

### **SECTION 803. Office of City Attorney.**

The office of City Attorney is hereby established. The City Attorney shall be an attorney at law, and shall be licensed to practice law in the State of California. In addition, they shall have had at least five (5) years of experience in the practice of law prior to their appointment. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, the City Attorney shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Represent and appear for the City, its Council, boards and commissions, in any or all legal actions or proceedings in which they or any of them are concerned or are a part;
- (b) Upon request of an officer or employee or former officer or employee of the City, defend such officer or employee or former officer or employee in any action or proceeding brought against them, in their official or individual capacity or both, on account of an act or omission in the scope of their employment as an officer or employee of the City, whenever the City is required by the general laws of the State of California to provide such defense or whenever the Council elects to provide such defense even though not required to do so; provided and excepting, however, that the City Attorney may refuse to provide such defense whenever, in their opinion, their providing such defense would conflict with their other duties or responsibilities, in which event the City, if required by the general laws of the State to provide such defense or if it elects to provide such defense though not required by the general laws to do so, shall provide other legal counsel for such purpose;
- (c) Advise the Council and all City boards, commissions and officers in all matters of law pertaining to their offices or their powers and duties;
- (d) Perform other legal services required by the Council.

The Council may retain or employ, by contract or otherwise, other attorneys to take charge of any litigation or legal matter or to assist the City Attorney therein, or may purchase insurance

which requires the insurer to provide for the defense of the City and/or of its officers and employees in connection with any matter covered by such insurance.

Except as may be otherwise provided by the Council, the City Attorney shall be under the direction and supervision of the Council.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 803.1. City Attorney; Power of Appointment.**

Subject to the Civil Service provisions of this Charter and of any Civil Service Rules adopted pursuant thereto, the City Attorney shall appoint all officers and employees, exclusive of clerical, employed in the Office of the City Attorney, and when they deem it necessary for the good of the service, they may, subject to the above-mentioned limitations, suspend without pay, demote, discharge, remove or discipline any such officer or employee whom they are empowered to appoint. Neither the Council nor any of its members nor the Mayor shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any such officer or employee whom the City Attorney is empowered to appoint, but the Council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the City Attorney anything pertaining to the appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

*Added at election November 4, 1980*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 804. Office of City Clerk.**

The office of City Clerk is hereby established. The City Clerk shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Attend all regular and special meetings of the Council, unless prevented by illness or physical incapacity or unless their absence has been authorized by the Council; and keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Council;
- (b) Keep a record of all ordinances of the City, and of all written resolutions adopted by the Council, in such manner that the information contained therein will be readily accessible to the public. To each ordinance contained in such record they shall annex or attach their certificate stating (1) that it is the original copy of such ordinance or, if the ordinance contained in their record is not the original copy, that it is a true and correct copy of the ordinance, and (2) if the ordinance was one required by law to be published, that it has been published pursuant to law;

- (c) Keep all other records of Council proceedings and of their office in such manner that the information contained therein will be readily accessible to the public until such time as any of them are destroyed in accordance with State law;
- (d) Be custodian of the seal of the City;
- (e) Administer oaths or affirmations and take affidavits and depositions in connection with or pertaining to City affairs or business; and certify copies of official records of their office;
- (f) Have charge of all City elections;
- (g) Be responsible for the publication of all official advertising of the City; and
- (h) Perform such other duties consistent with this Charter as may be required of the City Clerk by the Council.

Except as may be otherwise provided by the Council, the City Clerk shall be under the direction and supervision of the Council.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 805. Office of the City Auditor.**

The office of City Auditor is hereby established. The City Auditor shall be appointed by the Council. Each such appointment shall be made as soon as such can reasonably be done after the expiration of the latest incumbent's term of office. Each such appointment shall be for a term ending four (4) years from and after the date of expiration of the immediately preceding term; provided, that if a vacancy should occur in such office before the expiration of the former incumbent's terms, the Council shall appoint a successor to serve only for the remainder of said former incumbent's term.

The office of City Auditor shall become vacant upon the happening before the expiration of his term of any of the events set forth in subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l) of Section 409 of this Charter. The Council, by resolution adopted by not less than ten (10) of its members may remove an incumbent from the office of City Auditor, before the expiration of their term, for misconduct, inefficiency, incompetence, inability or failure to perform the duties of such office or negligence in the performance of such duties, provided it first states in writing the reasons for such removal and gives the incumbent an opportunity to be heard before the Council in their own defense; otherwise, the Council may not remove an incumbent from such office before the expiration of their term.

The City Auditor shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Conduct or cause to be conducted annual post audits of all the fiscal transactions and accounts kept by or for the City. Such audits shall include but not be limited to the examination and analysis of fiscal procedures and the examination, checking and verification of accounts and expenditures. The audits shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly shall include tests of the accounting records and other auditing procedures as may be considered necessary under the circumstances. The audits shall include the issuance of suitable reports of examination so the Council and the public will be informed as to the adequacy of the financial statements of the City.
- (b) Conduct performance audits, as assigned by Council. A “performance audit” means a post audit which determines with regard to the purpose, functions and duties of the audited agency all of the following:
  - (1) Whether the audited department, office or agency, is managing or utilizing its resources, including public funds, personnel, property, equipment and space in an economical and efficient manner.
  - (2) Causes of inefficiencies or uneconomical practices, including inadequacies in management information systems, internal and administrative procedures, organizational structure, use of resources, allocation of personnel, purchasing policies and equipment.
  - (3) Whether the desired results are being achieved.
  - (4) Whether objectives established by the Council or other authorizing body are being met.
- (c) Conduct special audits and investigations, as assigned by Council. “Special audits” and “investigations” mean assignments of limited scope, intended to determine:
  - (1) The accuracy of information provided to the Council.
  - (2) The costs and consequences of recommendations made to the Council.
  - (3) Other information concerning the performance of City Departments, Offices or Agencies as requested by the Council.
- (d) The City Auditor shall have access to, and authority to examine any and all documents including but not limited to books, accounts, internal memoranda, writings and tapes, reports, vouchers, correspondence files and other records, bank accounts, money and other property of any City department, office or agency, whether created by the Charter or otherwise, with the exception of the office of any elected official.

It is the duty of any officer, employee or agent of the City having control of such records to permit access to, and examination thereof, upon the request of the City Auditor or their authorized representative. It is also the duty of any such officer, employee or agent to fully cooperate with, and to make full disclosure of all pertinent information.

- (e) Prepare and submit to the Council, in each calendar month, a written report of the City Auditor's activities and findings in the immediately preceding calendar month, together with any recommendations to improve the administration of the City;
- (f) Perform other auditing functions, consistent with other provisions of this Charter, and prepare and submit such other reports, as may be assigned by the Council.

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

#### **SECTION 805.1. City Auditor; Power of Appointment.**

- (a) The City Auditor may appoint and prescribe the duties of the professional and technical employees employed in the Office of the City Auditor. Such appointed professional and technical employees shall serve in unclassified positions at the pleasure of the City Auditor. The Council shall determine whether a particular employee is a "professional" or "technical" employee who may be appointed by the City Auditor pursuant to these Subsections.
- (b) In addition, subject to the Civil Service provisions of this Charter and of any Civil Service Rules adopted pursuant thereto, the City Auditor shall appoint all clerical employees employed in the Office of the City Auditor, and when the City Auditor deems it necessary for the good of the service they may, subject to the above-mentioned limitations, suspend without pay, demote, discharge, remove or discipline any such employee whom they are empowered to appoint.
- (c) Neither the Council nor any of its members nor the Mayor shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any such officer or employee whom the City Auditor is empowered to appoint, but the Council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the City Auditor anything pertaining to the appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

*Added at election November 4, 1980*

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 805.2. City Auditor Performance Audit.**

The Council shall contract with an independent audit firm, which has no other contracts with the City, to conduct a performance audit of the City Auditor's office at least every two years. The report of the performance audit shall be available to the public.

*Added at election November 4, 1986*

## **SECTION 806. Finance Department.**

A Finance Department is hereby established. A Director of Finance shall be the head of such department. The functions of such department and the powers and duties of the Director of Finance shall be as follows:

- (a) Regularly, at least once each month, and at the end of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the City Manager a monthly statement indicating the financial condition of the City;
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in Article XII of this Charter, receive or collect all monies or revenues due the City; maintain custody of all public funds and securities belonging to or under the control of the City, and deposit and invest funds in accordance with principles of sound treasury management and in accordance with the applicable laws or ordinances;
- (c) Maintain a general accounting system for the City; and supervise and control disbursements and expenditures to assure that unexhausted and unencumbered appropriations exist therefor or that payment has been otherwise legally authorized, and that money is available therefor in the City Treasury with which to make payment;
- (d) Verify cash receipts, the distribution of revenues to the appropriate funds, and certify as to the legality and correctness of all bills, invoices, payrolls, demands and charges against the City, and sign warrants or checks in payment of such claims;
- (e) Unless and except as may be otherwise provided by the Council, procure materials, supplies and general services for the City, and prepare and maintain a current inventory of all materials and supplies and an inventory of general assets belonging to the City;
- (f) Unless and except as may be otherwise provided by the Council, provide general services to other departments of the City as may be determined appropriate;
- (g) Perform such other functions, consistent with this Charter, as may be required by the Council.

Subject to the direction and supervision of the City Manager, the Director of Finance shall be responsible for the conduct of all of the functions of the Finance Department and, except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, shall have for such purpose the duties and powers imposed by the general laws of the State of California upon City Treasurers, City Assessors and City Tax Collectors.

#### **SECTION 807. Administrative Organization; Other Departments.**

- (a) The following Charter departments are hereby established: A Police Department, a Fire Department, a Public Works Department, a Parks and Recreation Department, a Personnel Department, a Planning Department, an Airport Department and a Library Department.
- (b) Additional departments may be created by Council from time to time pursuant to Section 800.
- (c) Each department shall have such functions, powers and duties as Council may from time to time prescribe.

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

#### **SECTION 808. Public Information Office.**

A Public Information Office is hereby established.

This office shall be administered by a Public Information Officer appointed by the Mayor. The Public Information Officer shall be under the direction and supervision of the Mayor.

The functions and duties of this office shall be to gather and disseminate to the public and to the news media, in a timely manner, accurate and complete information concerning the policies of the Council and other information regarding the City and the general region in which it is located, and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Council.

*Added at election November 4, 1986*

#### **SECTION 809. Office of the Independent Police Auditor**

The Office of the Independent Police Auditor is hereby established. The Independent Police Auditor shall be appointed by the Council. Each such appointment shall be made as soon as such can reasonably be done after the expiration of the latest incumbent's term of office. Each such appointment shall be for a term ending four (4) years from and after the date of expiration of the immediately preceding term; provided, that if a vacancy should occur in such office before the expiration of the former incumbent's terms, the Council shall appoint a successor to serve only for the remainder of said former incumbent's term.

The office of Independent Police Auditor shall become vacant upon the happening before the expiration of their term of any of the events set forth in subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l) of Section 409 of this Charter. The Council, by resolution adopted by not



less than ten (10) of its members may remove an incumbent from the office of the Independent Police Auditor, before the expiration of their term, for misconduct, inefficiency, incompetence, inability or failure to perform the duties of such office or negligence in the performance of such duties, provided it first states in writing the reasons for such removal and gives the incumbent an opportunity to be heard before the Council in their own defense; otherwise, the Council may not remove an incumbent from such office before the expiration of their term.

The Independent Police Auditor shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Review Police Department investigations of complaints initiated by members of the public and administrative investigations initiated by the Police Department against police officers to determine if the investigation was complete, thorough, objective and fair.
- (b) Make recommendations with regard to Police Department policies and procedures based on the Independent Police Auditor's review of investigations of complaints against police officers.
- (c) Make recommendations with regard to Police Department policies and procedures.
  - (1) For the purposes of making recommendations in accordance with this subsection (c), the Independent Police Auditor shall have access to and authority to examine reports and records that are not exempt from disclosure and available for public inspection under the law for officer involved shootings and uses of force resulting in death or great bodily injury, regardless of whether a complaint has been made. The Police Department shall make these reports and records available to the Independent Police Auditor without redaction, but the Police Department may withhold such reports and records from the Independent Police Auditor until any criminal or administrative investigation involving the police officer or police officers specifically involved in the incident is complete. For the purpose of this subsection (c)(1), "great bodily injury" means a serious impairment of physical condition, including, but not limited to, the following: loss of consciousness, concussion, bone fracture, protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ, a wound requiring extensive suturing, and serious disfigurement.
  - (2) In addition to the records and reports described in subsection (c)(1), the Independent Police Auditor shall have access to and authority to examine redacted records and reports of the Police Department, including, but not limited to, use of force statistics, police reports, and body worn camera footage, for the purposes of making recommendations in accordance with this subsection (c), subject to the following limitations:

- i. Records and reports sought by the Independent Police Auditor must be directly related to a topic that is the subject of a complaint or administrative investigation; and
  - ii. Records and reports sought by the Independent Police Auditor must be directly related to a topic that is part of a work plan submitted to the Council by the Independent Police Auditor and approved by the Council; and
  - iii. In addition to any other redactions authorized under State law, the Police Department shall redact police officer names and personally identifiable information of police officers in any record and report provided to the Independent Police Auditor under this subsection (c)(2); and
  - iv. Any recommendation from the Independent Police Auditor that is based on the records and reports that were examined by the Independent Police Auditor under this subsection (c)(2) shall be reviewed by the City Manager, Chief of Police, City Attorney, and the Council, if appropriate, in accordance with the closed session provisions of California Government Code section 54950 et seq., before disclosure.
- (d) Conduct public outreach to educate the community on the role of the Independent Police Auditor and to assist the community with the process and procedures for investigation of complaints against police officers.
  - (e) Contract with any entity consistent with the powers and duties under this Charter and subject to any limitation imposed by Council.
  - (f) Perform such other duties consistent with this Charter as may be required of the Independent Police Auditor by the Council subject to any requirement to meet and confer with the recognized employee organization for police officers, including the exhaustion of applicable impasse resolution procedures.

*Added at election November 5, 1996*

*Amended at election November 3, 2020*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 809.1. Independent Police Auditor; Power of Appointment.**

- (a) The Independent Police Auditor may appoint and prescribe the duties of the professional and technical employees employed in the Office of the Independent Police Auditor. Such appointed professional and technical employees shall serve in unclassified positions at the pleasure of the Independent Police Auditor. The Council shall determine whether a particular employee is a “professional” or “technical” employee who may be appointed by the Independent Police Auditor pursuant to these Subsections.
- (b) In addition, subject to the Civil Service provisions of this Charter and of any Civil Service Rules adopted pursuant thereto, the Independent Police Auditor shall appoint all clerical employees employed in the Office of the Independent Police Auditor, and when the Independent Police Auditor deems it necessary for the good of the service they may, subject to the above-mentioned limitations, suspend without pay, demote, discharge, remove or discipline any such employee whom they are empowered to appoint.
- (c) Neither the Council nor any of its members nor the Mayor shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any such officer or employee whom the Independent Police Auditor is empowered to appoint, but the Council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the Independent Police Auditor anything pertaining to the appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

*Added at election November 5, 1996*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 810. Retirement Board or Boards.**

- (a) The City Council by ordinance shall establish one or more retirement boards to administer the retirement plans established pursuant to Article XV of this Charter.
- (b) The term of membership, qualifications of the members and the size of each retirement board shall be prescribed by ordinance. The members of any retirement board shall be appointed and removed in a manner prescribed by ordinance with a majority of the members appointed by the City Council. The City Council shall appoint and remove the members of any retirement board in a manner prescribed by ordinance. The members of each retirement board shall be paid a monthly stipend determined pursuant to the provisions of Section 1001.1 of this Charter.
- (c) Each retirement board shall administer the retirement plan or plans that the retirement board has been designated to administer in accordance with the

fiduciary duties and obligations established by law, the City Charter, and as further prescribed by ordinance.

- (d) Each retirement board shall annually adopt a budget approved by the City Council covering the entire aggregate expense of administration of the retirement plan or plans that the retirement board has been designated to administer for the ensuing fiscal year, using the same fiscal year as the City pursuant to Section 1200 of this Charter.
- (e) Each retirement board may retain or employ, by contract, attorneys to assist the retirement board on matters reasonably necessary to carry out their fiduciary duties in the administration of the retirement plan or plans that the retirement board has been designated to administer.
- (f) Each retirement board shall comply with all open and public meeting requirements established by state law and applicable Council action.

