

From: [Nadine Nader](#)
To: [Nora Pimentel](#); [Simrat Dhadli](#)
Cc: [Robyn Sahid](#)
Subject: Fwd: SC Cooperative Study Session (7/9) letter of support and assistance
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:22:19 AM
Attachments: [TeamWorks support SC cooperatives study session 2019.pdf](#)

For record for study session.

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From: Manager
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:01:02 AM
To: Deanna Santana; Nadine Nader; Andrew Crabtree; Ruth Shikada; Cynthia Bojorquez
Subject: FW: SC Cooperative Study Session (7/9) letter of support and assistance

From: David Smathers Moore <dsmathers@teamworks.coop>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 2:14 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>; cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov; coop@asliceofny.com
Subject: SC Cooperative Study Session (7/9) letter of support and assistance

Dear Mayor Gillmor and city colleagues:
See attached letter of support regarding the Study Session planned for July 9th regarding the cooperative business model.

David Smathers Moore

[TeamWorks Development Institute](#)



[Watch "How I've Grown @ TeamWorks"](#)



TeamWorks Development Institute

1159 Sonora Court, Suite 107

Sunnyvale CA, 94086

650.248.3415

www.teamworksinstitute.org

June 11, 2019

Mayor and City Council
1500 Warburton Ave
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers, and City Manager:

I am the founder of the TeamWorks Development Institute, a nonprofit organization that grew out of the success of TeamWorks Cleaning, a Sunnyvale-based cooperative owned by its 19 workers. I started TeamWorks Cleaning in 2004, and in 2006 we converted to cooperative ownership. The worker-members have been able to provide themselves stable employment, health and other benefits that are rare in the cleaning industry, and unusual learning and advancement opportunities. Today I provide consulting and training for co-ops around the country, particularly with Latino-owned cooperatives that need the services and materials that we provide in Spanish.

Our organization followed with enthusiasm the conversion of Santa Clara's A Slice of New York and welcomed their emergence as the first retail worker cooperative in the South Bay. Millions of businesses in the U.S. are owned by baby boomers who could follow in A Slice of New York's path. Selling their businesses to their employees provides a viable win-win-win exit strategy for the retiring owner, the employees, and the broader community. In Santa Clara County alone there are 15,000 businesses owned by boomers, most of which do not have plans for succession. Our communities need to prepare for these owners' retirements. Government at every level from the local to federal have roles to play in supporting smooth transitions that will ensure business continuity.

The TeamWorks Development Institute is very pleased to see that the City of Santa Clara is providing leadership on this issue by holding a Study Session to learn about cooperatives. We look forward to attending and participating in the session on July 9th. Please feel free to contact me if there are any ways that our organization can be of assistance as you do your research, and, I hope, move towards initiatives that can help businesses transition to employee ownership. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

David Smathers Moore
Founder and Executive Director

From: [Mayor and Council](#)
To: [Robyn Sahid](#); [Nadine Nader](#); [Deanna Santana](#)
Cc: [Kathleen McGraw](#); [Martha Martinez](#); [Jose Armas](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for A Slice of New York's Worker Owned Cooperative City Council Study Session on July 9th
Date: Friday, June 14, 2019 6:35:55 PM
Attachments: [Letter of Support_A Slice of New York_ASONY_Santa Clara City Council Study Session Project Equity 2019.06.13.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hi there:

The Mayor and Council Offices' general inbox received the email below and attached support letter regarding the worker-owned cooperative business model from Donna Sky (Business Development Manager, Project Equity). This has also been forwarded to the City Council for their reference.

Cordially,

GENEVIEVE YIP | Staff Analyst
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel: 408-615-2253 | www.santaclaraca.gov



From: Donna Sky <donna@project-equity.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 7:13 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>; cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov; coop@asliceofny.com
Cc: Kirk Vartan <kirk@asliceofny.com>; Hilary Abell <hilary@project-equity.org>; Alison Lingane <alison@project-equity.org>
Subject: Letter of Support for A Slice of New York's Worker Owned Cooperative City Council Study Session on July 9th

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Santa Clara Council members, and City Manager:

I am writing to enthusiastically support the **Worker Owned Cooperative City Council Study Session** to be presented by A Slice of New York on July 9, 2019. Worker-owned cooperatives and other forms of employee ownership can be a powerful tool to maintain thriving local business communities, honor selling business owners' legacies, and address income and wealth inequality.

