

Dear Neighbors,

The best ideas are simple, human-centered ones. During the recent budget process for the fiscal year 2018-19, I submitted a request and received the funding for free [block party permits](#), city-wide. Block Party permits are issued through the police department allowing neighborhoods to block a residential street off for the event. This may seem like a simple idea, but the benefits of knowing your direct neighbors and building a support system in your neighborhood could have long lasting health and safety benefits. There are three main benefits I can think of right off the bat. 1) You can borrow tools and supplies when you need them. Instead of buying all the tools for every job, good neighbors can co-op a supply of tools and share in the space of storing them. You might even get some help and expertise from a neighbor along with that idea! 2) You can also share your bounty with them. If one neighbor has an overabundance of zucchini from their backyard gardens, it can be shared or traded with neighbors who will truly appreciate the fresh produce. 3) And most importantly, in an emergency, both personal and a community emergency, neighbors can be a source of trustworthy support and assistance.

One of the best ways to connect with your neighbors and begin the process of building that neighborhood cohesion is the during the upcoming National Night Out event on August 7th. This is a nationally celebrated event aimed at crime and drug prevention. The San Jose Police Department locally sponsor it to help neighborhoods send a message to criminals that you are organized and are fighting back against crime. You are encouraged to register with our police department so they may send police and city representatives to your gathering to meet and talk with neighbors. Deadline for registration is July 27, 2018. To register and view a list of suggested National Night Out activities go here: <http://www.sjpd.org/BFO/Community/Crimeprev/NationalNightOut.asp>. You do not need a block party permit to hold a National Night Out event unless you want to close your street.

While you're gathered in your neighborhood, take advantage of the event, and start the conversation about the Map Your Neighborhood program. Map Your Neighborhood helps neighborhoods prepare for emergencies and disaster situations. This is a simple idea to make your neighborhood more resilient in an emergency. I highly encourage you to check out the link to see an informational video on the program: <https://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/preparedness/map-your-neighborhood>. If you want Map Your Neighborhood materials, please contact my office and we will arrange to give you them to you.

We're here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at 408-535-4906 or district6@sanjoseca.gov.

Have a safe and Happy Fourth of July!

Sincerely,

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