*Added at election November 4, 2014*

#### **SECTION 810.1. Retirement Board; Power of Appointment.**

- (a) The retirement board or boards may appoint and prescribe the duties of the chief executive officer and the chief investment officer or such equivalent positions of the Office of Retirement Services to assist in the administration of the plan or plans. Such appointed officers shall serve in unclassified positions at the pleasure of the appointing retirement board; if more than one board then the boards shall jointly appoint the chief executive officer and the chief investment officer.
- (b) The chief executive officer or the officer holding an equivalent position of the Office of Retirement Services may appoint and prescribe the duties of the professional and technical employees and clerical employees employed in the Office of Retirement Services.
- (c) In addition, when the chief executive officer or the officer holding an equivalent position deems it necessary for the good of the service they may suspend without pay, demote, discharge, remove or discipline any such employee in the Office of Retirement Services subject to any applicable Civil Service provisions of the Charter and any Civil Service Rules adopted thereto.
- (d) Neither the Council nor any of its members nor the Mayor shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any such officer or employee whom the retirement board or boards is empowered to appoint or the chief executive officer is empowered to appoint, but the Council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the retirement board or boards anything pertaining to the appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

- (e) Compensation set for chief executive officer, chief investment officer, or their equivalent and the investment professional staff shall be set in accordance with Charter Section 902 and the board or boards shall consider compensation of equivalent positions in comparable United States Public Pension Plans in recommending the total compensation for the positions of chief executive officer, chief investment officer or their equivalent and the investment professional staff.

*Added at election November 4, 2014*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **ARTICLE IX OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

### **SECTION 900. Officers and Employees; Enumeration.**

The officers of the City shall consist of the Mayor, members of the Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney, the City Clerk, the City Auditor, the Independent Police Auditor, the directors or heads of the various City offices or departments, the members of various boards and commissions and such other officers as may be provided for by this Charter or by action of the Council.

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 3, 1992*

*Amended at election November 5, 1996*

### **SECTION 901. Officers and Employees; Appointment and Removal.**

The City Manager, the City Attorney, and the City Clerk shall be appointed and may at any time be removed by the Council. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, all other officers, department heads and employees of the City, except members of boards and commissions, shall be appointed by the City Manager and, except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, shall serve at their pleasure.

The Council shall appoint, and may at any time remove, an Acting City Manager, an Acting City Attorney, Acting City Clerk, Acting City Auditor and Acting Independent Police Auditor to perform the functions and duties of the respective offices in the case of absence or disability.

The Mayor and each member of the Council shall appoint any assistants to serve in their office.

The City Manager shall, subject to the provisions of Section 411.1, appoint a person to act as the head of a department or office, other than the office of City Clerk, City Attorney, City Auditor, Independent Police Auditor and Public Information Officer in the case of absence or disability of the head of such department or office.

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 3, 1992*  
*Amended at election November 5, 1996*  
*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 902. Compensation.**

The compensation of all City appointive officers and employees, except as otherwise provided in this Charter, shall be fixed by the Council. All officers and employees shall be entitled to be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred while performing official business of the City when said expenses have been authorized or approved by the proper authority.

## **SECTION 903. Oath of Office.**

Each officer of the City, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall take the oath of office as provided for in the Constitution of this State and shall file the same with the City Clerk.

## **SECTION 904. Administering Oaths.**

Each department head and their deputies shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations in connection with any official business pertaining to their department.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*  
*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 905. Official Bonds.**

The Council shall fix the nature, amount and terms of the official bonds of all officials or employees who are required by the Council to qualify for such bonds; provided, however, that all officers and employees having custody or control of public funds shall be required to be bonded. All bonds shall be executed by a responsible corporate surety, shall be approved as to form by the City Attorney and shall be filed with the City Clerk. Premiums on official bonds shall be paid by the City.

## **SECTION 906. Prohibited Interests.**

The provisions of Article 4, Chapter 1, Division 4, Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California as the same now exist or may hereafter be amended, relating to prohibitions applicable to specified officers, shall apply in the City.

## **SECTION 907. Nepotism.**

The Council shall not appoint to a salaried position under the City government any person who, at the time of his appointment, is related by blood or marriage, within the second degree, to any member of such Council; nor shall the City Manager or any other appointing authority

appoint to any salaried position under City government any person who, at the time of his appointment, is related by blood or marriage, within the second degree, to such appointing authority.

#### **SECTION 908. Discrimination.**

Except as otherwise provided by the general laws of this State heretofore or hereafter enacted, no person employed by the City or seeking employment therewith shall be employed, refused employment, promoted, demoted, disciplined or discharged or in any way favored or discriminated against because of political opinion or affiliations, or membership in a lawful employees association, or because of race, color or creed.

## **ARTICLE X BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

#### **SECTION 1000. Planning Commission.**

There shall be, and there is hereby established, a Planning Commission to consist of eleven (11) members appointed by the Council with one member appointed from each Council District and one member appointed as an “at-large” member. It shall be deemed to be a continuation of the Planning Commission established by and pursuant to this Section as it read immediately prior to the effective date of this Section as it now reads.

A person shall not be eligible to take or hold office as a member of the Planning Commission unless they satisfy all of the following conditions:

- (a) They must have been a resident of the City of San José for at least one year immediately preceding the commencement of the four-year term or lesser period of time for which they are appointed, and they must be a resident of the City of San José during their incumbency.

The City Manager, the City Attorney and such other officers as the Council may designate, or their representatives, may meet with the Planning Commission and may participate in its discussions but shall not have a vote.

Those persons who immediately prior to the effective date of this Section (as it now reads) were members of the Planning Commission established by and pursuant to this Section as it read immediately prior to the effective date of this Section (as it now reads) shall continue to be members of this Planning Commission and, subject to other provisions of this Charter, shall hold such offices until the expiration of the terms for which they were appointed, to wit: the three members appointed for terms expiring on June 30, 2022, shall continue in office until the end of June 30, 2022, and the four members appointed for terms expiring on June 30, 2024, shall continue in office until the end of June 30, 2024. The Council shall appoint an eighth and ninth member for a term expiring on June 30, 2022, and a tenth and eleventh member shall be

appointed for a term expiring on June 30, 2024. Thereafter, the Council shall appoint commissioners for four-year terms commencing on the first day of July of each even-numbered year to fill the offices of those members whose terms expire as of the end of the 30th day of June of such year.

The office of a member shall become vacant if during their term of office they cease to be a resident of the City of San José. Also, the office of a member shall become vacant upon the happening before the expiration of their term of any of the events set forth in subsections (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) of Section 409 of this Charter, or upon such member's absence from five (5) consecutive regular meetings other than adjourned regular meetings, of the Commission, unless excused by resolution of Council. Also, the Council may remove a member from office at any time for misconduct, inefficiency or willful neglect in the performance of the duties of their office providing it first states in writing the reasons for such removal and gives such member an opportunity to be heard before the Council in their own defense. If a vacancy occurs before the expiration of a member's term appointed to represent a specific Council District, the Council shall appoint a qualified person from that same Council District to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of such member.

The Planning Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Make recommendations to the Council respecting the adoption, amendment, or repeal of master, general, comprehensive, precise or specific plans for future physical development of the City or any part thereof, and periodically review the same;
- (b) Make recommendations to the Council respecting the adoption, amendment or repeal of land use and development regulations, including but not limited to zoning and subdivision regulations;
- (c) Make recommendations to the Council respecting the adoption, amendment or repeal of plans or programs for the redevelopment, rehabilitation or renewal of any areas of the City;
- (d) Make recommendations to the Council respecting capital improvement programs; and
- (e) Exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and duties as may be expressly given to it by other provisions of this Charter, or exercise such other powers or perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Council not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter.

*Amended at election June 6, 1966*

*Amended at election June 2, 1970*

*Amended at election June 7, 1988*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 3, 2020*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*



## **SECTION 1001. Civil Service Commission.**

There shall be, and there is hereby established, a Civil Service Commission. The following provisions shall be applicable thereto:

- (a) **MEMBERSHIP.** The Civil Service Commission shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Council for terms of four (4) years. Members must be residents of the City at all times during their terms of office; not more than four (4) shall be of the same sex; and one (1) shall be an attorney-at-law, licensed to practice law in the State of California, who shall have practiced law in said State for at least five (5) years.
- (b) **TERMS OF OFFICE.** The term of office for persons appointed after November 1, 1998 shall be four (4) years.

The person who is appointed to fill the one (1) office of the member whose term expires on December 1, 2001, and each person who is thereafter appointed to fill such one (1) office whenever it becomes vacant, regardless of whether it becomes vacant during or at the end of an incumbent's term of office, shall be appointed by the Council from a list of three (3) persons to be nominated in each case by all full-time officers and employees in the Civil Service of the City (other than members of the Council and members of boards and commissions) at elections to be held for such purpose. Only full-time officers and employees shall be eligible to vote at such elections, and no officer or employee shall be permitted to vote for more than one person at any one election. The names of three (3) persons receiving the highest number of votes at any such election shall be referred to the Council, and the Council, without consideration of the number of votes received by each, shall appoint to such office the one of the three whom it believes is best qualified for such office. Said nomination elections shall be conducted by the City Clerk in accordance with an election procedure prepared by the City Clerk and approved by the Council.

- (c) **VACANCIES.** The City Council shall adopt an ordinance setting forth rules relating to vacancies before expiration of a term of office and removal of a member from office.
- (d) **OATH AND DECLARATION.** The members of the Civil Service Commission, in addition to the oath of office required by law, shall make under oath and file in the office of the City Clerk the following declaration: "I am opposed to appointment to public service as a reward for political activity and will execute and perform the powers and duties of the office of Civil Service Commissioner in the spirit of this declaration."

- (e) SECRETARY. The Council shall provide the Commission with a secretary satisfactory to the Commission; provided, however, that the head of any personnel department of the City shall not hold any secretarial, executive or administrative position under the direct jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission.
- (f) POWERS AND DUTIES. The Civil Service Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
  - (1) To recommend to the Council the adoption, amendment or repeal of Civil Service Rules relating to the matters specified in Section 1102 of Article XI of this Charter;
  - (2) To make any investigation which it may consider desirable concerning the administration of personnel in the Classified Service;
  - (3) To make recommendations to the Council, the City Manager or to any other appointive power on matters relating to the administration of personnel in the Classified Service;
  - (4) To exercise and perform such other powers and duties as are expressly given to it by other provisions of this Charter; and to exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and duties as may be prescribed by the Council not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter.

*Amended at election June 7, 1988*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 3, 1998*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 1001.1. Salary Setting Commission.**

There shall be, and there is hereby established, a Salary Setting Commission. The following provisions shall be applicable thereto:

- (a) MEMBERSHIP. The Salary Setting Commission shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Civil Service Commission. Members must be residents of the City at all times during their term of office.
- (b) TERMS OF OFFICE. Except as provided herein below, the regular term of office of each member of the Salary Setting Commission shall be four (4) years. The initial members of the Salary Setting Commission shall be appointed by the Civil Service Commission during the month of January, 1981. Two (2) of the members so appointed shall be appointed for a term expiring on December 31, 1982; and three (3) of the members so appointed shall be appointed for a

term expiring on December 31, 1984. Commencing in December of 1982, the Civil Service Commission shall, during the month of December of each even-numbered year, make appointments to fill the offices of the members whose terms are expiring at the end of such even-numbered year. Such appointments shall be for regular terms of four (4) years commencing on the first day of January of the following odd-numbered year and expiring on the 31st day of December of the second even-numbered year thereafter.

- (c) **VACANCIES.** The office of a member shall become vacant upon the happening before the expiration of their term of any of the events set forth in subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) of Section 409 of this Charter. Also, the Civil Service Commission may remove a member from office at any time for misconduct, inefficiency or willful neglect in the performance of the duties of their office providing it first states in writing the reasons for such removal and gives such member an opportunity to be heard before the Civil Service Commission in their own defense. If a vacancy occurs before the expiration of a member's term, the Civil Service Commission shall appoint a qualified person to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of such member.

- (d) **POWERS AND DUTIES.**

The Salary Setting Commission shall perform the following duties:

- (1) Commencing in 2019, and every five (5) years thereafter, the Salary Setting Commission shall set the base salaries for members of the Council, including the Mayor, as provided in Section 407 of this Charter.
- (2) The Salary Setting Commission shall biennially make recommendations regarding the monthly stipend for any non-City employee member of the retirement board or boards which administer the retirement plan or plans established pursuant to Article XV of this Charter and designated by the Council to receive a stipend. The stipend set by the Council will be in accordance with the process established through ordinance.

*Added at election November 4, 1980*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 4, 2014*

*Amended at election November 6, 2018*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 1001.2 Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices.**

There shall be, and there is hereby established, a Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices. The following provisions shall be applicable thereto:

- (a) **MEMBERSHIP.** The Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Council. Members must be residents of the City at all times during their terms of office. Council may also adopt an ordinance establishing additional criteria for eligibility to serve in office.
- (b) **TERMS OF OFFICE.** The regular term of office of each member of the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices shall be four (4) years. Terms of members will expire in years in which there are no regular municipal elections. Those persons who immediately prior to the effective date of this Section were members of the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices shall continue to be members of the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices and, subject to other provisions of this Charter, shall hold such offices until the expiration of the terms for which they were appointed.
- (c) **VACANCIES.** The City Council shall adopt an ordinance setting forth rules relating to vacancies before expiration of a term of office and removal of a member from office.
- (d) **POWERS AND DUTIES.** The Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices shall have the following powers and duties:
  - (1) Monitor compliance with campaign and ethics ordinances as may be authorized by the Council.
  - (2) As authorized by ordinance or resolution of Council, review and investigate allegations of violations of campaign and ethics ordinances and take enforcement action where appropriate.
  - (3) Make recommendations to the Council with regard to campaign and ethics regulations and policies.
  - (4) Exercise and perform such other powers and duties as are expressly given to it by other provisions of this Charter; and exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and duties not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter, as may be prescribed by the Council.

*Added at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 1002. Other Boards and Commissions.**

In addition to those specific boards and commissions which are established by other provisions of this Article, the Council may create such other boards and commissions as in its judgment are required, and may grant them such functions, powers and duties as are consistent with the provisions of this Charter. In addition, the Council may create such temporary committees as it may deem advisable to render counsel and advice to the Council, the City Manager or any

board or commission on any specified matter within the jurisdiction of such authorities. All boards, commissions and committees created by the Council shall be subject to such direction and supervision, if any, as the Council may specify, and the members thereof shall be appointed by the Council, or by the Mayor if such is authorized by the Council, for such terms as the Council may deem advisable.

### **SECTION 1003. Reimbursement for Expenses.**

Members of boards, commissions and committees shall receive reimbursement, if and to the extent such is authorized by the Council, for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties or functions of office.

## **ARTICLE XI CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM**

### **SECTION 1100. Merit Principle.**

All appointments and promotions to positions in the Classified Service shall be made on the basis of merit and fitness, demonstrated by examination and other evidence of competence, in accordance with Civil Service Rules adopted in the manner provided in this Charter.

### **SECTION 1101. Civil Service System; Classified and Unclassified Service.**

The Civil Service of the City shall be divided into the Classified Service and the Unclassified Service, as follows:

- (a) The Unclassified Service shall comprise and include all of the following officers and employees:
  - (1) The Mayor and the members of the Council and their assistants;
  - (2) All members of boards and commissions, and if so desired by the Civil Service Commission, the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission;
  - (3) The City Manager and all their assistants, deputies, and secretaries, the head of each department, assistant directors of departments, deputy directors of departments, (excluding the police department) and the City Clerk and one assistant.
  - (4) Temporary Employment
    - a. Persons temporarily employed to make or conduct a special inquiry, investigation, examination or installation, or to render professional, scientific or technical services of an occasional or exceptional character; provided that no person employed in the

Unclassified Service pursuant to this subsection for any purpose shall continue in such employment pursuant to this subsection for a period in excess of six (6) months for each special inquiry, investigation, examination, installation or particular service unless an extension is approved by the Civil Service Commission;

- b. Persons temporarily employed to fill positions for a period of time not to exceed two (2) years, where there exists a need to perform duties of a temporary nature or where duties may be required on an intermittent basis.
- (5) Persons employed in the event of an emergency to perform services required because of and during such emergency for a period of time not to exceed six (6) months unless an extension is approved by the Civil Service Commission;
  - (6) Persons employed to temporarily fill positions in the classified service when no eligible lists of applicants for such positions exist, until such time as eligible lists are created and persons can be hired there from to fill such positions;
  - (7) Volunteer members of the police, fire or civil defense departments or of any police, fire or civil defense force or organization.
  - (8) The Public Information Officer, and all persons employed in the Public Information Office, exclusive of clerical employees.
  - (9) The City Auditor and the professional and technical employees in the Office of the City Auditor.
  - (10) The City Attorney and all attorneys and supervisors in the Office of the City Attorney;
  - (11) The Independent Police Auditor and the professional and technical employees in the Office of the Independent Police Auditor.
  - (12) The chief executive officer, chief investment officer, or their equivalent and the investment professional staff, as set forth by ordinance, in the Office of Retirement Services and who shall not be member of the City's defined benefit pension or retiree healthcare retirement plans. This section shall not apply to any incumbent filling those positions on the date that the conversion was approved by election.
- (b) The Classified Service shall consist of all persons employed in positions in the City Civil Service which are not in the Unclassified Service;

- (c) Nothing herein shall be construed as precluding the appointing authority from filling any position in the manner in which positions in the Classified Service are filled.
- (d) Whenever previously classified positions are placed in the unclassified service in this Charter, the unclassified status shall not apply to those incumbents filling those classified positions on the date that the conversion was approved by election.