Project Equity directly supported the conversion of A Slice of New York to a worker-owned cooperative in 2017 and has worked with the coop leaders since then to support strong governance and financial management. Kirk Vartan and the employee-owners of a Slice of New York are an inspiring example of what is possible with employee ownership, and we are excited to see them educate other business owners, community members, and government leaders about this powerful business model.

At Project Equity, we re-envision community economic development to shift control locally and build economic resiliency in low-income communities. We envision a future where businesses are more successful, communities are more resilient, and workers have stable jobs and economic security through employee ownership.

Project Equity works with partners around the Bay Area and the country to raise awareness about employee ownership as an exit strategy for business owners, and as an important approach for increasing employee engagement and wellbeing. We also provide hands on consulting and technical assistance to companies that want to transition to employee ownership, and to the new employee-owners after the transition. Our clients are unique local businesses, most with 25-50 or more employees, that are assessing or implementing transitions to broad-based employee ownership (including worker cooperatives, ESOPs and other forms of employee or stakeholder ownership).

We are actively engaging with several Bay Area cities to retain businesses through employee ownership transitions. The city of Berkeley, for example, uncovered significant demand for employee ownership succession within a short period of time as a result of direct outreach to the businesses we jointly identified as potential targets.

Cities like Santa Clara are in a powerful position to promote worker-owned cooperatives. Thank you for taking this important step to learn more about this opportunity, and please let me know how we can support your efforts to further this important succession option for Santa Clara businesses. We look forward to attending and participating in the session on July 9th.

Thank you,
Donna Sky
Business Development Manager, Project Equity
donna@project-equity.org
(415) 646-5577
Url: www.project-equity.org



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Learn why retiring entrepreneurs sell their businesses to their employees in **[Entrepreneur Magazine.](#)**

See how the **[State of Washington](#)** is tackling its Silver Tsunami risk.

June 13, 2019

Santa Clara Mayor and City Council
1500 Warburton Ave
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers, and City Manager:

I am writing to enthusiastically support the **Worker Owned Cooperative City Council Study Session** to be presented by A Slice of New York on July 9, 2019. Worker-owned cooperatives and other forms of employee ownership can be a powerful tool to maintain thriving local business communities, honor selling business owners' legacies, and address income and wealth inequality.

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Thank you,
Donna Sky
Business Development Manager, Project Equity
donna@project-equity.org
(415) 646-5577
Url: www.project-equity.org

From: [Mayor and Council](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Robyn Sahid](#); [Nadine Nader](#); [Deanna Santana](#)
Cc: [Kathleen McGraw](#); [Martha Martinez](#); [Jose Armas](#)
Subject: FW: Santa Clara Study Session on Worker Cooperatives
Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 8:30:47 AM
Attachments: [6-14-19 Letter to SC Mayor Council.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good morning:

The Mayor and Council Offices' general inbox received the email below and attached support letter regarding worker cooperatives. This has also been forwarded to the City Council for their reference.

Cordially,

GENEVIEVE YIP | Staff Analyst
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel: 408-615-2253 | www.santaclaraca.gov



From: Macapinlac, Andrae <Andrae.Macapinlac@sen.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 12:27 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>; cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov
Cc: coop@asliceofny.com; Senator Wieckowski <Senator.Wieckowski@senate.ca.gov>
Subject: Santa Clara Study Session on Worker Cooperatives

Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers and City Staff:
Please see the attached letter from Senator Wieckowski.

