



District 9 Leadership Group (D9LG)

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday Oct 8th, 2025; 7:00 – 8:45 PM
 (Draft for approval at the 1/14/26 General Meeting)

In-Person at:

The Watermark at Almaden

1st Floor Auditorium

4610 Almaden Exp, San Jose, CA 95118

(park in the underground parking lot and take elevator to first floor)

Board Members:

Barbara (Bobbi) Pena Atak (Chair), **Sam Ho** (Vice Chair), **Mitchell Ehrlich** (Treasurer), **David Noel** (Secretary),
Cole Cameron (Director at Large), **Viviana Garcia-Barnwell** (Director at Large)
Kyle Laveroni (Liaison to Vice Mayor **Pam Foley**, non-voting)

Time	Item	Presenter(s)
7:00 – 7:10	<p>Welcome and refreshments</p> <p>Approximately 31 total attendees including all board members</p> <p>D9LG Chair Bobbi announced that she needed to step down from the board effective at this meeting. The board presented her a cake in appreciation of her leadership which was enjoyed by all.</p>	David Noel & The Watermark
7:10 – 7:12	<p>Agenda & Minutes</p> <p>Motion to Approve July 9th General Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Approved – Bobbi/Mitchell/unanimous</p>	David Noel
7:12 – 7:27	<p>District 9 Council Office Update</p> <p>Vice Mayor Foley acknowledged Bobbi's contribution to the group and announced she will be one of three District 9 Stars acknowledged at the October 28th City Council meeting. There were 13 nominees for the award.</p> <p>Vice Mayor Foley announced that in the 15 months left in her term, she will be working on 4 red light cameras in order to continue improving traffic safety and reducing fatalities, 1 of them in D9 at Camden/Bascom. After a 60 day warning period, tickets will cost \$500 and a point on your DMV record.</p> <p>Later, about 33 speed cameras will be installed throughout the city. Tickets from these do not count against your license.</p> <p>Due to a recent law change, the city is now able to reduce speed limits on many streets by 5 MPH. Some of the affected streets in D9 are Branham, Hillsdale, Camden, and possibly Curtner.</p>	Vice Mayor Pam Foley

	<p>The Cherry Ave. Emergency Interim Housing (EIH) site that was planned to open at the end of October has been delayed. People should begin moving in at the end of November or early December. There will be a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to connect the site with community stakeholders. Vice Mayor Foley is proud and grateful that the D9 neighborhoods impacted by this have been supportive. It will house up to about 138 people.</p> <p>Columbus Park (on Taylor) had a lot of RV's and unhoused people that have already cleared up. People were moved to 5 hotels, one of them being the Bristol Hotel in District 9, which is dedicated for women and children.</p> <p>Updates on developments in D9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dutch Brothers is opening in the Lunardi's shopping center. - Cambrian Park Plaza: the development was approved in 2020. A lot has changed but they are still committed to building. Things have been delayed, but the plan is to break ground by the end of 2026. It will have a lot of housing, a hotel, a park, etc. - Disability Awareness Day (DAD): Vice Mayor Foley is co-hosting this event on October 30th at City Hall. Focus is on jobs. - World AIDS Day (Dec 1st): the Rotunda will be lit up in honor of that day and there will be a candle light vigil and pieces of the AIDS quilt. - Christmas in the Park: District 9's evening will be on Dec 8th and will feature student performances from Branham, Leigh, Pioneer and Union High Schools on the community stage. - The housing at the site of the former Fish Market restaurant includes 271 affordable housing units. - The housing at the former Chuck-E-Cheese site on Kooser will break ground in late October. 	
7:27 – 7:32	<p>SJPD D9 Crime Stats</p> <p>Captain Payne provided an overview of D9 crime stats, comparing 2024 vs. 2025 for the period Jun 1 to Sep 1, which is the busiest time. Crime was down 12% in total, and that trend was true in other districts as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aggravated assault increased 29% from 28 to 36 (2 occurred elsewhere) - Auto recoveries decreased from 8 to 3 - Commercial burglary decreased 51% from 43 to 21 	Capt. Steven Payne Jr.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residential burglaries decreased from 26 to about 24 - Vehicular burglaries decreased 11% from 19 to 17 - Carjackings remained at 0 - Sexual assault reports increased from 5 to 10 (easier to disclose now, some may be delayed reports) - Robberies decreased from 15 to 13 - Injury and fatal traffic accidents increased 24% from 34 to 42 <p>A question was asked regarding e-bikes. The answer was that there's zero tolerance and officers will give citations</p> <p>Vice Mayor Foley acknowledged the good job by the SJ Police in capturing the perpetrators of the recent jewelry robbery and assault.</p>	
7:32 – 7:55	<p>San Jose City Auditor</p> <p>Joe Rois handed out the Annual Report on City Services for 2023-2024, which can be found on the San Jose City Auditor's website (https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/appointees/city-auditor). The City Auditor is one of five city council appointees who are independent from the City Manager. His office of 12 people (including 10 auditors) performs targeted performance audits and makes specific recommendations to increase the efficiency of city operations. Most audits are about a specific program. The Annual Report covers all of the programs that are subject to audit and how and if they hit their goals. Their website has a dashboard with the key measures.</p> <p>Recent audits have included coordination of homeless services among departments, procurement services, the animal shelter, SJFD controlled substances, sewer rates, housing loan portfolio, employee turnover and vehicle abatement. They have issued 650 recommendations over the last 10 years, with a goal of implementing 80% of them over 10 years.</p> <p>The annual report includes the results of a community survey, which shows that residents rate half of city services as excellent or good. The top rated services are the Airport and Libraries. Bottom rated services include homelessness, affordable housing, crime, blight, etc.</p> <p>Audits are chosen based on annual work plans, and can be requested by the city council, city staff or residents.</p> <p>The office of the auditor gets audited every 2 years as well.</p> <p>Visit their website above for lots more information.</p>	Joe Rois and Alison Pauly
7:55 – 8:05	County District 1 Office Update	David Ngo