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 3, 1992*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 5, 1996*

*Amended at election November 4, 2014*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 1102. Civil Service Rules; Contents.**

The Council shall adopt Civil Service Rules for the Classified Service relating to the following matters: Creation of positions; applications for employment; examinations; eligibility and qualifications; duration of eligible lists; certification of eligible lists; appointments; promotions; demotions; transfers; resignations; layoffs; temporary reductions due to retrenchment or completion of work; performance ratings; factors and weights to be considered in efficiency rating; filling of positions; classification of positions; specifications for positions; separation from service; dismissals; suspensions; disciplinary action; such other things, consistent with this Charter, as the Council may deem proper and necessary.

## **SECTION 1103. Civil Service Rules; Manner of Adoption.**

Civil Service Rules for the Classified Service shall be adopted, and may from time to time be repealed or amended, by ordinance of the Council. Upon adoption, Civil Service Rules shall have the force and effect of law.

The Council may adopt, repeal or amend any Civil Service Rule for the Classified Service, provided it first receives from the Civil Service Commission a report or recommendation with respect to the proposed new Rule, if a new Rule is proposed to be adopted, or with respect to the proposed repeal or amendment of an existing Rule if an existing Rule is proposed to be repealed or amended; provided, however, that if the Civil Service Commission refuses or fails to submit to the Council a report or recommendation on any proposed new Rule, or proposed repeal or amendment of any existing Rule, within ninety (90) days from and after the date the Council requests such a report or recommendation, the Council may adopt such new Rule or repeal or amend such existing Rule, without first receiving a report or recommendation thereon from the Civil Service Commission.

#### **SECTION 1104. Disciplinary Action.**

*Repealed at election November 3, 1998*

#### **SECTION 1105. Appointments from Classified Service to Unclassified Service.**

In the event an officer or employee of the City who heretofore held or now holds a position in the Classified Service was thereafter or is hereafter appointed to a position in the Unclassified Service, and should subsequently be removed or resign from the Unclassified Service, they shall have the right, if they have not been guilty of infamous, disgraceful or dishonest conduct, to be employed forthwith in a position consonant with their former classification in the Classified Service without loss of any rights or privileges and upon the same terms and conditions as if they had remained in said classification.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

#### **SECTION 1106. Employees of Consolidated Cities.**

Except as otherwise required by such laws of the State of California as are applicable to charter cities, all officers and employees of any city (hereinafter called "consolidated city") hereafter consolidated with the City of San José, who were full-time officers or employees of such consolidated city upon the date of election held in such consolidated city for such consolidation, when such officers or employees would be included in the classified service of the City of San José, shall from the effective date of such consolidation be deemed to have their names upon eligible lists for respective types of positions held by them, and to be qualified for appointment to such respective positions.

*Amended at election June 3, 1969*

#### **SECTION 1107. Employees of Annexed Agencies.**

In the event of the annexation of all or a portion of the area of any governmental agency to the City, it shall be discretionary with the Council as to whether all or any of the officers or employees of such agency shall be entitled to have their names placed upon eligible lists for respective types of positions held by them and to be qualified for appointment to such respective positions.

#### **SECTION 1108. Mandatory Separation from Service.**

Any member of the Police or Fire Department of the City who is also a member of any Police and Fire Department retirement plan or system of the City must be separated from any position in the Police or Fire Department of the City upon their attaining the age of seventy (70) years, such separation to be effective no later than the last day of the calendar month within which they attain such age. Subject to the provisions of other sections of this Charter, the Council may at any time provide for mandatory separation of officers or employees, other than persons



holding elective offices, from specified positions in the Civil Service at an earlier age if and when the Council deems such to be for the good of the Civil Service.

*Amended at election November 2, 1982*

*Amended at election June 5, 1984*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 1109. Exclusions and Exceptions.**

The provisions of this Article shall not be deemed to apply to, nor in any way limit the Council in, the Council's exercise of any of the powers granted to it by the provisions of sub-section (b) of Section 800, or by the provisions of Section 803, of the Charter. All transfers or consolidations of functions, and all contracts, resulting from the exercise by the Council of such powers shall be deemed exempt from the Civil Service provisions of this Charter, and all persons employed or whose services are contracted for, pursuant to any such transfer, consolidation or contract shall be deemed, for Civil Service purposes, to be independent contractors and not officers or employees within the Civil Service of the City, regardless of the extent, if any, of any supervision or control which may be exercised over such persons or their activities by any officer or employee of the City. Also, the Council may at any time, or from time to time, authorize or direct the execution of contracts between the City and any public or private body, entity, firm, organization, association or person, for the conduct or making of any special study, inquiry, investigation or examination, or for the preparing or doing of any special or particular services or work, for or on behalf of the City or any office, department or agency thereof, unless such is prohibited by the provisions of any other Article of this Charter, without complying with the provisions of this Article; and all persons with whom such contracts are made shall be deemed, for Civil Service purposes, to be independent contractors and not officers or employees within the Civil Service of the City, regardless of the extent, if any, of any supervision or control which may be exercised over such persons or their activities by any officer or employee of the City. In addition, the appointment by the Council of any person to any office, pursuant to authority granted to the Council by this Charter, shall not be subject to the Civil Service provisions of this Charter.

## **SECTION 1110. Exceptions: War or National Emergency.**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Charter to the contrary, in time of war or national emergency the Council may provide for the emergency employment of any person to fill any office or position in the City. Such person shall not be subject to the requirements, regulations and qualifications of the personnel, merit or civil service system adopted by the City. An emergency appointee shall not acquire civil service or other permanent status because of the emergency appointment. The Council may, however, provide that an emergency appointee selected from an eligible list who is otherwise eligible for permanent appointment may acquire such rights as are expressly provided for under Civil Service Rules.

## **SECTION 1111. Compulsory Arbitration for Fire and Police Department Employee Disputes.**

- (a) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the City of San José that strikes by firefighting and peace officers are unlawful in the state of California and not in the public interest and should be prohibited, and that a method should be adopted for peacefully and equitably resolving disputes that might otherwise lead to such strikes.

If any firefighter or peace officer employed by the City of San José willfully engages in a strike against the City, said employee shall be dismissed from their employment and may not be reinstated or returned to City employment except as a new employee. No officer, board, council or commission shall have the power to grant amnesty to any employee charged with engaging in a strike against the City.

- (b) The City, through its duly authorized representatives, shall negotiate in good faith with the recognized fire and police department employee organizations on all matters relating to the wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of City employment, including the establishment of procedures for the resolution of grievances submitted by either employee organization over the interpretation or application of any negotiated agreement including a provision for binding arbitration of those grievances. Unless and until agreement is reached through negotiations between the City and the recognized employee organization for the fire or police department or a determination is made through the arbitration procedure hereinafter provided, no existing benefit or condition of employment for the members of the fire department or police department bargaining unit shall be eliminated or changed.
- (c) All disputes or controversies pertaining to wages, hours, or terms and conditions of employment which remain unresolved after good faith negotiations between the City and either the fire or police department employee organization shall be submitted to a three-member Board of Arbitrators upon the declaration of an impasse by the City or by the recognized employee organization involved in the dispute. All issues concerning the scope of the arbitration Board's authority, jurisdiction or powers shall, upon the request of either party, be resolved by petition to the Superior Court.
- (d) Representatives designated by the City and representatives of the recognized employee organization involved in the dispute, controversy or grievance shall each select one arbitrator to the Board of Arbitrators within three (3) days after either party has notified the other, in writing, that it desires to proceed to arbitration. The third member of the Arbitration Board shall be selected by agreement between the two arbitrators selected by the City and the employee organization, and shall serve as the neutral arbitrator and Chairperson of the Board. In the event that the arbitrators selected by the City and the employee

organization cannot agree upon the selection of the third arbitrator within ten (10) days from the date that either party has notified the other that it has declared an impasse, then either party may request the Superior Court of the County of Santa Clara to appoint an arbitrator who shall be a retired judge of the Superior Court.

Any arbitration convened pursuant to this section shall be conducted in conformance with, subject to, and governed by Title 9 of Part 3 of the California Code of Civil Procedure to the extent that such procedures do not conflict with this Charter Section. Unless otherwise mandated by state or federal law, all arbitration hearings shall be open to the public and all documents submitted in arbitration shall be public records. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter to the contrary, the authority, jurisdiction and powers of the Board of Arbitrators are limited by the provisions of this Section.

- (e) At the conclusion of the arbitration hearings, the Arbitration Board shall direct each of the parties to submit, within such time limit as the Board may establish, a last offer of settlement on each of the issues in dispute. The Arbitration Board shall decide each issue by majority vote by selecting whichever last offer of settlement on that issue it finds by the preponderance of the evidence submitted to the Arbitration Board satisfies section (f) below, is in the best interest and promotes the welfare of the public, and most nearly conforms with those factors traditionally taken into consideration in the determination of wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of public and private employment, including, but not limited to, changes in the average consumer price index for goods and services, the wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment of other employees performing similar services.
- (f) In all arbitration proceedings conducted pursuant to this section, the primary factors in decisions regarding compensation shall be the City's financial condition and, in addition, its ability to pay for employee compensation from on-going revenues without reducing City services. No arbitration award may be issued unless a majority of the Arbitration Board determines, based upon a fair and thorough review of the City's financial condition and a cost analysis of the parties' last offers, that the City can meet the cost of the award from on-going revenues without reducing City services. The arbitrators shall also consider and give substantial weight to the rate of increase or decrease of compensation approved by the City Council for other bargaining units.

"Compensation" shall mean all costs to the City, whether new or ongoing, for salary paid and benefits provided to employees, including but not limited to wages, special pay, premium pay, incentive pay, pension, retiree medical coverage, employee medical and dental coverage, other insurance provided by the City, vacation, holidays, and other paid time off.

- (g) Additionally, the Board of Arbitrators shall not render a decision, or issue an award, that:
- (1) increases the projected cost of compensation for the bargaining units at a rate that exceeds the rate of increase in revenues from the sales tax, property tax, utility tax and telephone tax averaged over the prior five fiscal years; or
  - (2) retroactively increases or decreases compensation, including, but not limited to, enhancements to pension and retiree health benefit for service already rendered, but excluding base wages; or
  - (3) creates a new or additional unfunded liability for which the City would be obligated to pay; or
  - (4) deprives or interferes with the discretion of the Police Chief or Fire Chief to make managerial, operational or staffing decisions, rules, orders and policies in the interest of the effective and efficient provision of police and fire services to the public.
- (h) Compliance with the provisions of this Section shall be mandatory and enforceable pursuant to section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure; failure to comply with these provisions shall also constitute an act in excess of jurisdiction.
- (i) After reaching a decision, the Arbitration Board shall mail or otherwise deliver a true copy of its decision to the parties. The decision of the Arbitration Board shall not be publicly disclosed and shall not be binding until ten (10) days after it is delivered to the parties. During that ten-day period the parties may meet privately, attempt to resolve their differences, and by mutual agreement amend or modify any of the decisions of the Arbitration Board. At the conclusion of the ten-day period, which may be extended by mutual agreement between the parties, the decision of the Arbitration Board together with any amendments or modifications agreed to by the parties shall be publicly disclosed and shall be binding upon the parties. The City and the recognized employee organization shall take whatever action is necessary to carry out and effectuate the award.
- (j) The expenses of any arbitration convened pursuant to this section, including the fee for the services of the Chairperson of the Arbitration Board, shall be borne equally by the parties. All other expenses which the parties may incur individually are to be borne by the party incurring such expenses.
- (k) This Section shall be effective immediately upon passage by the voters, and shall apply to any arbitration in which hearings commence after November 2, 2010.

- (1) The voters declare that the provisions of this Section are not severable, and none would have been enacted without the others. Should any portion of this Section 1111 be enjoined or declared invalid, all provisions shall be deemed invalid and inoperative and there shall be no compulsory arbitration for fire and police department employee disputes.

*Added at election November 4, 1980*

*Amended at election November 2, 2010*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **ARTICLE XII FISCAL ADMINISTRATION**

### **SECTION 1200. Fiscal Year.**

Unless otherwise provided by ordinance, the fiscal year of the City shall begin on the first day of July of each year and end on the 30th day of June of the following year.

### **SECTION 1201. Use of County Tax System.**

Unless otherwise provided by or pursuant to ordinance adopted or approved by the qualified electors of the City, the Council shall continue to use for the purpose of municipal ad valorem property taxation the Santa Clara County system of property assessment and property tax collection as said system is now provided by law or may hereafter be amended and insofar as such provision is not in conflict with this Charter.

Should there arise any reason whatsoever that prevents the City from using said County system for said purpose or if the use of the County system should be discontinued by or pursuant to ordinance adopted or approved by the qualified electors of the City, the Council shall provide a system for the assessment of property and the collection of property taxes in the City.

### **SECTION 1202. Submission of Capital Improvement Program; Contents.**

At least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, or at such earlier time as the Council may specify, the City Manager shall prepare and shall submit to the Council a capital improvement program for the five (5) fiscal years immediately following the fiscal year within which such program is submitted to Council. On or before the day that they submit such program to the Council, the City Manager shall also file a copy of the program with the Planning Commission of the City. Such capital program shall include:

- (a) A clear summary of its contents;
- (b) A list of all capital improvements which are proposed to be undertaken during the five fiscal years immediately following the fiscal year within which such

program is submitted to the Council with appropriate supporting information as to the necessity of such improvements;

(c) Cost estimates, method of financing and recommended time schedules for each such improvement; and

(d) Such other information as the City Manager may deem desirable.

*Amended at election November 6, 1990*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 7, 2000*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 1203. Action on Capital Program.**

Upon receipt of the copy of the capital improvement program prepared by the City Manager, the Planning Commission shall consider the program and, at least ten (10) days prior to the time fixed by Council for a public hearing on the capital program, shall submit to the Council a written report setting forth its findings and recommendations respecting such program. The Planning Commission, in its report may recommend such additions, deletions or other amendments as it deems desirable. If it should recommend any capital improvements different from or additional to those proposed by the City Manager, it shall set forth, in its report, the estimated cost thereof and the manner in which it proposes that the same shall be financed.

The Council shall fix a time and place for a public hearing on the capital program as submitted by the City Manager and upon such amendments or changes, if any, as shall have been submitted as aforesaid by the Planning Commission at least ten (10) days prior to the time fixed by Council for a public hearing on the capital program. The Council shall cause a notice of such public hearing to be published not less than ten (10) days prior to said hearing by at least one insertion in a newspaper of general circulation in the City. Copies of the capital program as submitted by the City Manager, and copies of such report as may have been submitted by the Commission, shall be filed and available for inspection by the public in the office of the City Clerk for at least ten (10) days prior to said public hearing. The notice of such public hearing shall state the time and place of hearing and the times and place when and where copies of the capital program as submitted by the City Manager and the report of the Planning Commission will be available for inspection by the public. At the time and place so advertised or at any time or place to which such public hearing shall from time to time be adjourned, the Council shall hold a public hearing on the capital program as submitted by the City Manager, and on the written report of the Planning Commission, at which interested persons desiring to be heard shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard.

Upon conclusion of such hearing, the Council shall adopt such a capital program, for the five (5) fiscal years covered by the City Manager's proposed capital program with such amendments as it may deem desirable. Upon its adoption and until adoption of a new budget and a new five (5) year capital program, such capital program, as adopted by the Council, shall serve as a general guide to the Council and to the City administration in the planning and

scheduling of capital improvements. From time to time, however, the Council may authorize such departures therefrom as it may deem necessary or desirable.

*Amended at election November 6, 1990*

*Amended at election November 7, 2000*

**SECTION 1204. Fiscal Administration; Submission of Budget and Budget Message.**

- (a) Each Council Appointee shall submit to the Mayor and the Council annually the budget request, for the ensuing fiscal year, of each City department, office or agency under their administration.
- (b) The Mayor shall deliver a budget message which shall include:
  - A statement of the fiscal priorities which the City should adopt for the ensuing year.
  - Which Departments, Offices or Agencies the Mayor proposes to be expanded or to receive reduced budgeted allocations.
  - Specific recommendations concerning any proposed additions to or deletions from the budget.
- (c) The Mayor shall deliver the Mayor's budget message during a meeting of the Council to be held following the receipt of the budget request from the City Manager.
- (d) The Council shall hold a public hearing to consider the Mayor's budget message and to make any revisions or changes in it which the Council deems advisable.

The Council shall fix a time and place for the public hearing, and shall give notice in the manner specified in Section 1206.

Upon close of the public hearing, the Council shall approve the Mayor's budget message as presented, or as revised, by the affirmative vote of a majority of its members.