Sincerely,
Andrae Wara-Macapinlac
Senior District Representative
Office of State Senator Bob Wieckowski, District 10
39510 Paseo Padre Pkwy, st 280
Fremont, CA 94538
510-794-3900
<http://sen.ca.gov/wieckowski>
Andrae.Macapinlac@Sen.Ca.Gov

STATE CAPITOL
Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 94249-0020
Phone: (916) 651-4010
Fax: (916) 651-4110

DISTRICT OFFICE
39510 Paseo Padre Pkwy,
Suite 280
Fremont, CA 94538
Phone: (510) 794-3900

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE



E-MAIL
senator.wieckowski@
senate.ca.gov

WEBSITE
www.sd10.senate.ca.gov

BOB WIECKOWSKI

SENATOR, TENTH DISTRICT

June 14, 2019

Mayor and City Council
City Hall
1500 Warburton Ave
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers, and City Manager:

In 2016 I honored Santa Clara resident Kirk Vartan with the 10th Senate District's Local Hero Award for the incredible work he was doing in our community, including his leadership with the first-of-its kind Agrihood.

I've learned that Kirk's pizza shop, *A Slice of New York*, was successfully converted to a worker cooperative in 2017. It is great to see this Santa Clara business become the first retail worker cooperative in the South Bay. I am familiar with the worker cooperative structure and was excited to hear of your intent to hold a Council Study Session on the topic this July.

I am extremely supportive of this effort. Please let me know how we can help your efforts for employee ownership options.

While I am unable to make your meeting in person due to committee hearings, please know you have my full support in further educating the community on worker cooperatives and how they can provide additional solutions to the looming threat of our retiring baby boomers, the loss of our small businesses, and the growing inequalities in our workforce.

Please share any useful information with my staff so we can see how to best utilize this data at the State level. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you in the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Wieckowski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Wieckowski
State Senator, 10th District

EMAIL:
mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
manager@santaclaraca.gov
cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov
coop@asliceofny.com

From: [Mayor and Council](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Robyn Sahid](#); [Nadine Nader](#); [Deanna Santana](#)
Cc: [Kathleen McGraw](#); [Martha Martinez](#); [Jose Armas](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support - Worker Cooperatives, re: study session July 9, 2019
Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:11:16 AM
Attachments: [COOP - SONY-letter-of-support-2019.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good morning:

The Mayor and Council Offices' general inbox received the email from below from Ms. Sue Lopez and attached support letter for worker-owned cooperatives. This has also been forwarded to the City Council for their reference.

Cordially,

GENEVIEVE YIP | Staff Analyst
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel: 408-615-2253 | www.santaclaraca.gov



From: sue lopez <sue@arizmendi.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 12:43 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>; cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov; coop@asliceofny.com
Subject: Letter of Support - Worker Cooperatives, re: study session July 9, 2019

Hello friends,

Thank you for your interest and support in helping us spread the word about the benefits of Worker Owned Cooperatives for the community at large.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all on Tuesday July 9 at the study session in Santa Clara and have attached a letter of support, as well as, pasted it below...just in case.

Thank you again for your time and consideration,
cooperatively yours,
suelopez
Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives
and Arizmendi baker.

June 14, 2019

Mayor and City Council

1500 Warburton Ave
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers, and City Manager:

Thank you for taking the time to help support the growing worker cooperative movement. I am a member of the Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives in the Bay Area. I am both a founder and working baker at the 2nd Arizmendi Bakery (in San Francisco) opened in October 2000, as well as part of our Development Support Cooperative (DSC). The DSC team works within our Association familia and assists with development and support of our Arizmendi network. The Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives, founded in 1996, develops democratically run businesses whose worker-owners are in control of their livelihood. The first Arizmendi Bakery opened in Oakland in 1997, with a production model based on the Cheese Board in Berkeley, which generously donated its recipes and know-how to the project. There are now six thriving bakeries in the Bay Area with approximately 175 baker owners. In 2016, on the heels of our 20th Anniversary, the Arizmendi Association began to diversify our cooperative family beyond bakeries. Root Volume, a landscaping design/build cooperative, and Arizmendi Construction, a construction cooperative, are the first two in what we hope will be many cross-industry cooperative businesses. Other projects in development include a bookkeeping collective and an ADU pilot project which is still in the works.

