



December 9, 2020

Councilmember Dev Davis:

RE: WGNA's Growing Concern of Crime in Willow Glen

This letter is intended to communicate that the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association (WGNA) and its members believe there needs to be more enforcement regarding the prevailing issue that has blighted the local Willow Glen community: crime, vandalism, traffic and vagrancy.

We would like to highly commend the local San Jose Police Department for its ongoing effort in monitoring and protecting our neighborhood, especially during these turbulent times. However, understandably, there is only a limit to what local law enforcement can administer and accomplish.

Since the pandemic, there has been a noticeable increase in transiency and illicit activity in downtown Willow Glen. From what we have observed, this issue appears to be exacerbated by the operations at Ranch Town Recycling Center on 775 Lincoln Ave, which sits on an arterial route, at the immediate entrance to the Willow Glen business district and across from San Jose's Historic Landmark – The Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

The Ranch Town Recycling Center has become a hub for blight and drug dealing. There are more and more encampments along the creek, underpass, and avenue near the recycling center. We believe enforcing the illegal activity around the recycling center would reduce a dangerous traffic situation with wanton jay-walking along this part of Lincoln Avenue, as well as reducing the number of encampments growing in this area which are intimidating to passerbys and reduce the desire of people to frequent the Willow Glen business center.

We understand that Ranch Town was issued a Conditional Use Permit by the County for a recycling use prior to City annexation, however it currently does not have a Conditional Use Permit issued by the City of San Jose. This has created a situation where there appears to be no monitoring or oversight of hours and operations by the City of San Jose, and there appears to be very little oversight by the County to ensure that the Ranch Town Recycling Center is operating its business in such a way as to limit its impacts on the Willow Glen and Midtown neighbors. We would like to request a copy of the county conditional use permit for review. Additionally, we would like the city to pursue having the recycling center obtain a city Conditional Use Permit and address the concerns of WGNA and many members of the Willow Glen Business District and community at large.

As an organization that represents the residents and community of Willow Glen, we want to reiterate that this both a current and growing concern. WGNA urges a resolution in the form of requiring Ranch Town to apply for a City of San Jose Conditional Use Permit to run its recycle and junk operations.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association.

CC: Silver Apartments- Attention Michael Van Every

Patina Apartments – Attention Michael Van Every

Willow Glen Business Association

WGNA President:

Mitchell Ehrlich

Mitchell Ehrlich

WGNA Second Vice President:



De Anna Mirzadegan