- (e) None of the recommendations included within the Mayor's budget message, or as amended and approved by the Council, shall be implemented or carried out in any manner which violates the requirement for a balanced budget contained in Section 1205.
- (f) At least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, or at such earlier time as the Council may specify, the City Manager shall submit to the Council a budget for the ensuing fiscal year, together with an accompanying report.

In addition to complying with the requirements of Section 1205, the budget shall contain the City Manager's financial plan for the activities of the City proposed for the ensuing fiscal year which reflects accurately the recommendations and priorities specified in the budget message as adopted by the Council.

The report of the City Manager accompanying the budget shall specify the budget allocations which implement each component included within the budget message as adopted by the Council.

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 1205. Budget, Contents.**

The budget shall provide a complete financial plan of all City funds and activities for the ensuing fiscal year and, except as required by law or this Charter, shall be in such form as the Council may require or, in the absence of Council requirements, in such form as the City Manager deems desirable. It shall begin with a clear general summary of its contents; shall show in detail all estimated income, including the amount proposed to be raised by property taxation, estimated unencumbered balances of funds to be carried over from the preceding year, estimated unencumbered available reserves, and all proposed expenditures, including debt service, for the ensuing year. The total of proposed expenditures shall not exceed the total of estimated income, estimated unencumbered balances of funds to be carried over from the preceding year and unencumbered available reserves.

### **SECTION 1206. Council Action on Budget.**

Upon receipt of the proposed budget from the City Manager, the Council shall proceed to consider the same and may make such revisions and changes as it may deem advisable; but it shall not adopt such budget, either as proposed by the Manager or as revised or changed by the Council, until after it shall have held a public hearing in accordance with the following provisions of this Section.

The Council shall fix a time and place for a public hearing on the budget, and shall cause a notice of such public hearing to be published not less than ten (10) days prior to said hearing by at least one insertion in a newspaper of general circulation within the City. Copies of the proposed budget as submitted by the City Manager shall be filed and available for inspection by the public in the office of the City Clerk for at least ten (10) days prior to said hearing. Statements, or copies, of such revisions or changes as the Council shall have made in the proposed budget prior to said public hearing shall be available for public inspection at the public hearing. The notice of said public hearing shall state the time and place of public hearing and the times and place where copies of the budget as submitted by the City Manager will be available for public inspection, and shall further state that statements, or copies, of such



revisions or changes as the Council shall have made in the proposed budget before the public hearing will be available for public inspection at the time and place of said public hearing.

At the time and place advertised for said public hearing or at any time or place to which said public hearing shall from time to time be adjourned, the Council shall hold a public hearing on the proposed budget, and upon such revisions or changes as may have been made by the Council, at which interested persons desiring to be heard shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard. Upon conclusion of such public hearing, the Council may adopt the proposed budget with such amendments, if any, as it may deem desirable. Such amendments may add or increase programs or amounts or may delete or decrease any programs or amounts except expenditures required by law or for debt service, provided that no amendment to the budget shall increase proposed expenditures to an amount greater than the total estimated income plus unencumbered available reserves and estimated unencumbered balances of funds carried over from the preceding fiscal year.

### **SECTION 1207. Appropriations.**

After adoption of the budget and on or prior to the beginning of the budget year, the Council, by ordinance, shall appropriate monies for the operation of each of the offices, departments and agencies of the City during the budget year and for other purposes or objects named in the budget. Appropriations may be made for various classes or categories of expenditures, if the Council deems such to be desirable, without separately appropriating specific amounts of money for each of the items of expenditure within any class or category. Each department, officer or agency to or for which an appropriation has thus been made shall be deemed authorized to use the money so appropriated, subject to the supervision and direction of the City Manager and subject to such other restrictions as are elsewhere set forth in this Charter or are imposed by the Council, for the classes or categories of expenditures specified in the appropriation ordinance, provided its expenditures are within the bounds of the appropriation. Appropriations for bond interest, bond redemption, fixed charges and other classes or categories of expenditures not appropriated to a specific department, office or agency shall be subject to the administration of and expenditure by the City Manager for the respective classes or categories of expenditures for which such appropriations are made.

Appropriation ordinances adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Section need not be first passed for publication, nor be published, and shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

In the event the Council should fail to adopt such ordinance within the prescribed time, the several amounts proposed as expenditures in the budget adopted by the Council, or if the Council has not yet adopted a budget, the several amounts proposed as expenditures in the budget as prepared and submitted by the City Manager to the Council, for the classes or categories of expenditures therein mentioned, so far as they relate to operation and maintenance expenditures, shall be deemed appropriated for such classes or categories of expenditures until the Council adopts said appropriation ordinance for the current budget year.

## **SECTION 1208. Appropriations; Changes.**

Appropriations may be amended, revised or supplemented as follows:

- (a) **SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.** If during the budget year the City Manager certifies or the Council finds that there are available for appropriation revenues in excess of those estimated in the budget, the Council by ordinance may make supplemental appropriations for the year up to the amount of such excess.
- (b) **EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS.** To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace the Council may make emergency appropriations. Such appropriations may be made by emergency ordinance in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of Section 605 of this Charter.
- (c) **REDUCTION OF APPROPRIATIONS.** If at any time during the budget year it appears probable to the City Manager that the revenues available will be insufficient to meet the amounts appropriated, they shall report to the Council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken by them, and their recommendations as to any other steps to be taken. The Council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent or minimize any deficit, and for that purpose it may by ordinance or resolution reduce one or more appropriations.

Also, at any time during the budget year, the Council may repeal or reduce, for any other reason, by ordinance or resolution, any appropriation theretofore made; and, at any time during the budget year, may reappropriate by ordinance all or part of the amount of such reduction for the same or any other class or category of expenditure.

- (d) **TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS BY COUNCIL.** At any time during the budget year, the Council may, by ordinance or resolution, transfer part or all of any unencumbered balance of any appropriation from any department, office or agency to another or from any class or category of expenditure to another class or category of expenditure.

Ordinances or resolutions adopted by the Council pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 1209. Lapse of Appropriations.**

Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, every appropriation shall lapse at the close of the fiscal year to the extent that they shall not have been expended or encumbered.

## **SECTION 1210. Control of Expenditures by City Manager.**

The several items of expenditure appropriated each fiscal year being based on estimated receipts, income or revenues which may not be fully realized, it shall be incumbent upon the City Manager to establish a schedule of allotments, monthly or quarterly or as they may otherwise determine, under which the sums appropriated to the several departments, offices and agencies shall be expended. The City Manager shall revise revenue estimates from time to time, and may revise allotments at any time.

No officer, department or agency of the City, during any budget year, shall expend or incur any obligation to expend money for any class or category of expenditure not authorized by or in excess of the amounts appropriated by the Council, or in excess of any allotments made by the City Manager.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 1211. Funds; General Fund.**

All monies paid into the City Treasury shall be credited to and kept in separate funds in accordance with provisions of this Charter or ordinance. A fund, to be known as the “General Fund,” is hereby created as a medium of control and accounting for all City activities excepting activities for which special funds are established and maintained. All revenues and receipts which are not required by this Charter, State law or ordinances to be placed in special funds shall be credited to the General Fund.

## **SECTION 1212. Cash Reserve Fund.**

A revolving fund, to be known as the “Cash Reserve Fund,” is hereby created for the payment of any authorized expenditures of the City for any fiscal year in anticipation of and before the collection of taxes and other revenues of the City for such fiscal year, and for the payment of authorized expenses of the City for any fiscal year which became due and payable and must be paid prior to the receipt of tax payments and other revenues for such fiscal year. A reserve shall be built up in said fund from any available sources other than restricted sources in an amount which the Council deems sufficient for said purposes. If necessary, money may be borrowed on tax anticipation notes, subject and pursuant to State law, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining said funds until monies from other available sources are adequate for such purpose. Transfers may be made by the Council from such fund to any other fund or funds of such sum or sums of money that may be required to place or keep such other fund or funds on a cash basis. All monies so transferred from the Cash Reserve Fund to any other fund or funds shall be returned to the Cash Reserve Fund before the end of the fiscal year. The balance in said fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in said fund; provided, however, that, to the extent that the amount of money in such fund should exceed such amount as the Council deems desirable for purposes of such fund, the Council may transfer such excess to any other fund or funds for any other purpose or purposes.

### **SECTION 1213. Emergency Reserve Fund.**

A fund, to be known as the “Emergency Reserve Fund,” is hereby created for the purpose of meeting any public emergency involving or threatening the lives, property or welfare of the people of the City or property of the City. A reserve shall be built up in said fund from any available sources, other than restricted sources, in an amount which the Council deems desirable. Except as otherwise hereinafter provided, money in said fund shall be expended pursuant to appropriations made therefrom by ordinance.

In case of a public emergency involving or threatening the lives, property or welfare of the people of the City or the property of the City, the City Manager shall have the power, until the next meeting of the Council, subject to the availability of funds therefor and, subject to such conditions, restrictions and limitations as the Council may impose, to summon, organize and direct the forces of any department of the City in any needed service, to summon, marshal, deputize or otherwise employ other persons, or to do whatever else they may deem necessary for the purpose of meeting the emergency; and for such purpose, to the extent that other monies have not been appropriated or are otherwise unavailable therefor, they may expend any unencumbered monies in the Emergency Reserve Fund notwithstanding the fact that such monies may not have been appropriated for such purpose. At the first meeting of the Council following any such action, the City Manager shall present to the Council a full report of what they have done to meet the emergency.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 1214. Other Funds.**

The Council may provide, by ordinance, for the establishment and maintenance of other special funds.

### **SECTION 1215. Independent Audit.**

The Council shall employ at the beginning of each fiscal year a certified public accountant who shall audit the municipal books, records, accounts and fiscal procedures of all officers and employees of the City who receive, administer or disburse public funds on behalf of the City, and such other officers, employees, departments and agencies as the Council may direct. The Council may order a special audit of any particular department or division of the City government at any time. Such accountant shall at all times abide by the current and most accepted standards of municipal accounting. As soon as practicable after completion of a special audit, if such an audit should be ordered by the Council, said independent accountant shall submit a special report to the Council setting forth their findings and recommendations with respect to the matters covered by such special audit. Also, as soon as practicable at the end of the fiscal year, a final report shall be submitted by such independent accountant to the Council setting forth their findings and recommendations respecting the records, accounts, and

fiscal procedures covered by their general audit. Three (3) copies of each report shall be placed on file in the office of the City Clerk where they shall be available for public inspection.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **SECTION 1216. Bonded Debt Limit.**

The City shall not incur any indebtedness evidenced by general obligation bonds which shall in the aggregate exceed the sum of fifteen percent (15%) of the total assessed valuation of all the real and personal property within the City.

## **SECTION 1217. Public Works Procurement Requirements.**

- (a) DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Section, the following words have the following meanings.
  - (1) “Public Works Project” means a project for the construction, erection, improvement or demolition of any public building, street, bridge, drain, ditch, canal, dam, tunnel, sewer, water system, fire alarm system, electrical traffic control system, street lighting system, parking lot, park or playground. “Public Works Project” shall not mean or include the following: (i) maintenance of any Public Works Project, (ii) any repairs, construction, erection, improvement, or demolition incidental to such maintenance, or (iii) the planting, care or maintenance of trees, shrubbery or flowers.
  - (2) “Major Public Works Contract” means a City contract for a Public Works Project that, at the time of award, requires the expenditure of City funds of more than \$600,000, excluding the cost of any materials, supplies or equipment the City may have acquired or may separately acquire.
  - (3) “Minor Public Works Contract” means a City contract for a Public Works Project that, at the time of award, requires the expenditure of City funds in an amount less than the threshold amount to be a Major Public Works Contract.
  - (4) “Design-Build Contract” means a City contract in which both the design and construction of the Public Works Project are procured from a single entity.
- (b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION. Every July 1st the \$600,000 threshold used to define a Major Public Works Contract will be adjusted for inflation in the construction industry as set forth more specifically by ordinance of the City Council.

- (c) **PROCUREMENT – MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS.** The primary means of procuring a Major Public Works Contract will be formal public bidding in which, following public notice, the City will award the contract to the lowest responsive bidder that is responsible. Formal public bidding will occur consistent with the requirements in Subsections (e) through (h) of this Section, and as otherwise set forth by ordinance of the City Council.
- (1) As a procurement alternative for Major Public Works Contracts, the City can select a contractor using objective criteria to determine the best combination of price and qualifications. This procurement process will be set forth by ordinance of the City Council consistent with the following requirements.
- (i) The City will follow the formal bidding requirements in Subsections (e) through (h) except as otherwise provided in Subsections (c)(1)(ii) through (c)(1)(v).
  - (ii) The City will designate a panel to evaluate the qualifications of the bidders and to assign to each bidder a qualification score. The panel will base the qualification score on an evaluation of objective criteria that may include, but is not limited to, a bidder's safety record, past performance, labor compliance, demonstrated management competence, financial condition and relevant experience.
  - (iii) The qualification score may be determined as part of a prequalification or as part of the bid solicitation. In either case, the relevant documents will set forth the criteria, methodology and rating system the panel will use to evaluate bidders.
  - (iv) Bid prices will remain sealed until after the evaluation panel has assigned a qualification score to each bidder.
  - (v) Based on a formula that uses the assigned qualification score and bid price, the City will award the contract to the lowest responsive bidder that is responsible.
- (2) As a procurement alternative for Major Public Works Contracts over \$1,000,000, the City may negotiate and award a Design-Build Contract without formal public bidding if the City Council finds that such a contract would save money or result in faster project completion. The process for competitively selecting a design-build contractor, and for negotiating and awarding a Design-Build Contract, will be set forth by ordinance of the City Council.

- (d) **PROCUREMENT – MINOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS.** The City will procure Minor Public Works Contracts in the manner set forth by ordinance of the City Council.
- (e) **NOTICE REQUIREMENT AND PROCEDURE.**
  - (1) The notice inviting bids shall set a date for the opening of bids, and shall be published at least once, at least ten (10) days before the date set for opening of bids, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City or electronically so that the notice is publicly available to the general community of potential bidders.
  - (2) All bids, including such bidder's security as may be required, shall be presented under sealed cover.
  - (3) If the successful bidder fails to execute the contract within the time specified in the notice inviting bids or in the specifications referred to therein, the amount of the security required, if any, may be declared forfeited to the City and may be collected and paid into its General Fund, and all bonds so forfeited may be prosecuted and the amount thereof collected and paid into such fund.
  - (4) All bids shall be publicly opened, and the aggregate bid of each bidder declared at a time and place specified in the notice inviting bids.
  - (5) The Council shall have the right to waive any informalities or minor irregularities in bids or bidding.
- (f) **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.** Nothing herein shall preclude the City from including in any contract provisions that require contractor participation in an apprenticeship program for at-risk youth.
- (g) **OTHER PROGRAMS.** Nothing herein precludes the City from implementing otherwise lawful programs supporting the use of small, local or economically disadvantaged businesses.
- (h) **SELECTION OF LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER.** If no bids are received, the Council may re-advertise, or have the "Public Works Project" for which no bids are received done, without further complying with this Section.
  - (1) If two or more bids are the same and the lowest, the Council may accept the one it chooses.
  - (2) In its discretion, the Council may reject any or all bids presented. If it rejects all bids, the Council may, in its discretion, re-advertise.

- (3) If, after rejecting all bids for any “Public Works Project” and after re-advertising for bids, the Council finds and declares that the bids were excessive, it may have such “Public Works Project” done by City employees without further complying with this Section.
- (i) SECTION NOT APPLICABLE. The provisions of this Subsection (c) of this Section shall not apply to any of the following Public Works Projects.
  - (1) Any Public Works Project done for the City by any public or governmental body or agency.
  - (2) Any Public Works Project done by any public utility which is either publicly owned or is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California where such work involves any property of such public utility or is otherwise of direct concern to both the City and such public utility.
  - (3) Any Public Works Project done by a subdivider, developer, or owner of real property in connection with the subdivision or development by them of any real property, notwithstanding the fact that such may be subject to entire or partial reimbursement from the City.
  - (4) Any Public Works Project involving highly technical or professional skill where the peculiar technical or professional skill or ability of the person selected to do such work is an important factor in their selection.
  - (5) Expenditures deemed by the Council to be of urgent necessity for the preservation of life, health, or property, provided the same are authorized by resolution of the Council adopted by the affirmative vote of at least eight (8) members of the Council and containing a declaration of the facts constituting the urgency.
  - (6) Situations where solicitation of bids would for any reason be an idle act.
- (j) PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT. The procedures for the purchase of supplies materials and equipment shall be as prescribed by ordinance.

*Amended at election June 8, 1982*

*Amended at election November 8, 1988*

*Amended at election November 6, 1990*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

*Amended at election November 3, 1998*

*Amended at election November 7, 2000*

*Amended at election March 2, 2004*

*Amended at election November 6, 2018*



### **SECTION 1218. Claims Against City.**

Except as otherwise required by the provisions of State law applicable to chartered cities, claims against the City shall be presented and audited as prescribed by ordinance.