The Arizmendi Association mission is to:

- Assure opportunities for workers' control of their livelihood with fairness and equality for all
- Develop as many dignified, decently paid (living "wage" or better) work opportunities as possible through the development of new cooperatives
- Promote cooperative economic democracy as a sustainable and humane option for our society
- Create work environments that foster profound personal as well as professional growth
- Exhibit excellence in production and serving our local communities
- Provide continuing technical, educational and organizational support and services to member cooperatives
- Seek to link with other cooperatives for mutual support, and to
- Provide information and education to the larger community about cooperatives

I have been excitedly following the conversion of Santa Clara's A Slice of New York for years. As a fellow food service worker, and worker cooperative supporter and developer (aka: cheerleader #1), I was emboldened by Kirk and Marguerite's decision to transition their family business into a worker cooperative with a group of dedicated workers that they had cultivated a wonderful AND successful work environment with.

This generosity of spirit echoed the genesis of the Cheese Board Collective in Berkeley in the late 1960s when the partner owners at the time sold the business

back to their small group of workers and converted to a worker owned cooperative. Elizabeth, one of the two founders, continued baking with the Cheese Board until her retirement a few years ago (into her mid-80s) and recently got to mark the Cheese Board's 50th anniversary along with her 60+ Cheese Board COWORKERS and over 100 Arizmendi baker co-workers. It is this kind of dedication and hard work that can help build a healthier community of businesses that help support each other internally and externally. The impact of this work does not stop at the bakery door but reverberates throughout the community at large in ways that keep people invested and engaged in their community.

The time is NOW... Besides assisting in the development of worker cooperatives from the ground up, there seems to be a unique opportunity to assist interested baby boomers in transitioning individually owned businesses to employee owned worker cooperatives. The best way to help this effort is to *inform* the cities, staff, and local community (residential and business) about what worker cooperatives are.

Why shutter a locally owned business after SO many years when it's time for retirement, if it is possible to sell your business back to the workers that have helped it thrive?

The Arizmendi Association is always in support of widening the scope of worker cooperatives and educating the public at large about the benefits of worker ownership is an essential part of this process. Please let me know how I can help your efforts for employee ownership options. I look forward to sharing this session with the larger community and other cities in the country.

On July 9th, after a full day of visiting my TWO new favorite South Bay Pizza shops, (both SONY locations!) I am excited to attend and participate in the session in Santa Clara. I fully support and endorse, and look forward to taking part in further educating the community on worker cooperatives and how they can provide additional solutions to the looming threat of our retiring baby boomers, the shuttering of our small businesses, and the growing inequalities in our workforce. Did I mention, ***the time is NOW***, these are challenging times, and we, collectively, need to help spread the word. *The idea of a democratic workplace should not be a radical one in an ideally democratic society, no?*

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance (besides all the cheerleading, that is).

Cooperatively yours,
suelopez
Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives
and Arizmendi baker...

<https://arizmendi.coop/>

June 14, 2019

Mayor and City Council
1500 Warburton Ave
Santa Clara, CA 95050

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Cooperatively yours,
suelopez
Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives
and Arizmendi baker...

<https://arizmendi.coop/>

From: [Mayor and Council](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Robyn Sahid](#); [Nadine Nader](#); [Deanna Santana](#)
Cc: [Kathleen McGraw](#); [Martha Martinez](#); [Jose Armas](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Worker-Cooperatives and A Slice of NY
Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:16:16 AM
Attachments: [Letter to Santa Clara.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good morning:

The Mayor and Council Offices' general inbox received the attached support letter for worker cooperatives from Foresta Sieck-Hill on behalf of the Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives. This has been forwarded to the City Council for their reference.

Cordially,

GENEVIEVE YIP

Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel: 408-615-2253 | www.santaclaraca.gov



From: Foresta <foresta@nobawc.org>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 4:30 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>; cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov; coop@asliceofny.com
Subject: Letter of Support for Worker-Cooperatives and A Slice of NY

Hello,

Please find attached our letter of support coming up to the Study Session on July 9th.