	<p>David Ngo from County Supervisor Silvia Arenas' office gave a few updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new partnership between the city of San Jose and Santa Clara County was unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors this past week to integrate mental and behavioral health services. - Federal budget cuts have affected health, hospitals and food assistance. Santa County has the biggest health system in California. - A large percentage of residents depend on county medical services and food assistance. - Martial Cottle Park will have a Fall Festival hosted by Silvia Arenas' office On Saturday, October 11, 9 am to 2 pm. They are providing free pumpkins. - Their office helps residents with anything county related. 	
8:05 – 8:10	<p>CERT Update</p> <p>Cole Cameron spoke about the course to get CERT certified, and had handouts with short lists of emergency supplies to easily get started with emergency preparedness.</p> <p>The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is expanding their services to provide senior social opportunities.</p>	Cole Cameron
8:10 – 8:20	<p>Meet the D9 Candidates</p> <p>Genny Altwer: Focus: affordable housing and safer streets, Former Police Officer detective and hostage negotiator. Now a mental health counselor for first responders.</p> <p>Gordon Chester: Deeply connected to D9 in the Carlton neighborhood. Focus on a safe and sustainable San Jose.</p> <p>Mike Hennessy: Long time auto restoration shop owner who also produces local parades and does a lot of community service work. Focus: protect property taxes and common sense.</p> <p>Scott Hughes: Vice Mayor Foley's Chief of Staff. Focus: Collaboration and persistence, safe and vibrant San Jose, turning good ideas into meaningful actions, and ensuring all are seen and heard.</p>	<p>Genny Altwer Gordon Chester Mike Hennessy Scott Hughes</p>

<p>8:20 – 8:35</p>	<p>D9LG Business: Grant Updates</p> <p>BeautifulSJ Cycle 8 grant applications are due in a month (up to \$5,000 for neighborhood associations). Our Cycle 6 grant is fully closed out, and our Cycle 7 grant is in progress.</p> <p>Board Vacancies/Appointments</p> <p>Members unanimously approved a board recommendation to appoint Kelsey Colson to serve as a Director at Large.</p> <p>D9 Messaging Platform</p> <p>Viviana led a discussion on implementing crowd sourced communications for D9LG like Nextdoor, Google Groups, WhatsApp and Facebook groups. We will start with a Facebook group and possibly WhatsApp.</p> <p>Future Projects/Events - volunteers needed Current priority: messaging platform. We also hope to host a Networking Dinner in March.</p>	<p>Mitchell Ehrlich David Noel Viviana Garcia-Barnwell David Noel</p>
<p>8:35 – 8:44</p>	<p>Neighborhood Updates</p> <p>Erikson: Dave Noel spoke about Cherry Ave interim housing. Volunteer opportunities: helping setting up the rooms and arranging welcome baskets. Dave is leading a fundraiser to build welcome baskets, and Supervisor Arenas pledged to match the fundraising. The price of a fully stocked toiletries welcome basket is about \$25-27 each, with an initial goal of 25 welcome baskets.</p> <p>Pinehurst: Brian Grayson spoke about events including National Night Out and an Ice cream social.</p> <p>Thousand Oaks: Sam Ho is a past president dating to the 2017 restart of Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association, and they now have 12 serious people on the board, with a focus on homelessness, safety and community events.</p> <p>Disability Awareness: Viviana Garcia-Barnwell announced that Vice Mayor Foley will be awarded legislator of the year at the Service Above Self event on Oct 25th.</p> <p>Dartmouth: Rudy Flores: they recently planted 15 trees at DeAnza Park.</p> <p>Branham-Kirk: Scott Hughes: Two potlucks have been conducted and they are using Google Groups</p> <p>Little Branham: Rich Sanders reported the neighborhood has 194 homes between Camden, Leigh, Harwood and Ross Creek. They maintain Hwy 85 soundwall landscaping and</p>	<p>All</p>

	<p>are working with the city arborist to replace trees.</p> <p>Reed: HB Mok discussed the new and vibrant Reed Neighbors association and their recent mural painted on Branham at Jarvis.</p>	
8:44 – 8:45	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.</p>	David Noel

Next D9LG General Meetings: 2nd Weds, 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm – Jan 14th & Apr 8

For the latest updates visit: www.D9LG.org