### **SECTION 1219. Property Tax Limit.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the Council shall not levy an ad valorem property tax for any fiscal year in excess of One and 40/100 Dollars (\$1.40) on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100) of assessed value of taxable property in the City unless authorized by the affirmative votes of a majority of the electors voting on a proposition to increase such levy at any election at which the question of such additional levy is submitted to the electors of the City. The number of years that such additional levy is to be made shall be specified in any such proposition. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section, there shall be levied and collected at the same time and in the same manner as other ad valorem property taxes of the City are levied and collected, as additional taxes not subject to the foregoing tax limit, if no other provision for the payment thereof is made, a tax sufficient to meet all obligations of the City for principal and interest on all bonds or judgments due and unpaid or to become due during the fiscal year which constitute general obligations of the City.

### **SECTION 1220. Revenue Bonds for Off-street Parking or Airport Facilities.**

The Council shall have the power to issue revenue bonds to finance the acquisition, construction, establishment, expansion, improvement, maintenance, operation and administration of off-street vehicular parking facilities within the City (hereinafter in this section referred to as “the project”). The Council shall also have the power to issue revenue bonds to finance the acquisition, construction, establishment, expansion, improvement, maintenance, operation and administration of municipal airport facilities (hereinafter in this Section also referred to as “the project”). Such revenue bonds may be issued in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as may be fixed and established by ordinance of the Council. In the alternative, the Council may issue such revenue bonds under the general laws of the State of California applicable thereto, provided that no election shall be required for the issuance of such revenue bonds. The authorization granted to the Council by this section to issue revenue bonds for any of said purposes is complete, and no additional authorization shall be required for their issuance. Neither such revenue bonds nor the interest accruing thereon shall constitute indebtedness of the City, nor shall be taken into consideration in determining the limit of general obligation bonded indebtedness of the City. Such revenue bonds, the interest accruing thereon and any reserve, sinking fund or special fund created to secure the payment of such bonds shall be a charge solely upon the revenues, or upon such portion thereof as may be fixed by the Council, of the project on account of which such bonds were issued. Such revenue bonds shall not be a charge, lien or encumbrance, legal or equitable, on any funds or property of the City, other than the revenues of the project on account of which they were issued, excepting that on-street parking meter revenues may be pledged as additional security

for the payment of revenue bonds issued for any automotive parking facilities pursuant to the Constitution of this State. Neither the credit nor the taxing power of the City shall be deemed to be pledged to or charged with the payment of the principal or interest of any such revenue bonds, nor shall the holders of such revenue bonds have any right to compel the exercise of the taxing power of the City or the forfeiture of any of its properties. The provisions herein contained for the issuance of revenue bonds shall constitute an alternative method of financing said municipal projects.

Nothing contained in this Charter shall preclude the issuance of general obligation bonds of the City for all or any of the above mentioned purposes pursuant to proceedings taken therefor in accordance with the Constitution and General Laws of the State.

#### **SECTION 1221. Revenue Bonds for Public Utilities.**

No revenue bonds shall be issued by the City for the purpose of supplying its inhabitants, or any portion thereof, with water, light, heat, power, railroad or motor vehicle transportation service (other than airport service), or telephone, telegraph or wireless communication service unless authorized by the affirmative vote of a majority of the electors voting on such a proposition in each case.

Nothing herein contained, however, shall be deemed to apply to any of the facilities mentioned in Section 1220. Also, nothing herein contained shall be deemed to deprive the City or its Council of any power which it may have under other Sections of this Charter or under the laws of the State to reimburse, or agree to reimburse, in whole or in part, from any special fund or special revenues, without the affirmative vote of any electors, any subdivider, developer or owner of any real property for any public improvements constructed, installed or furnished by any such person, or for any property dedicated or conveyed to the City by any such person, for or in connection with the subdivision, development or improvement of any real property of any such person.

Also, nothing herein contained shall preclude the issuance of general obligation bonds of the City for any purpose pursuant to proceedings taken therefor in accordance with the Constitution and general laws of the State.

#### **SECTION 1222. Revenue Bonds for Other Purposes.**

Revenue bonds may be issued by the City for any purposes other than those specified in Sections 1220 and 1221 only under and pursuant to the laws of the State of California.

Nothing herein contained, however, shall be deemed to deprive the City or its Council of any power which it may have under other Sections of this Charter or under the laws of the State to reimburse, or agree to reimburse, in whole or in part, from any special fund or special revenues, without the affirmative vote of any electors, any subdivider, developer or owner of any real property for any public improvements constructed, installed or furnished by any such person, or for any property dedicated or conveyed to the City by any such person, for or in connection with the subdivision, development or improvement of any real property of any such person.

Also, nothing herein contained shall preclude the issuance of general obligation bonds of the City for any purpose pursuant to proceedings taken therefor in accordance with the Constitution and general laws of the State.

## **ARTICLE XIII FRANCHISES**

### **SECTION 1300. Power to Require Franchises.**

Any person, firm or corporation furnishing or proposing to furnish the City or its inhabitants, or any portion thereof, with water, light, heat, gas, electricity, power, transportation, telephone, telegraph, communication, refrigeration, storage, or any other public utility or service, or traversing or proposing to traverse any part of the City for the transmitting or conveying of any such utility or service elsewhere, or using or proposing to use any public street, way, alley or place in the City for any of such purposes or for the operation of any plants, works or equipment for the furnishing thereof, or exercising or proposing to exercise any public utility franchise right or privilege in the City, may be required by ordinance to have a valid and existing franchise from the City therefor, excepting insofar as the City is prohibited by the Constitution or other applicable laws of the State of California or of the United States of America from requiring such franchise.

### **SECTION 1301. Authority to Grant Franchises.**

The Council is empowered to grant by ordinance a franchise to any person, firm or corporation, whether operating under an existing franchise or not, to furnish the City and its inhabitants, or any portion thereof, with any of the public utilities or services, or to do any of the things, mentioned in Section 1300 of this Charter.

### **SECTION 1302. Franchise Terms, Conditions and Procedures.**

Subject to the provisions of this Charter, the Council may grant a franchise pursuant to a procedure prescribed by ordinance or pursuant to a procedure provided by State law. Any ordinance which prescribes a franchise-granting procedure different from that provided by State law shall make reasonable provision for a public hearing, after public notice, on any requested or proposed grant of a franchise. The Council may grant a franchise without calling for bids or may, in its discretion, advertise for bids for sale of a franchise upon such basis, not in conflict with the terms of this Article, as in its judgment is in the public interest. The Council may prescribe, in any procedural ordinance adopted pursuant to this Section, the terms and conditions under which any franchise or franchises will be granted.

The Council, in granting any franchise, shall prescribe the terms and conditions of such franchise in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Charter and any ordinance

adopted pursuant thereto, and may in such franchise impose such other and additional terms and conditions not in conflict with said Charter or ordinances, whether governmental or contractual in character, as in the judgment of the Council are in the public interest or as the people, by initiative, indicate they desire to have so imposed.

#### **SECTION 1303. Term of Franchise.**

Every franchise shall be for either a fixed term or for an indeterminate period. If for a fixed term, the franchise shall state the term for which it is granted; if indeterminate, it shall set forth the terms and conditions under which it may be terminated.

#### **SECTION 1304. Purchase or Condemnation by City.**

No franchise grant shall in any way or to any extent impair or affect the right of the City now or hereafter conferred upon it by law to acquire property of the grantee thereof either by purchase or through the exercise of the right of eminent domain, and nothing herein contained shall be construed to contract away or to modify or to abridge either for a term or in perpetuity the City's right of eminent domain with respect to any public utility.

#### **SECTION 1305. Exercising Right Without Franchise.**

The exercise by any person, firm or corporation of any privilege for which a franchise is required without procuring such franchise shall be a misdemeanor and each day that such continues shall constitute a separate violation.

#### **SECTION 1306. Article Not Applicable to City.**

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to apply to the City, or any department thereof, when furnishing any public utility or service.

#### **SECTION 1307. Preservation of Rights.**

Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed to affect or impair any rights, powers or privileges vested in, possessed by or available to the City by virtue of previous Charter provisions relating to franchises.

### **ARTICLE XIV SCHOOL SYSTEM**

#### **SECTION 1400. Effect of Charter.**

The organization, government and administration of the public school system in the City of San José shall not be affected by the adoption of this Charter, but shall continue in existence as is now or hereafter prescribed by the Education Code of the State of California.

## **ARTICLE XV RETIREMENT**

### **SECTION 1500. Duty to Provide Retirement System.**

Except as hereinafter otherwise provided, the Council shall provide, by ordinance or ordinances, for the creation, establishment and maintenance of a retirement plan or plans for all officers and employees of the City. Such plan or plans need not be the same for all officers and employees. Subject to other provisions of this Article, the Council may at any time, or from time to time, amend or otherwise change any retirement plan or plans or adopt or establish a new or different plan or plans for all or any officers or employees; provided, however the Council shall not establish any new or different plan after November 3, 2010 that is not actuarially sound.

*Amended at election November 2, 2010*

### **SECTION 1501. Exclusions.**

- (a) The Council in its discretion may exclude all or any of the following persons from any or all retirement plans, to wit: Persons mentioned in sub-paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of sub-section (a) of Section 1101 of this Charter; all persons employed or whose services are contracted for pursuant to any transfer, consolidation or contract mentioned or referred to in Section 1109 of this Charter; persons employed pursuant to Section 1110 of this Charter; persons in City service primarily for training, study or educational purposes; persons employed or paid on a part-time, per diem, per hour or any basis other than a monthly basis; temporary employees; persons employed pursuant to any relief or anti-poverty program primarily for the purpose of giving relief or aid to such persons. Also, persons who are members of any other retirement or pension system, other than the federal social security system or any other federal retirement or pension system, and who are receiving credit in such other system for service rendered to the City may be excluded, as to such service, from any such plan or plans.
- (b) On or after November 3, 2010, the Council, may by ordinance, exclude any officer or employee hired on or after the ordinance's effective date from any retirement plan or benefit of any retirement plan in existence on the effective date of the ordinance. Any such ordinance shall be subject to the requirements of applicable law.

*Amended at election November 2, 2010*

### **SECTION 1502. Authority to Join Other Systems.**

Subject to other provisions of this Article, the City, by and through its Council, is hereby empowered, but not required, to join or continue as a contracting agency in any retirement or pension system or systems existing or hereafter created under the laws of the State of California or of the United States of America to which municipalities and municipal officers or employees are eligible.

### **SECTION 1503. Continuance of Existing Retirement Systems.**

Any and all retirement system or systems, existing upon adoption of this Charter, for the retirement of officers or employees of the City, adopted under any law or color of any law, including but not limited to those retirement systems established by Parts 1, 2 and 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code, are hereby confirmed, validated and declared legally effective and shall continue until otherwise provided by ordinance. The foregoing provisions of this Section shall operate to supply such authorization as may be necessary to validate any such retirement system or systems which could have been supplied in the Charter of the City of San José or by the people of the City at the time of adoption or amendment of any such retirement system or systems. However, subject to other provisions of this Article, the Council shall at all times have the power and right to repeal or amend any such retirement system or systems, and to adopt or establish a new or different plan or plans for all or any officers or employees, it being the intent that the foregoing sections of this Article shall prevail over the provisions of this Section.

### **SECTION 1504. Minimum Benefits for Certain Members of Police and Fire Departments.**

The Council, by ordinance, shall provide the following minimum benefits for the following members of the Police and Fire Departments of the City excepting those members who are hereinafter excluded from the application of this Section.

- (a) **RETIREMENT.** An officer or employee of the Police Department or Fire Department of the City shall be entitled, upon their request, to be retired from City service and to receive during such retirement until their death a monthly retirement allowance equal to fifty percent (50%) of their “final compensation,” hereinafter defined, if they:
  - (1) Complete twenty (20) years of “service,” hereinafter defined, and attains, while holding such office or employment, the age of fifty-five (55) years or more; or
  - (2) Complete twenty (20) years of “service,” hereinafter defined, is “disabled,” as such term is hereinafter defined, while holding such office or employment, and applies for such retirement while holding such office or employment.
- (b) **CONTRIBUTIONS.** Contributions required to be made by officers and employees of the Police Department or Fire Department of the City to any

retirement fund, plan or system for or because of current service or current service benefits of or for such officers or employees, in relation to and as compared with contributions made by the City for such purpose, shall not exceed the ratio of three (3) for such officers and employees to eight (8) for the City. The foregoing provision, however, does not apply to any contributions required for or because of any prior service or prior service benefits, nor to any contributions required for or because of membership in the Federal Old Age and Survivorship Insurance Program or any other Federal insurance or retirement program or because of benefits provided by any such program.

- (c) **ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS.** Any retirement plan or system established for officers or employees of the Police or Fire Departments shall be actuarially sound; and an actuarial report thereon shall be obtained at intervals not exceeding five (5) years.
- (d) **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this Section, “service” means service as defined on the effective date of this Charter in Topic 5 of Part 3A of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code; and “final compensation” means final compensation as defined on the effective date of this Charter in Topic 1 of Part 3A of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code, except that with respect to officers and employees who on the effective date of this Charter are members of the Police and Fire Department Retirement Plan established by Part 3 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code “final compensation” shall be deemed to mean the average monthly pay received by any such officer or employee during the three (3) years immediately preceding their request for retirement. Also, as used in this Section, “disabled” means the incurrence of a disability, short of death, of permanent duration, resulting from injury or disease, which renders the officer or employee incapable of continuing to satisfactorily assume the responsibilities and perform the duties and functions of their office or position and of any other office or position in the same classification of offices or positions to which the City may offer to transfer them; provided, however, that such a disability shall be deemed to be of permanent duration if the City or any of its authorized agencies finds that such disability will continue at least until the disabled person attains the age of fifty-five (55) years.
- (e) **MISCELLANEOUS.** The benefits hereinabove specified are minimum only; and the Council, in its discretion, may grant greater or additional benefits. The City shall not be deemed obligated, by virtue of any of the above provisions, to continue to employ any person or persons until they qualify for or request any retirement benefits. Also, anything hereinabove to the contrary notwithstanding, any retirement allowance may be terminated and cancelled if the person otherwise entitled thereto commits treason or is convicted of a felony.

- (f) **PERSONS EXCLUDED.** The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any of the following persons, the same being hereby excluded from the application of the above provisions, to wit: Any and all persons hereinabove mentioned or referred to in Section 1501; officers or employees whose principal duties are those of a telephone operator, clerk, stenographer, secretary, machinist or mechanic; and any and all other officers or employees whose principal duties or functions do not fall clearly within the scope of active law enforcement or active fire fighting and prevention service even though such an officer or employee is subject to occasional call or is occasionally called upon to perform duties or functions within the scope of active law enforcement service or active fire fighting or prevention service, excepting persons employed and qualifying as police patrolmen or in equal or higher rank in the police department irrespective of the duties to which they are assigned, or persons employed and qualifying as firemen, fire fighters, hosemen or in equal or higher rank in the fire department irrespective of the duties to which they are assigned. Also, the provisions of this Section shall not apply to any person or persons who have been retired from the service of the City prior to the effective date of this Charter.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

#### **SECTION 1505. Minimum Benefits for Officers and Employees Other Than Members of the Police or Fire Departments.**

The Council, by ordinance, shall provide the following minimum benefits for all officers and employees of the City excepting those who are hereinafter excluded from the application of this Section.

- (a) **SERVICE RETIREMENT.** An officer or employee of the City, other than those hereinafter excluded, shall be entitled, upon their request, to be retired from City service and to receive during such retirement until their death an annual retirement allowance equal to two percent (2%) of their “final compensation,” hereinafter defined, per each year of their first twenty-five (25) years of service, hereinafter defined, plus one percent (1%) of such final compensation per each year of their service in excess of twenty-five (25) years, subject to a maximum of eighty-five percent (85%) of such final compensation, if they:
- (1) Complete twenty-five (25) years or more of “service,” hereinafter defined, and attains, while holding such office or employment, the age of fifty-five (55) years or more; or
  - (2) Attain, while holding such office or employment, the age of seventy (70) years or more regardless of their years of service.