Best,

Foresta

--

Foresta Sieck-Hill
Administrative Coordinator, NoBAWC
Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives
www.nobawc.org

NoBAWC is dedicated to helping build the worker cooperative movement in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives

P.O. Box 3246, Oakland, CA 94609 · (510) 736-2667 · www.nobawc.org · info@nobawc.org

June 12, 2019

Mayor and City Council

1500 Warburton Ave

Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers, and City Manager,

I work with the Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives. NoBAWC is a grassroots organization of democratic workplaces dedicated to building workplace democracy in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

Our organization has been following the conversion of Santa Clara's A Slice of New York. As you know this pizza shop is the only retail worker-cooperative in the South Bay. We work with businesses forming worker-cooperatives, converting to worker-cooperatives, and functioning worker-cooperatives and one of the biggest opportunities we see is the transitioning of individually owned businesses to employee owned worker-cooperatives. The best way to further this effort is to inform the cities, staff, and local community about what worker-cooperatives are. When we hear you are hosting a Council Study Session in July, we were very excited.

NoBAWC is extremely supportive of this effort. Please let me know how we can help your efforts for employee ownership options. We look forward to sharing this session with the larger community and other cities in the country.

We look forward to attending and participating the session on July 9th.

Sincerely, zfdg

Foresta Sieck-Hill

Staff Person

Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives

From: [Mayor and Council](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Robyn Sahid](#); [Nadine Nader](#); [Deanna Santana](#)
Cc: [Kathleen McGraw](#); [Martha Martinez](#); [Jose Armas](#)
Subject: FW: Santa Clara Worker Cooperative Study Session (7/9) Letter of Support
Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:18:43 AM
Attachments: [Sustainable Economies Law Center letter of support.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good morning:

The Mayor and Council Offices' general inbox received the attached letter of support for worker cooperatives from the Sustainable Economies Law Center. This been forwarded to the City Council for their reference.

Cordially,

GENEVIEVE YIP | Staff Analyst
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel: 408-615-2253 | www.santaclaraca.gov



From: Yassi Eskandari-Qajar <yassi@theselc.org>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 5:03 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>; cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov; coop@asliceofny.com
Subject: Santa Clara Worker Cooperative Study Session (7/9) Letter of Support

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Santa Clara City Council Members, and City Manager:

Please see attached for the Sustainable Economies Law Center's letter of support for worker cooperatives as an economic development strategy.

Thank you,
Yassi Eskandari

Yassi Eskandari
Attorney & Policy Director
[Sustainable Economies Law Center | theselc.org](http://theselc.org)
Direct: (805) 637-2734 | SELC: (510) 398-6219
Legal education, research, advice, and advocacy for more just and resilient economies.

June 14, 2019

Mayor and City Council
1500 Warburton Ave
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers, and City Manager:

I work with the Sustainable Economies Law Center, a nonprofit that focuses on worker cooperatives as an economic development tool. Indeed, it is our mission to cultivate a new legal landscape that supports community resilience and grassroots economic empowerment. The Law Center has been a key force behind the City of Berkeley's decision to support worker cooperative development, and we are happy to offer our support to the City of Santa Clara as well.

(https://www.theselc.org/berkeley_sets_the_bar_for_municipal_support_of_worker_cooperatives)

Our organization provided legal support for the conversion of Santa Clara's A Slice of New York, which is the only retail worker cooperative in the South Bay. It's time to change that!

One of the biggest opportunities we see today is with the transitioning of conventionally-owned businesses to employee-owned worker cooperatives. The best way to further this effort is to inform the city, staff, and local community (residential and business) about what worker cooperatives are, and to follow suit with appropriate technical support. We're thrilled that the City of Santa Clara is taking important first steps to explore this economic development strategy.

We look forward to attending and participating in the session on July 9th, and please know that you have our full support and endorsement in further educating the community on worker cooperatives and how they can provide additional solutions to the looming threat of our retiring baby boomers, the loss of our small businesses, and the growing inequalities in our workforce. These are challenging times, and we need to inform our local businesses on the many options they have, and the worker cooperative business model is a good one!