- (b) **DISABILITY RETIREMENT.** An officer or employee of the City, other than those hereinafter excluded, who has completed ten (10) years of “service,” hereinafter defined, and is “disabled,” as such term is hereinafter defined, while holding such office or employment, and applies for a disability retirement while holding such office or employment, shall be entitled, upon their request, to be retired from City service because of such disability, and to thereafter receive, during the period of such disability, a monthly disability retirement allowance equal in amount to the monthly disability retirement allowance provided for in Topic 16 of Part 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code as said Topic and Chapter read on the effective date of this Charter.
- (c) **CONTRIBUTIONS.** Contributions required to be made by officers and employees of the City, other than those hereinafter excluded, to any retirement fund, system or plan for or because of current service or current service benefits of or for such officers or employees, in relation to and as compared with contributions made by the City for such purpose, shall not exceed the ratio of three (3) for such officers and employees to eight (8) for the City. The foregoing provision, however, does not apply to any contributions required for or because of any prior service or prior service benefits, nor to any contributions required for or because of membership in the Federal Old Age and Survivorship Insurance Program or any other Federal insurance or retirement program or for or because of any benefits provided by any such program.
- (d) **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this Section, “service” means all service for which an officer or employee is entitled to credit under the provisions of the retirement system established by Part 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code as such Part 4 reads on the effective date of this Charter; and “final compensation” means final compensation as defined on the effective date of this Charter in Topic 1 of Part 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code. Also, as used in this Section, “disabled” means the incurrence of a disability, short of death, resulting from injury or disease, which renders the officer or employee incapable of continuing to satisfactorily assume the responsibilities and perform the duties and functions of their office or position and of any other office or position in the same classification of offices or positions to which the City may offer to transfer them.
- (e) **MISCELLANEOUS.** The benefits hereinabove specified are minimum only; and the Council in its discretion, may grant greater or additional benefits. The City shall not be deemed obligated, by virtue of any of the above provisions, to continue to employ any person or persons until they qualify for or request any retirement benefits. Also, anything hereinabove to the contrary notwithstanding, any service or disability retirement allowance may be terminated and cancelled if the person otherwise entitled thereto commits treason or is convicted of a felony.

- (f) **PERSONS EXCLUDED.** The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any of the following persons, the same being hereby excluded from the application of the above provisions, to wit: Any and all persons mentioned or referred to in Section 1501; and any and all officers and employees in the Police Department and Fire Department of the City; any person or persons who have been retired from the service of the City prior to the effective date of this Charter; and any and all persons to whom, on the effective date of this Charter, the provisions of Topic 15A of Part 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code, as it reads on the effective date of this Charter, do not apply.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 1506. Conformance to State and Federal Law.**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, the City Council may, by ordinance, and subject to the provisions of California Government Code Section 3500 *et seq.*, provide for the conformance of any retirement plan or plans established and maintained by the City of San José to Section 415 of the United States Internal Revenue Code or other applicable provisions of the laws of the United States or the State of California.

*Added at election June 5, 1990*

## **ARTICLE XV-A RETIREMENT**

### **SECTION 1501-A. Intent.**

The City of San Jose's financial ability to provide basic services is essential to the health, safety, quality of life and well-being of its residents. This Act is intended to strengthen the City's financial ability to ensure the City can provide reasonable and sustainable postemployment benefits while at the same time delivering essential city services to the residents of San Jose. This Act is further designed to ensure that no future defined retirement benefit increases occur without voter approval.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

### **SECTION 1502-A. Act Supersedes All Conflicting Provisions.**

The Sections of Article XV-A enacted by the voters pursuant to the ballot measure known as Measure B in 2012 are hereby replaced in their entirety by the following provisions. The provisions of this Act shall prevail over all other conflicting or inconsistent wage, pension, or postemployment benefit provisions in the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, or other enactments.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, the City Council may, by ordinance, and subject to the provisions of California Government Code Section 3500 *et seq.*, provide for the

conformance of any retirement plan or plans established and maintained by the City of San José to Section 415 of the United States Internal Revenue Code or other applicable provisions of the laws of the United States or the State of California.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

#### **SECTION 1503-A. Reservation of Voter Authority.**

- (a) There shall be no enhancements to defined retirement benefits in effect as of January 1, 2017, without voter approval. A defined retirement benefit is any defined post-employment benefit program, including defined benefit pension plans and defined benefit retiree healthcare benefits. An enhancement is any change to defined retirement benefits, including any change to pension or retiree healthcare benefits or retirement formula that increases the total aggregate cost of the benefit in terms of normal cost and unfunded liability as determined by the Retirement Board's actuary. This does not include other changes which do not directly modify specific defined retirement benefits, including but not limited to any medical plan design changes, subsequent compensation increases which may increase an employee's final compensation, or any assumption changes as determined by the Retirement Board.
- (b) If the State Legislature or the voters of the State of California enact a requirement of voter approval for the continuation of defined pension benefits, the voters of the City of San Jose hereby approve the continuation of the pension benefits in existence at the time of passage of the State measure including those established by this measure.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

#### **SECTION 1504-A. Retirement Benefits – Tier 2.**

The Tier 2 retirement plan shall include the following benefits listed below. This retirement program shall be referred to as "Tier 2" and shall be effective for employees hired on or after the following dates except as otherwise provided in this section: (1) Sworn Police Officers: August 4, 2013; (2) Sworn Firefighters: January 2, 2015 and (3) Federated: September 30, 2012. Employees initially hired before the effective date of Tier 2 shall be Tier 1 employees, even if subsequently rehired. Employees who qualify as "classic" lateral employees under the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act and are initially hired by the City of San Jose on or after January 1, 2013, are considered Tier 1 employees.

- (a) **COST SHARING.** The City's cost for the Tier 2 defined benefit plan shall not exceed 50% of the total cost of the Tier 2 defined benefit plan (both normal cost and unfunded liabilities), except as provided herein. Normal cost shall always be split 50/50. In the event an unfunded liability is determined to exist, employees will contribute toward the unfunded liability in increasing increments of 0.33% per year, with the City paying the balance of the unfunded liability, until such time that the unfunded liability is shared 50/50 between the employer and employee.

- (b) AGE. The age of eligibility for service retirement shall be 57 for employees in the Police and Fire Retirement Plans and 62 for employees in the Federated Retirement System. Earlier Retirement may be permitted with a reduction in pension benefit by a factor of 7% per year for employees in the Police and Fire Retirement Plan and a reduction in pension benefit by a factor of 5% per year for employees in the Federated Retirement System. An employee is not eligible for a service retirement earlier than the age of 50 for employees in the Police and Fire Retirement Plan or age 55 for employees in the Federated Retirement System. Tier 2 employees shall be eligible for a service retirement after earning five years of retirement service credit.
- (c) COLA. Cost of living adjustments, or COLA, shall be equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), defined as San Jose – San Francisco – Oakland U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics index, CPI-Urban Consumers, December to December, with the following limitations:
1. For Police and Fire Retirement Plan members, cost of living adjustments applicable to the retirement allowance shall be the lesser of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or 2.0%.
  2. For Federated Retirement System members, cost of living adjustments applicable to the retirement allowance shall be the lesser of CPI or:
    - a) 1-10 total years of City service and hired after the effective date of the implementing ordinances of the revised Tier 2: 1.25%
    - b) 1-10 years total years of City service and hired before the effective date of the implementing ordinances of the revised Tier 2: 1.5%
    - c) 11-20 total years of City service: 1.5%
    - d) 21-25 total years of City service: 1.75%
    - e) 26 or more total years of City service: 2.0%
  3. The first COLA adjustment will be prorated based on the number of months retired in the first calendar year of retirement.
- (d) FINAL COMPENSATION. “Final compensation” shall mean the average annual earned pay of the highest three consecutive years of service. Final compensation shall be base pay only, excluding premium pays or other additional compensation, except members of the Police and Fire Plan whose pay shall include the same premium pays as Tier 1 members.
- (e) MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE AND ACCRUAL RATE. For Police and Fire Plan members, service retirement benefits shall be capped at a maximum of 80% of final compensation for an employee who has 30 or more years of service at the accrual rate contained in the Alternative Pension Reform Settlement Framework approved by City Council on August 25, 2015. For Federated Retirement System members, service retirement benefits shall be capped at a

maximum of 70% of final compensation for an employee who has 35 or more years of service at the accrual rate contained in the Alternative Pension Reform Settlement Framework approved by City Council on December 15, 2015, and January 12, 2016.

- (f) YEAR OF SERVICE. An employee will be eligible for a full year of service credit upon reaching 2080 hours of regular time worked (including paid leave, but not including overtime).

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

#### **SECTION 1505-A. Disability Retirements.**

- (a) The definition of “disability” shall be that as contained in the San Jose Municipal Code in Sections 3.36.900 and 3.28.1210 as of the date of this measure.
- (b) Each plan member seeking a disability retirement shall have their disability determined by a panel of medical experts appointed by the Retirement Boards.
- (c) The independent panel of medical experts will make their determination based upon majority vote, which may be appealed to an administrative law judge.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

#### **SECTION 1506-A. Supplemental Payments to Retirees.**

The Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (“SRBR”) has been discontinued, and the assets returned to the appropriate retirement trust fund. In the event assets are required to be retained in the SRBR, no supplemental payments shall be permitted from that fund without voter approval.

The SRBR will be replaced with a Guaranteed Purchasing Power (GPP) benefit for all Tier 1 retirees. The GPP is intended to maintain the monthly allowance for Tier 1 retirees at 75% of purchasing power of their original pension benefit effective with the date of the retiree’s retirement. The GPP will apply in limited circumstances (for example, when inflation exceeds the COLA for Tier 1 retirees for an extended period of time). Any calculated benefit will be paid annually in February.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

#### **SECTION 1507-A. Retiree Healthcare.**

The defined benefit retiree healthcare plan will be closed to new employees as defined by the San Jose Municipal Code in Chapter 3.36, Part 1 and Chapter 3.28, Part 1.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

## **SECTION 1508-A. Actuarial Soundness (for both pension and retiree healthcare plans).**

- (a) In recognition of the interests of the taxpayers and the responsibilities to the plan beneficiaries, all pension and retiree healthcare plans shall be operated in conformance with Article XVI, Section 17 of the California Constitution. This includes but is not limited to:
  - 1. All plans and their trustees shall assure prompt delivery of benefits and related services to participants and their beneficiaries;
  - 2. All plans shall be subject to an annual actuarial analysis that is publicly disclosed in order to assure the plan has sufficient assets;
  - 3. All plan trustees shall discharge their duties with respect to the system solely in the interest of, and for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries, minimizing employer contributions thereto, and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the system;
  - 4. All plan trustees shall diversify the investments of the system so as to minimize the risk of loss and maximize the rate of return, unless under the circumstances it is not prudent to do so;
  - 5. Determine contribution rates on a stated contribution policy, developed by the retirement system boards and;
  - 6. When investing the assets of the plans, the objective of all plan trustees shall be to maximize the rate of return without undue risk of loss while having proper regard to the funding objectives of the plans and the volatility of the plans' contributions as a percentage of payroll.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

## **SECTION 1509-A. Retirement Contributions.**

There shall be no offset to normal cost contribution rates in the event plan funding exceeds 100%. Both the City and employees shall always make the full annual required plan contributions as calculated by the Retirement Board actuaries which will be in compliance with applicable laws and will ensure the qualified status under the Internal Revenue Code.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

## **SECTION 1510-A. No Retroactive Defined Retirement Benefit Enhancements.**

- (a) Any enhancement to a member's defined retirement benefit adopted on or after January 1, 2017, shall apply only to service performed on or after the operative date of the enhancement and shall not be applied to any service performed prior to the operative date of the enhancement.
- (b) If a change to a member's retirement membership classification or a change in employment results in an enhancement in the retirement formula or defined retirement benefits applicable to that member, except as otherwise provided under the plans as of [effective date of ordinance], that enhancement shall apply

only to service performed on or after the effective date of the change and shall not be applied to any service performed prior to the effective date of the change.

- (c) "Operative date" would be the date that any resolution or ordinance implementing the enhancement to a member's defined retirement formula or defined retirement benefit adopted by the City Council becomes effective.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

### **SECTION 1511-A. Severability.**

This Act shall be interpreted so as to be consistent with all federal and state laws, rules and regulations. The provisions of this Act are severable. If any section, sub-section, sentence or clause ("portion") of this Act is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a final judgment of a court, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this amendment. The voters hereby declare that this Act, and each portion, would have been adopted irrespective of whether any one or more portions of the Act are found invalid. If any portion of this Act is held invalid as applied to any person or circumstance, such invalidity shall not affect any application of this Act which can be given effect.

*Amended at election November 8, 2016*

## **ARTICLE XVI ELECTIONS**

### **SECTION 1600. Municipal Elections.**

All municipal elections shall be held in accordance with the following:

- (a) **REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.** A Regular Municipal Election is either a regularly scheduled Primary or Run-off Municipal Election. Such elections shall be held every two years, with the election for Mayor and for the odd numbered Council Districts being every four (4) years beginning with 1994, and the election for the even numbered Council Districts being every four (4) years beginning in 1996. Beginning in 2024, the election for Mayor and for the even numbered Council Districts will be held every four (4) years, and the election for the odd numbered Council Districts will be held every four (4) years beginning in 2026. Each member's term shall commence on the first day of January next following, and end on the last day of December in the fourth calendar year succeeding, the date of the member's election, except the member elected to the office of Mayor whose term began January 1, 2023 as set forth in Section 402 of Article IV and 500 of Article V. A regularly scheduled Primary Election shall be held on the same date that the State of California holds its Direct Primary Election. A Run-off Municipal Election shall be held on the same date the State of California holds its Statewide General Election.

- (b) GENERAL ELECTIONS. Elections which are held simultaneously in all districts of the City, whether municipal, county or state elections are referred to as General Elections.
- (c) SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. Special Municipal Elections are elections scheduled pursuant to Section 1601. The dates of any Special Municipal Election shall be set by resolution.
- (d) RUN-OFF QUALIFICATION. The two candidates who poll the greatest number of votes for office in the Primary Municipal Election shall be the only candidates whose names shall appear on the ballot as candidates for such office at the following Run-off Municipal Election.
- (e) TIES. Anything elsewhere to the contrary notwithstanding, all ties in any municipal election shall be decided by lot during open meeting of the Council, under the direction of the Council.
- (f) DEATH OF A CANDIDATE. If a candidate dies after the filing of nomination papers for the primary election, the deceased candidate is treated as a candidate for all election purposes. If the deceased candidate is elected, the office will be declared vacant as of the beginning of the term of office for which the election was held. The position shall be filled in accordance with Section 410.
- (g) MAJORITY OF VOTES. No person shall be declared elected to the office of the Mayor or Council member at any municipal election unless the person receives a majority of the votes cast for such office.

*Amended at election June 7, 1966*

*Amended at election June 2, 1970*

*Amended at election June 7, 1972*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

*Amended at election March 26, 1996*

*Amended at election June 7, 2022*

## **SECTION 1601. Special Municipal Elections.**

All municipal elections, other than Regular Municipal Elections, shall be deemed to be Special Municipal Elections.

No Special Municipal Election shall be held at any time other than at the time of a Regular Municipal Election or a General Election, except in any of the following situations:

- (a) Where such election is held pursuant to Section 410 to fill a vacancy in the Council;



- (b) Where such election is held pursuant to the initiative, referendum and recall provisions of Sections 1603 and 1604;
- (c) Where the Council calls such an election pursuant to any provision of Sections 34450 and following of the California Government Code;
- (d) Where such election is consolidated with a state, county or school district election held in the County of Santa Clara; or
- (e) Where the holding of a Special Municipal Election at another time is authorized by the affirmative vote of ten (10) members of the Council.

Subject to the above provisions, Special Municipal Elections shall be held at such times and for such purposes as the Council may authorize.

*Amended at election June 2, 1970*

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

## **SECTION 1602. Election Procedure.**

Except as otherwise provided by ordinance hereafter enacted, all municipal elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Elections Code of the State of California, as the same now exist or may hereafter be amended, for the holding of elections in cities, insofar as the same are not in conflict with this Charter.

## **SECTION 1603. Initiative, Referendum and Recall.**

The powers of initiative, referendum and the recall of elected municipal officers are hereby reserved to the electors of the City. The provisions of the Elections Code of the State of California, as the same now exist or may hereafter be amended, governing the initiative and referendum and the recall of municipal officers in cities shall be applicable insofar as the same are not in conflict with this Charter; provided, however, that the number of signatures required shall be as follows:

- (a) **INITIATIVE.** To initiate proceedings for the exercise of the power of initiative, either of the following provisions shall apply as is applicable:
  - (1) If the petition is signed by duly qualified electors of the City equal in number to at least eight percent (8%) of the number of persons eligible to vote according to the last report of registration filed by the County Registrar of Voters with the Secretary of State, which is in effect at the time the notice of intent to circulate the petition is published, and contains a request that the proposed ordinance be submitted immediately to a vote of the people at a Special Municipal Election, the Council shall either pass the proposed ordinance for publication, without alteration, at the regular meeting at which it is presented by the

City Clerk and adopt said ordinance within ten (10) days after it is presented, or immediately call a Special Municipal Election at which the ordinance, without alteration, shall be submitted to a vote of the voters of the City.