Again, let me know how we can help, and thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,
Yassi Eskandari, Esq.
Policy Director and Board President
Sustainable Economies Law Center

EMAIL:
mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
manager@santaclaraca.gov
cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov
coop@asliceofny.com

From: [Mayor and Council](#)
To: [Robyn Sahid](#); [Nadine Nader](#); [Deanna Santana](#)
Cc: [Simrat Dhadli](#); [Kathleen McGraw](#); [Martha Martinez](#); [Jose Armas](#)
Subject: FW: Cooperative Study Session by the Council
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 6:18:43 PM
Attachments: [IMG_1017.JPG](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good afternoon:

The Mayor and Council Offices' general inbox received the attached letter of support for worker cooperatives from Mr. Art Maurice (President of the Cory Neighborhood Association). This been forwarded to the City Council for their reference.

Cordially,

GENEVIEVE YIP | Staff Analyst
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel: 408-615-2253 | www.santaclaraca.gov



From: art maurice <amaurice@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 4:31 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>; cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov; coop@sliceofny.com
Subject: Cooperative Study Session by the Council

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers, and City Manager,

I am personally sending you all a letter of thanks for setting up a study session on Cooperatives. I think this will be a valuable class for the city, the residents, and the business community and I'm looking forward to being in the session in July. Attached is a copy of the letter.

Sincerely,
Art Maurice
President, Cory Neighborhood Association

June 18, 2019

Mayor and City Council
1500 Warburton Ave
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Councilmembers, and City Manager:

As President of the Cory Neighborhood Association Board and behave of the Cory neighborhood, the community next to A Slice of New York. Our organization has been following the conversion of Santa Clara's A Slice of New York for some time now.

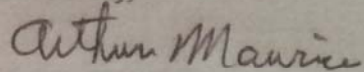
As you know, this pizza shop is the only retail worker cooperative in the South Bay. We are very supportive of our local businesses and order from them occasionally for our board meetings, and even once at our General Meeting. We want to see businesses like this stay in our community. Employee ownership models can help with this.

We have recently learned one of the biggest opportunities today is with the transitioning of individually owned businesses to employee owned worker cooperatives. And the best way to further this effort is to inform the cities, staff, and local community (residential and business) about what worker cooperatives are. When we heard you were hosting a Council Study Session in July, we were very excited!

The Cory Neighborhood Association is extremely supportive of this effort. Please know you have our full support and endorsement in further educating the community on worker cooperatives and how they can provide additional solutions to the looming threat of our retiring baby boomers, the loss of our small businesses, and the growing inequalities in our workforce. These are challenging times, and we need to inform our local businesses on the many options they have, and the worker cooperative business model is a good one!

Please reach out to me if we can help in any way and thank you for your leadership!

Sincerely,



Art Maurice
President, Cory Neighborhood Association

EMAIL:

mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov

manager@santaclaraca.gov

cityclerk@santaclaraca.gov

coop@asliceofny.com

From: [Mayor and Council](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Robyn Sahid](#); [Nadine Nader](#); [Deanna Santana](#)
Cc: [Simrat Dhadli](#); [Kathleen McGraw](#); [Martha Martinez](#); [Jose Armas](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for the July 9, 2019 worker-cooperative business model study session
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2019 5:30:07 PM
Attachments: [Letter of Support for July 9.2019 Worker-Cooperative Model Study Session.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hi there:

The Mayor and Council Offices' general inbox received the attached letter of support for worker cooperatives from Mr. David Brown (representative from Co-op Santa Cruz). This been forwarded to the City Council for their reference.