- (2) If the petition is signed by duly qualified electors of the City equal in number to at least five percent (5%) of the number of persons eligible to vote according to the last report of registration filed by the County Registrar of Voters with the Secretary of State, which is in effect at the time the notice of intent to circulate the petition is published, and the ordinance petitioned for is not required to be, or for any reason is not, submitted to the voters at a Special Municipal Election, and is not adopted without alteration by the Council, then the proposed ordinance, without alteration, shall be submitted by the Council to the voters at the next General Election.
- (3) In the event that a petition is submitted in accordance with the provisions of either subparagraphs (1) or (2) of subsection (a), and the Council submits said proposed ordinance to a vote of the voters of the City, the Council may by a two-thirds vote of the Council submit any alternative ordinance at the same election. If the provisions of two or more ordinances adopted at the same election conflict, the ordinance receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall control.
  - a. Before the Council may submit any alternative ordinance to a vote of the voters of the City, the Council shall refer the petition submitted in accordance with the provisions of either subparagraphs (1) or (2) of subsection (a) for a report on all of the following:
    - (i) The accuracy of the information provided in the petition.
    - (ii) The economic impact of the petition on the public, as well as the proponents and major donors to the petition if known.
    - (iii) Whether the petition would create a benefit or entitlement that would be difficult or impossible to reverse.
  - b. The report must be prepared by a person or entity that is independent from the City, which may be a consultant retained by the City. The report may not include arguments in support or opposition to the petition, rationales for any alternative ordinance, or value judgments from the findings.

- c. The report must be presented to the Council within the time prescribed by the Council, but no later than the deadline to submit the petition to the voters, and must be accepted by a majority vote of the Council.
  - d. The report may be in addition to any other report the Council is authorized to request under State law and may be requested during the circulation of the petition.
- (b) **REFERENDUM.** To initiate proceedings for the exercise of the power of referendum, the petition shall be signed by duly qualified electors of the City equal in number to at least eight percent (8%) of the number of persons eligible to vote according to the last report of registration filed by the County Registrar of Voters with the Secretary of State, which is in effect at the time of adoption of the ordinance or measure which is the subject of the petition.
- (c) **RECALL OF THE MAYOR.** To initiate proceedings for the exercise of the power of recall of the Mayor, the petition shall be signed by duly qualified electors of the City equal in number to at least twelve percent (12%) of the number of persons eligible to vote according to the last report of registration filed by the County Registrar of Voters with the Secretary of State, which is in effect at the time the notice of intent to circulate the petition is published.
- (d) **RECALL OF COUNCIL MEMBER.** To initiate proceedings for the exercise of the power of recall of a Council member elected by a District, the petition shall be signed by duly qualified electors of the District equal in number to at least twelve percent (12%) of the number of persons residing in the District eligible to vote according to the last report of registration filed by the County Registrar of Voters with the Secretary of State, which is in effect at the time the notice of intent to circulate the petition is published.

*Amended at election June 2, 1970*

*Amended at election November 7, 1978*

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 1994*

*Amended at election November 6, 2018*

#### **SECTION 1604. Removal of City Manager.**

The electors of the City do hereby reserve the power to remove from their office the person holding the position of City Manager. The provisions of the Elections Code of the State of California governing the recall of holders of elective offices of cities, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended, shall be applicable, insofar as the same are not in conflict with this Charter, to the removal from their office of the person holding the position of City Manager, the same as if the position of City Manager were an elective office; provided, however, that:

- (a) To initiate proceedings for the exercise of said power, the petition shall be signed by duly qualified electors of the City equal in number to at least the same percentage of the number of persons eligible to vote according to the last report of registration filed by the County Registrar of Voters with the Secretary of State, which is in effect at the time the notice of intent to circulate the petition is published, as is required for recall petitions under the provisions of subsection (c) of Section 1603 of this Charter.
- (b) If a vacancy occurs in the office of City Manager after a removal petition has been filed, no election need be held;
- (c) There shall be no nomination of candidates to succeed the incumbent in the event the incumbent is removed from office. If the incumbent is removed from their office pursuant to the provisions of this Section, a successor shall be appointed by the Council.

No person who has been removed from the office of City Manager pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be reappointed thereto within a period of four (4) years from and after date of such removal.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **ARTICLE XVII GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION 1700. Parks.**

Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, the public parks of the City shall be inalienable unless otherwise authorized by the affirmative votes of the majority of the electors voting on such a proposition in each case; provided and excepting, however, that the same or any interest therein, or any concessions or privileges therein or in any building or structure situate therein, may be leased by the Council, or the Council may grant permits or licenses for the same, without any vote of any electors, if the term of each such lease or permit does not exceed three (3) years. As used herein “public parks” means any and all lands of the City which have been or are dedicated, improved and opened to the public for public park purposes.

#### **SECTION 1700.1. Council Authority to Enter into Long Term Agreements.**

The City Council may enter into long term leases, concessions, permits or other agreements (“Agreements”) with individuals or non-City entities, to allow use of public parks for terms of up to 25 years at a time, without voter approval, if the Council determines that Agreement would benefit the community and that the following conditions have been met:

- (i) the Agreement would enhance the designated recreational purposes for the public park;
- (ii) the public park subject to the Agreement is more than 5 acres in size and has at least 1 Community Serving Amenity, as defined below;
- (iii) the Agreement complies with an adopted City Council policy for Long Term Agreements in Parks, which defines community outreach standards, requirements for affordable access to the public park, periodic performance reviews, and early termination rights among other things; and
- (iv) any funds received by the City from the Agreement shall be used for recreational purposes.

A “Community Serving Amenity” is defined as one of the following: Pool, Community Center or Reservable Sports Field or similar recreational improvements in a park and that is described in the City's approved master strategic plan for parks and community facilities. Nothing herein is intended to limit City Council's authority to enter into other long term agreements on parks which have been approved by the voters.

*Added at election November 4, 2008*

### **SECTION 1701. Underground Parking Stations in Parks.**

Whenever the Council finds with respect to any public park, plaza, or square that the construction, when completed, in the sub-surface space thereunder of a public parking station (including all entrance and exit approaches, openings, and ramps, ventilators, elevator shafts and other appurtenances to such parking station) and/or the operation in the subsurface space thereunder of a public parking station (including services incidental to such operations such as sale of gasoline, oil and accessories and lubrication and oiling of vehicles) will not be in any material respect or degree detrimental to public park, plaza or square purposes or in contravention of any conditions under which such public park, plaza or square was received, the City, without the affirmative vote of any electors, may construct and/or operate such public parking station in the sub-surface space under such public park, plaza or square, or said Council may lease to the highest responsible bidder for a term not to exceed fifty (50) years, and upon such other terms and conditions as it may determine, sub-surface space under such public park, plaza or square for the purpose of constructing and/or operating therein such public automobile parking station. Nothing contained in this Section shall be deemed to deprive the City or its Council of any powers, nor limit or restrict any powers which the City or its Council may have, with respect to public parks, under or by virtue of other provisions of this Charter.

### **SECTION 1702. Streets in Parks.**

The Council, by ordinance, without the affirmative vote of any electors, may authorize the opening, establishment and/or maintenance of streets or other public ways in or through any of the public parks, public places or other public property of the City. Nothing contained in this Section shall be deemed to deprive the City or its Council of any powers, nor limit or restrict any powers which the City or the Council may have, with respect to public parks, under or by virtue of other provisions of this Charter.

### **SECTION 1703. Validity of Charter; Severability.**

If any provision of this Charter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the Charter and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

### **SECTION 1704. Definitions.**

Unless the provisions of the context otherwise require, as used in this Charter:

- (a) “Shall” is mandatory and “may” is permissive;
- (b) “City” is the City of San José and “department,” “board,” “commission,” “agency,” “officer,” or “employee” is a department, board, commission, agency, officer or employee, as the case may be, of the City of San José;
- (c) “Council” is the Council of the City of San José;
- (d) A “member of the Council” means any one of the members of the Council, including the Mayor;
- (e) “County” is the County of Santa Clara;
- (f) “State” is the State of California;
- (g) “Newspaper of general circulation within the City” is defined by Section 6000 of the Government Code of the State of California;
- (h) It is the intent of this Charter to be gender neutral. Plural pronouns are to be construed as singular pronouns when context requires.
- (i) “Council Appointees” are the City Manager, the City Attorney, the City Clerk, the Independent Police Auditor and the City Auditor

*Amended at election November 4, 1980*

*Amended at election November 4, 1986*

*Amended at election November 3, 1992*

*Amended at election November 5, 1996*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

### **SECTION 1705. Effective Date.**

This Charter shall be effective from the time of its approval by the State legislature.

## **ARTICLE XVIII TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION 1800. Existing Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Etc.**

All City ordinances, resolutions, orders and regulations which are in force when this Charter becomes effective are repealed to the extent that they conflict or are inconsistent with, or interfere with the effective operation of, this Charter or of any ordinances or resolutions adopted pursuant thereto. To the extent that the Constitution of the State of California permits, all State laws relating to or affecting this City or its agencies, officers or employees which are in force when this Charter becomes effective are superseded to the extent that they conflict or are inconsistent with, or interfere with the operation of, this Charter or of ordinances or resolutions adopted pursuant thereto.

All City ordinances, resolutions, orders and regulations which are in force when this Charter becomes effective, if and to the extent that they are not repealed by the provisions of the immediately preceding paragraph, shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed pursuant to the provisions of this Charter.

Without limitation of the general operation of the above provisions of this Section, or of the number or nature of the provisions to which it applies, the Council is hereby empowered to amend or repeal any City ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation which is in force when this Charter becomes effective notwithstanding the fact that such ordinance, rule or regulation may have been adopted or approved by the people of the City prior to the time this Charter becomes effective.

### **SECTION 1801. Pending Matters.**

All rights, claims, actions, orders, contracts and legal or administrative proceedings shall continue except as modified, terminated or otherwise disposed of pursuant to the provisions of this Charter, and in each case shall be maintained, carried on or dealt with by the City department, office or agency appropriate under this Charter.

### **SECTION 1802. Continuity of Agencies.**

Any office, department or agency provided for in this Charter with powers and duties the same or substantially the same as those of an office, department, or agency heretofore existing shall be deemed to be a continuation of such office, department or agency and shall exercise such powers and duties as it has under this Charter in continuation of their exercise by the office, department or agency by which the same were heretofore exercised and shall have the power to continue any business, proceedings or other matter within the scope of its powers and duties under this Charter commenced by an office, department or agency by which such powers and duties were heretofore exercised.

### **SECTION 1803. Existing Members of Boards and Commissions.**

Until otherwise provided by the Council, all persons who at the time this Charter takes effect are members of any City boards and commissions, excepting the Planning Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Board of Library Trustees, shall continue to hold their respective offices and perform the duties thereof, to the extent that such duties as are not in conflict with other provisions of this Charter, until the expiration of their respective terms or until sooner removed therefrom by the Council. Membership in the Planning Commission and in the Civil Service Commission shall be governed by other applicable provisions of this Charter. The Board of Library Trustees is hereby abolished, and membership therein vacated, as of the effective date of this Charter; provided, however, that the Council may, in its discretion, establish a new library board and grant it such powers and duties, consistent with other provisions of this Charter, as the Council may deem appropriate.

### **SECTION 1804. Existing Officers and Employees.**

Subject to the provisions of Section 1604, the persons holding the offices of City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney, respectively, at the time this Charter takes effect shall continue to hold such offices and perform the respective duties thereof, as established by or pursuant to this Charter, until removed by Council. Subject to such removal, change and control as is required, provided or authorized in or by other provisions of this Charter, all other persons holding other appointive offices or positions in the Civil Service of the City at the time this Charter takes effect, excepting members of boards and commissions, shall continue to perform the duties of their respective offices or positions until persons are appointed, pursuant to this Charter, to succeed to or take over their duties or until relieved pursuant to this Charter, of their duties.

### **SECTION 1805. Transfers, Etc.**

If because of this Charter all or substantially all of the duties or work of any position or employment which was in the Classified Service under the provisions of the immediately preceding Charter are transferred from one department or office to another department or office, then in that event, unless otherwise provided by the Council, such Classified positions or employments shall be deemed transferred to the new department or office and the persons holding such positions or employments on the effective date of this Charter shall continue to hold such positions or employments and perform the duties and work thereof in the new department or office, subject to such removal, supervision and control as is provided for elsewhere in this Charter. If, upon or after the transfer by this Charter of such duties or work of such Classified positions or employments to another department or office, said positions are discontinued and new or revised Classified positions are created, the persons holding the original positions shall be deemed qualified for transfer or appointment to, and may be transferred or appointed to, the new or revised positions, without examination or further compliance with any Civil Service regulations governing transfers or appointments, if the duties or work thereof are substantially similar to or were substantially included within the duties or work of their prior positions or employments.



If because of this Charter any of the duties or work of any position or employment which was in the Unclassified Service under the provisions of the immediately preceding Charter are transferred from one department or office to another and thereafter assigned in such new department or office to a Classified position in the new department or office, then in that event, unless otherwise provided by the Council, the person holding the original Unclassified position or employment shall be deemed qualified for transfer or appointment to, and may be transferred or appointed to, the new Classified position to which any of their former duties or work have been transferred or assigned, without examination or further compliance with any Civil Service regulations governing transfers or appointments, if the duties or work of the new Classified position are substantially similar to or were substantially included within the duties or work of their prior position or employment.

Any person who is transferred pursuant to the preceding provisions of this Section from a Classified or Unclassified position or employment in one department or office to a Classified position or employment in another department or office shall acquire a non-probationary status in the classification within which such new position or employment is included pursuant to this Charter if such person has been performing the duties of such position, employment or classification for a period of at least six (6) months immediately prior to the effective date of this Charter; but if such person on the effective date of this Charter has been performing such duties for a period of less than six (6) months, they shall have a probationary status in the new classification and will acquire non-probationary status only if and when they complete six (6) months of such service in such position, employment or classification.

*Amended at election June 7, 1994*

*Amended at election November 8, 2022*

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **AN ACT TO LIMIT URBAN SPRAWL AND THE FISCAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF SPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT IN OUTLYING AREAS**

#### **SECTION 1901. Findings and Purpose.**

The people of the City of San José find and declare as follows:

- (a) San José's experience with rapid growth has provided hard lessons regarding the economic and environmental costs of urban sprawl. The City's sprawling pattern of residential development has led to excessive dependence upon the automobile, and makes more environmentally friendly alternatives such as transit, walking, and cycling more costly and less efficient. It results in higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and it burdens residents with higher transportation costs and worse health outcomes than in-fill, transit-oriented residential development.

- (b) In the past, residential development at the City’s edge has also led to destruction of precious hillside open spaces and adverse impacts on traffic, water quality, water supply, air quality, and wildlife preservation. Since the mid-1990’s, the City has sought to limit these economic costs and adverse environmental impacts through use of an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) that discourages urban sprawl and establishes the ultimate limit on urbanization within the City. The City’s first UGB was adopted by a unanimous vote of the City Council in 1996. The City’s voters subsequently adopted Measure A in 2000, establishing the UGB with procedures for its future modification.
- (c) The City has found that urban development at its edge, particularly residential development, also does not generate sufficient revenues to cover the costs of providing urban services—such as police and fire response—and infrastructure—such as roads and sewers—at longer distances.
- (d) San José has been described as one of the largest “bedroom communities” in the United States. San José has a population of over one million residents with a ratio of only 0.8 jobs per employable resident, which means that there are fewer people in San José during the day than at night. The relatively low number of employers within San José forces thousands of San José residents to commute to jobs in other cities like Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, and Palo Alto.
- (e) The jobs-housing imbalance in the area contributes to congestion on streets and freeways in San José, as well as the regional transportation grid, and adds significant time and distance to commutes because a disproportionate number of San José residents drive to jobs outside of the City of San José.
- (f) The San José General Plan identifies improvement of the City’s jobs-housing imbalance, or “Jobs/Employed Residents Ratio,” as a critical policy goal. In light of this objective, the General Plan seeks to support the generation of 380,000 new jobs through 2040, focusing employment growth in the Downtown area and on existing employment lands citywide like North San Jose, Edenvale, the Monterey Corridor, Evergreen, North Coyote Valley, urban villages, neighborhood business districts, and major commercial corridors along existing and future transit corridors. The General Plan places a strong emphasis on protecting employment lands, and recognizes that further employment land conversions would have significant negative environmental, fiscal and economic implications, contrary to the General Plan’s policies.
- (g) The current General Plan, including the Housing Element of the General Plan, also identifies available land that is designated and zoned for 120,000 new housing units consistent with state law, and the City’s Housing Element is certified as adequate by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

- (h) In order to support the development of all types and income levels of housing, including affordable housing at moderate, low, and very-low income levels pursuant to the City Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (San José Municipal Code Chapter 5.08), while also preserving and enhancing the quality of the City's neighborhoods and strengthening the Urban Growth Boundary, the General Plan focuses residential development primarily in specifically identified Growth Areas in order to avoid urban sprawl and the costs of City infrastructure and services associated with such sprawl. Accordingly, most new housing development will be achieved through higher-density development in existing urbanized areas.
- (i) The policies in the City's current General Plan were adopted unanimously by the City Council in 2011 after significant review and input (which included 51 public meetings for a 37-member task force leading the drafting of the General Plan and approximately 5,000 community stakeholder comments over a four-year period) in order to achieve a balance between the need for housing and the creation of jobs in San José for San José residents and to achieve fiscal sustainability. Efforts to alter that balance should be subject to extensive community outreach and environmental review.
- (j) The purpose of this Act is to support existing City policies that limit urban sprawl and to ensure that any future conversion of Threatened Employment Lands to non-employment uses meet specified criteria. These criteria are designed to prevent reduction in City General Fund revenues, City services, and quality of life while assuring that any such conversion provides a substantial public purpose and benefit, including the construction of significant numbers of affordable housing units. The City would be required to consider the requirements of this Act when it evaluates applications from developers or other proposals to convert specified lands that are currently designated and/or zoned for employment purposes to residential or other uses.
- (k) The purpose of this Act is also to enhance the ability of the City Council, in considering future land use changes, to determine and designate appropriate uses of land in a manner that encourages more informed public input and involvement while preserving areas of the City for appropriate future growth, discouraging urban sprawl, creating a balance among various types and forms of development, advancing overall community health, and promoting a fiscally strong City.

## **SECTION 1902. Definitions.**

For purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) "Threatened Employment Lands" shall mean all Qualifying Parcels that are designated in the San José General Plan, as it existed on March 8, 2018, as any of the following: Combined Industrial/Commercial, Commercial Downtown, Heavy Industrial, Industrial Park, Light Industrial, Mixed Use Commercial,

Neighborhood/Community Commercial, Regional Commercial, Transit Employment Center, Urban Village, and Urban Village Commercial. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Act shall not apply to the conversion of Threatened Employment Lands to a designation of San José General Plan Public/Quasi Public or Agriculture, or to proposed conversions of Threatened Employment Lands for public parks, public trails, public open space, or other public uses.

- (b) “Qualifying Parcel” shall mean any parcel or contiguous parcels in common ownership or control that individually or collectively are both:
  - (1) five acres or greater in size; and
  - (2) partially or wholly located within one mile inside of the City of San José Urban Growth Boundary in any of the following five Planning Areas: Evergreen, Coyote, San Felipe, Almaden, and Calero, as those areas are depicted on the October 2012 map entitled “San Jose Planning Areas.” The San Jose Planning Areas Map is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by this reference into the Act. This map shall be maintained as part of the City Charter.

**SECTION 1903. City Policy to Support Urban Growth Boundary by Limiting Conversion of Threatened Employment Lands Supersedes All Conflicting Provisions.**

Since 1996, the City of San José has had an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) that discourages urban sprawl and establishes the ultimate limit on urbanization within the City. It is also the policy of the City of San José that employment lands be protected from conversion to non-employment uses. In furtherance of these policies, and because sensitive employment lands in certain areas adjacent to the UGB are also threatened by sprawl, land use designations for Threatened Employment Lands and the allowable uses for those lands in the San José General Plan, any master plan or specific plan, any development policy, any Municipal Code provision, any zoning ordinance, or Urban Village Plan shall not be changed in a manner that allows non-employment uses unless all of the requirements set forth in Section 1904 are satisfied.

The provisions of this Act shall prevail over all other conflicting or inconsistent provisions in the City’s Charter, ordinances, resolutions, or other enactments, including initiative enactments, existing as of the effective date of this Act. Any ordinance, resolution, or other enactment adopted on or after the effective date of this Act that purports to allow non-employment uses on Threatened Employment Lands in a manner that does not comply with the provisions of this Act shall be of no force or effect.

Any initiative measure adopted at the June 5, 2018 primary election that purports to impose, create, or apply a non-employment use designation or an overlay designation on Threatened Employment Lands to allow residential development on those lands shall be void in its entirety, notwithstanding any contrary provision of that initiative measure.

## **SECTION 1904. Requirements for Conversion of Threatened Employment Lands to Non-Employment Uses.**

Before any proposed General Plan amendment, master plan, specific plan, development policy, urban village plan, amendment to the Municipal Code or zoning ordinance, or any other legislative enactment that would allow non-employment uses on Threatened Employment Lands (“proposed legislative change”) is considered for approval by the City, the City shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- (a) The City, at the applicant’s cost, shall prepare a Fiscal and Jobs/Housing Balance Impact Study (“Impact Study”) addressing the potential impacts specified in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection (a), as well as any other fiscal, employment, or jobs/housing balance impacts that may result from non-employment development allowed by the proposed legislative change. The Impact Study shall be made available for public review. The City Council shall consider the Impact Study at a duly noticed public hearing.

Upon consideration of the Impact Study, the City Council shall determine whether approval of the proposed legislative change, as compared to buildout of the employment development that otherwise could occur on the site proposed for development pursuant to applicable underlying land use designations, could result in any of the following impacts:

- (1) An annual net loss of revenue to the City in any fiscal year;
- (2) A reduced annual economic benefit in any fiscal year, considering the direct, indirect, and induced effects of employment, labor income, and economic output, during either construction or operation of the development; or
- (3) Any measureable reduction in the City’s Jobs/Employed Resident ratio in any fiscal year or any reduction in long-term employment.

If the City Council determines that the proposed legislative change could result in any of the impacts described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection, the City Council shall not approve the application for the proposed legislative change unless it determines that the benefits to the City of the proposal outweigh the specified impacts. The City Council shall retain the power to deny, approve, modify, or approve with conditions the proposed legislative change.

- (b) The City shall require any residential development on Threatened Employment Lands allowed by the proposed legislative change to comply with all applicable inclusionary housing requirements, except that notwithstanding any contrary provisions in those requirements, the minimum number of affordable housing units in the residential development shall be as follows and construction of the units shall be concurrent and proportional to the construction of market rate units in the development:

- (1) For-sale residential development: fifty percent (50%) of the total dwelling units in the residential development shall be made available for purchase at an affordable housing cost to those households earning no more than one hundred ten percent (110%) of the area median income. Such units may be sold to households earning no more than one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the area median income.
  - (2) Rental residential development: thirty-five percent (35%) of the total dwelling units in the residential development shall be made available for rent at an affordable housing cost to moderate income households, and twenty percent (20%) of the total dwelling units in the residential development shall be made available for rent at an affordable housing cost to very low income households.
- (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the proposed legislative change that purports to limit or could be interpreted as limiting the City's duty or ability to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq. ("CEQA"), the City shall require compliance with CEQA to the fullest extent permitted by law. Specifically, but not by way of limitation of the foregoing, the City shall retain discretion whether to certify or approve CEQA documents related to any application and to approve, deny, or impose conditions on any proposed development as necessary to avoid, minimize, reduce, rectify, or eliminate any significant environmental impacts of the development, including, without limitation, the payment of appropriate fees for road improvements to address traffic impacts.
- (d) The City shall require that any residential development on Threatened Employment Lands allowed by the proposed legislative change to comply with the City Municipal Code and all laws relating to design and construction including but not limited to building energy efficiency standards, including all applicable Zero Net Energy requirements.
- (e) The City shall require that all landscaping in any non-employment development allowed by the proposed legislative change shall be maintained using recycled/reclaimed water where the site is in an area served by recycled/reclaimed water for those uses.
- (f) To the maximum extent feasible, and subject to all applicable federal and state laws, the City shall require that any residential development on Threatened Employment Lands allowed by the proposed legislative change includes provision of support services, at no cost to the City, as appropriate to serve the intended resident population. Support services may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (1) assisted living; (2) memory care; (3) nursing care; (4) shuttle service to and from transit centers, medical providers, or social service providers; (5) meal delivery; (6) physical therapy; and (7) primary medical care.

### **SECTION 1905. Implementing Legislation.**

The City Council is authorized to adopt implementing ordinances or resolutions, as necessary, to further the purposes of this Act.

### **SECTION 1906. No Conflict With State or Federal Housing Laws.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, this Act shall not apply to a proposed legislative change that the City determines is required to implement or comply with state or federal housing law, including laws related to the provision of affordable housing.

### **SECTION 1907. Interpretation and Severability.**

This Act shall be interpreted so as to be consistent with all federal and state laws, rules and regulations. The provisions of this Act are severable. If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, part, or portion (“portion”) of this Act is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a final judgment of a court, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Act. The voters hereby declare that this Act, and each portion thereof, would have been adopted or passed even if one or more portions of the Act were declared invalid or unconstitutional. If any portion of this Act is held invalid as applied to any person or circumstance, such invalidity shall not affect any application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid application.

### **SECTION 1908. Sunset.**

The provisions of this Act shall be operative for twenty (20) years following the effective date of this Act, and shall thereafter be inoperative unless extended by a duly enacted amendment to this Charter. This date shall be tolled for a period equal to the period during which any litigation or a similar action challenging this Act has been filed and until final judgment or dismissal.

*Added at election June 5, 2018*

## **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY (CHRONOLOGICAL)**

Charter approved at election April 13, 1965

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 104

Cited: Resolution Chapter 76, Statutes 1965

Statutes 1965, Volume 3, page 5122

Filed with Secretary of State May 4, 1965

Amendments to Sections 407, 800, 1000 and 1600 approved at election June 7, 1966

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67

Cited: Resolution Chapter 107, Statutes 1966

Statutes 1966, page 885

Filed with Secretary of State June 23, 1966

Amendment to Section 410 approved at election June 6, 1967

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 75

Cited: Resolution Chapter 99, Statutes 1967

Statutes 1967, Volume 3, page 4672

Filed with Secretary of State June 23, 1967

Amendment to Section 1106 approved at election June 3, 1969

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 156

Cited: Resolution Chapter 276, Statutes 1969

Statutes 1969, Volume 2, page 3948

Filed with Secretary of State August 7, 1969

Amendments to Sections 402, 403, 404, 409, 604, 1000, 1217, 1600, 1601, 1603 and repeal of Sections 607 and 608 approved at election June 2, 1970

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 98

Cited: Resolution Chapter 146, Statutes 1970

Statutes 1970, Volume 2, page 3693

Filed with Secretary of State July 30, 1970

Amendments to Sections 410, 503 and 1600 approved at election June 6, 1972

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72

Cited: Resolutions Chapter 77, Statutes 1972

Statutes 1972, Volume 2, page 3339

Filed with Secretary of State July 26, 1972

Amendment to Section 1104 approved at election November 7, 1972

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17

Cited: Resolution Chapter 18, Statutes 1973

Statutes 1973, Volume 9, page 2970

Filed with Secretary of State February 26, 1973



Amendment to Section 407 approved at election June 5, 1973  
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 69  
Cited: Resolution Chapter 72, Statutes 1973  
Statutes 1973, Volume 2, page 3140  
Filed with Secretary of State June 26, 1973

Amendments to Sections 401, 402, 403, 410, 500, 601, 605, 805, 901, 1601 and 1603 approved  
at election November 7, 1978  
Filed with Secretary of State January 19, 1979  
Charter Chapter No. 4

Amendments to Sections 407 and 1704, and addition of Sections 803.1, 805.1, 1001.1 and  
1111 approved at election November 4, 1980  
Filed with Secretary of State December 23, 1980  
Charter Chapter No. 31

Amendment to Section 1217 approved at election June 8, 1982  
Filed with Secretary of State July 14, 1982,  
Charter Chapter No. 18

Amendment to Section 1108 approved at election November 2, 1982  
Filed with Secretary of State December 13, 1982  
Charter Chapter No. 31

Amendment to Section 1108 approved at election June 5, 1984  
Filed with Secretary of State July 2, 1984  
Charter Chapter No. 10

Amendment to Section 609 approved at election November 6, 1984  
Filed with Secretary of State December 12, 1984  
Charter Chapter No. 32

Amendments to Sections 407, 411, 502, 700, 701, 800, 805, 805.1, 807, 900, 901, 1101, 1204  
and 1704, and addition of Sections 411.1, 805.2, 808 and 809 approved at election  
November 4, 1986  
Filed with Secretary of State December 30, 1986  
Charter Chapter No. 33.

Amendments to Sections 1000 and 1001 approved at election June 7, 1988  
Filed with Secretary of State June 30, 1988,  
Charter Chapter No. 7

Amendment to Section 1217 approved at election November 8, 1988  
Filed with Secretary of State December 5, 1988  
Charter Chapter No. 22

Amendment to Section 1506 approved at election June 5, 1990  
Filed with Secretary of State July 2, 1990  
Charter Chapter No. 8, Statutes of 1990

Amendments to Sections 402, 403, 1202, 1203 and 1217, and addition of Sections 204, 607 and 809.1 approved at election November 6, 1990  
Filed with Secretary of State December 20, 1990  
Charter Chapter No. 2, Statutes of 1991

Amendments to Sections 411, 800, 900, 901, 1101 and 1704, and deletion of Sections 809 and 809.1 approved at election November 3, 1992  
Filed with Secretary of State December 4, 1992,  
Charter Chapter No. 20, Statutes of 1992

Amendments to Sections 403, 1603, 1604, and the following sections (regarding gender neutrality) 405, 406, 409, 503, 704, 803, 803.1, 804, 904, 1000, 1001, 1001.1, 1101, 1104, 1105, 1108, 1202, 1208, 1210, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1504, 1505, 1604, and 1805 approved at election June 7, 1994  
Filed with Secretary of State July 11, 1994  
Charter Chapter No. 8, Statutes of 1994

Amendments to Sections 401, 402, 404, 410, 500, 503, 1217, 1600, 1601 and 1603 approved at election November 8, 1994  
Filed with Secretary of State December 1, 1994  
Charter Chapter No. 15, Statutes of 1994

Amendment to Section 1600 approved at election March 26, 1996  
Filed with Secretary of State May 2, 1996  
Charter Chapter No. 7, Statutes of 1996

Amendments to Sections 411, 800, 900, 901, 1101 and 1704 and addition of Sections 809 and 809.1 approved at election November 5, 1996  
Filed with Secretary of State December 16, 1996  
Charter Chapter No. 27, Statutes of 1996

Amendments to Sections 1001 and 1217 and repeal of Section 1104 approved at election November 3, 1998  
Filed with Secretary of State December 21, 1998  
Charter Chapter No. 24, Statutes of 1998

Amendments to Sections 1202, 1203 and 1217 approved at election November 7, 2000  
Filed with Secretary of State April 16, 2001  
Charter Chapter No. 13, Statutes of 2001

Amendment to Section 1217 approved at election March 2, 2004  
Filed with Secretary of State May 17, 2004  
Charter Chapter No. 4, Statutes of 2004

Addition of Section 1700.1 approved at election November 4, 2008  
Filed with the Secretary of State December 20, 2010  
Charter Chapter No. 20, Statutes of 2010

Amendment to Section 1111 and approved at election November 2, 2010  
Filed with the Secretary of State December 20, 2010  
Charter Chapter No. 21, Statutes of 2010

Amendment to Sections 1500 and 1501 and approved at election November 2, 2010  
Filed with the Secretary of State December 20, 2010  
Charter Chapter No. 22, Statutes of 2010

Addition of new Article XV-A (Sections 1501-A, 1502-A, 1503-A, 1504-A, 1505-A, 1506-A, 1507-A, 1508-A, 1509-A, 1510-A, 1511-A, 1512-A, 1513-A, 1514-A and 1515-A) approved at election June 5, 2012  
Filed with the Secretary of State January 24, 2013  
Charter Chapter No. 5, Statutes of 2013

Amendment to Sections 1501-A, 1502-A, 1503-A, 1504-A, 1505-A, 1506-A, 1507-A, 1508-A, 1509-A, 1510-A and 1511-A, and deletion of Sections 1512-A, 1513-A, 1514-A and 1515-A approved at election November 8, 2016  
Filed with Secretary of State December 19, 2016  
Charter Chapter No. 19, Statutes of 2016

Addition of new Article XIX (Sections 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908) approved at election June 5, 2018  
Filed with Secretary of State October 23, 2018  
Charter Chapter No. 10, Statutes of 2018

Amendment to Section 1217 approved at election November 6, 2018  
Filed with Secretary of State January 30, 2019  
Charter Chapter No. 14, Statutes of 2019

Amendment to Sections 407, 1001.1 and 1603 approved at election November 6, 2018  
Filed with the Secretary of State January 30, 2019  
Charter Chapter No. 13, Statutes of 2019

Amendment to Sections 403, 809, 1000 approved at election November 3, 2020  
Filed with the Secretary of State December 31, 2020  
Charter Chapter No. 23, Statutes of 2020

Amendments to Sections 402, 500, 1600 approved at election June 7, 2022  
Filed with the Secretary of State October 7, 2022  
Charter Chapter No. 4, Statutes of 2022

Amendments to Sections 404, 405, 406, 407, 409, 411, 502, 503, 608, 701, 704, 803, 803.1, 804, 805, 805.1, 809, 809.1, 810.1, 901, 904, 1000, 1001, 1001.1, 1001.2, 1101, 1105, 1108, 1111, 1202, 1204, 1208, 1210, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1504, 1505, 1604, 1704, 1805 approved at election November 8, 2022

Filed with the Secretary of State January 13, 2023  
Charter Chapter No. 5, Statutes of 2023