Cordially,

GENEVIEVE YIP | Staff Analyst
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel: 408-615-2253 | www.santaclaraca.gov



From: The Hub For Sustainable Transportation <thehubboard@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 2:21 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support for the July 9, 2019 worker-cooperative business model study session

Dear Mayor Gillmor and Members of the City Council:

The attached letter comes to you on behalf of Co-op Santa Cruz (Co-op SC) in appreciation for your Council's decision to hold a worker-cooperative business model study session on July 9, 2019. Employee-owned business models have seen tremendous growth in recent years and cities are increasingly considering supportive policies that encourage the growth of this small business ecosystem segment. The benefits of worker-ownership to local economies are clear. Worker-owned businesses enjoy greater stability and growth, higher wages than their industry peers, and commitment to their local communities.

As a community of interest that advocates for a more inclusive economy, Co-op SC has seen the very impactful benefits of this model, particularly for low and middle-income members of the workforce. We have watched with excitement as the City of Berkeley developed an ordinance favorable to cooperative development. We believe, that if brought to scale, worker-ownership can be a key ingredient for inclusive and equitable economic development in the City of Santa Clara.

Thank you very much for the leadership your Council is modelling on this growing small business sector. Employee-ownership is a path toward living wages and

fulfilling careers for people in many traditionally under valued professions. Your openness to learning more about and thus raising awareness of this model signals your concern for the wellbeing of lower and middle-income people in the City of Santa Clara. For that, we are very appreciative. Co-op SC is initiating dialogue with local jurisdictions within Santa Cruz County and we are committed to having your discussions and resulting community impact of this session inform our work to partner with municipalities in Santa Cruz.

On behalf of Co-op Santa Cruz,

David Brown

831-227-1661 cell/text

Co-op-sc@googlegroups.com

dave831brown@gmail.com

Date: June 20, 2019

Attn: City of Santa Clara Mayor and City Council
City of Santa Clara, City Hall
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor and Members of the City Council:

This letter comes to you from Co-op Santa Cruz (Co-op SC) in appreciation for your Council's decision to hold a worker-cooperative business model study session on July 9, 2019. Employee-owned business models have seen tremendous growth in recent years and cities are increasingly considering supportive policies that encourage the growth of this small business ecosystem segment. The benefits of worker-ownership to local economies are clear. Worker-owned businesses enjoy greater stability and growth, higher wages than their industry peers, and commitment to their local communities.

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On behalf of Co-op Santa Cruz,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Brown
831-227-1661 cell/text
Co-op-sc@googlegroups.com

From: [Mayor and Council](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Robyn Sahid](#); [Nadine Nader](#); [Deanna Santana](#)
Cc: [Simrat Dhadli](#); [Kathleen McGraw](#); [Martha Martinez](#); [Jose Armas](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Workers Coop Study Session
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 1:44:56 PM
Attachments: [Letter of Support Workers Coop.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good afternoon:

The Mayor and Council Offices' general inbox received the attached letter of support for worker cooperatives from Santa Clara Chamber President/CEO Nick Kaspar. This been forwarded to the City Council for their reference.

Cordially,

GENEVIEVE YIP | Staff Analyst
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel: 408-615-2253 | www.santaclaraca.gov



From: Nick Kaspar <nick.kaspar@santaclarachamber.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 12:59 PM
To: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support for Workers Coop Study Session

Hello Mayor and Council,

Please find the letter of support for the study session on Workers Coops held on July 9th. I look forward to attending and participating at the meeting.

Thank you,

Nick Kaspar | President/CEO
Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce
Phone: (408) 940-5147 Email: nick.kaspar@santaclarachamber.com



Advocate • Educate • Connect

Mayor and City Council
City Hall
1500 Warburton Ave
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Re: Study Session on Worker Cooperatives

Dear Mayor Gillmor and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to SUPPORT the Study Session on the worker cooperatives structure as a business structure.

While we realize this is one option out of many successful business structures, worker cooperatives are uncommon and often unknown in this region making education on worker cooperatives ever so important. We appreciate the City of Santa Clara leveraging its reach to inform businesses on alternative business structures and we would encourage more collaboration to further inform the public on business matters.

Please know that you have our support in further educating the community on worker cooperatives and how they can provide additional solutions for business owners looking to step away from their business without closing their doors.

We look forward to attending on July 9th and participating in the study session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Kaspar".

Nick Kaspar
President/CEO
Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce