

# Kalra Capitol Report



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## \$200K Allocated for Minority Mental Health



On August 8<sup>th</sup>, Assemblymember Ash Kalra was a guest speaker at Hellyer Neighborhood Association's annual Minority Mental Wellness, Awareness, Celebration and Resource Fair, addressing what is being done about mental health disparities, especially for underserved communities, at the state level. For the fiscal year 2022-23 State Budget, he secured a one-time investment of \$200,000 that will aid the implementation of the Santa Clara County Health Equity Agenda, of which the goal is to drive quantifiable reductions in racial health disparities.

Assemblymember Kalra shared with the audience, "Having represented San Jose for over a decade in the City Council and State Legislature, I recognize that we need to do better to address the stigma of mental health for many minority communities, but also the availability and affordability of mental health resources."

In addition, Assemblymember Kalra has been working with the State Legislature to include funding and pass legislation to expand resources for behavioral health programs. To learn more about these efforts, please contact our office at (408) 277-1220.

**HAPPENING THIS SATURDAY**  
Assemblymember Ash Kalra  
& VeggieNation host

**SAN JOSE**

# VeggieFest

**2022**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
**10 AM - 3 PM**  
**DISCOVERY MEADOW PARK**  
**180 WOZ WAY, SAN JOSE**

**COME OUT TO SAN JOSE VEGGIEFEST AND ENJOY:**

**LOCAL VENDORS**  
**PLANT BASED FOOD**  
**BEER GARDEN**  
**KIDS ZONE**  
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**STATE & LOCAL RESOURCES**  
**AND MUCH MORE!!!**

## An End of Session Message from Assemblymember Ash Kalra

August 31<sup>st</sup> marked the last day of our legislative session, which means we worked late into the night to get bills passed off the floor and onto the Governor's desk. It was great to see so much equitable, transformative, and progressive legislation move forward to better our communities and our state.

I am proud that 16 of my bills have passed both Houses and are now on the Governor's desk. Thank you to my legislative colleagues for supporting my bills, some of which include:

- **AB 30 - Equitable Outdoor Access Act:** would affirm access to nature for all Californians and direct state agencies to incorporate consideration of that right into investments and policies regarding nature access, especially for nature-deprived communities.
- **AB 256 - Racial Justice Act for All:** would ensure all Californians with prior, racially biased convictions and sentences have equal justice under the law.
- **AB 655 - CLEAR Act:** would require law enforcement agencies to screen candidates for participation in a hate group or advocacy of public expressions of hate or violence.
- **AB 1885 - Cannabis for Animal Use:** would allow veterinarians to recommend cannabis for therapeutic use in animals, and require the Veterinary Medical Board to create guidelines for such recommendations.
- **AB 2208 - Mercury Lamp Pollution Preventions Act:** phases out the sale of toxic fluorescent bulbs that will enable the shift towards mercury-free LED bulbs and alternatives.
- **AB 2278 - 30X30:** would require the California Natural Resources Agency to report to the Legislature on the progress towards achieving conservation goals set out by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20.
- **AB 2300 - CalWORKs and CalFresh:** would expand good cause employment exemptions for CalWORKs and CalFresh recipients and ensures that recipients are made aware of their workplace rights.
- **AB 2418 - Justice Data Accountability and Transparency Act:** would create greater district attorney transparency by requiring district attorneys to collect and report data about their cases.
- **AB 2524 - VTA: Employee Relations:** would allow Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and their employees to opt-in to the Public Employment Relations Board jurisdiction to process outstanding Unfair Labor Practices.

Now that the legislative session is over, I'm excited to be back in the district fulltime to connect with my community. I cannot wait for all the fun festivals and events that will be taking place this fall, including my own San Jose Veggie Fest on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at Discovery Meadow Park in Downtown San José. This is the first time it is returning in person since the COVID-19 pandemic, so I look forward to everyone stopping by and enjoying all the fun vendors, entertainment, and food. Please check out pg. 5 for more details.

If your neighborhood association, organization, or business is hosting an event or festival, please contact my office to let me know about it! It would be fun to visit or even table. You can reach my District Team at (408) 277-1220.

Sincerely,

Ash



## Asm. Secures \$10M for East San José Corridor Safety Improvement Project



On August 11, 2022, Assemblymember Ash Kalra, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo, and City Councilmembers Maya Esparza and Raul Perez celebrated \$10 million in state funds for San José's East San José Corridor Safety Improvement Project. This Project is a part of the Vision Zero strategy, a traffic safety initiative to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on roadways. Assemblymember Kalra, who submitted the budget request which was signed by Governor Newsom, presented San José Mayor Sam Liccardo with a commemorative check at the press conference.

The East San José Corridor Safety Improvement Project is the first major corridor redesign and will provide key pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit safety improvements along 4.7 miles of Senter Road between Story Road and Monterey Road. The funding for this budget request can be found in AB 178 (Ting), signed by Governor Newsom on June 30, 2022. With the \$10 million budget allocation, the improvements will specifically include:

- \$1.35M for a planted median island and 3 enhanced crosswalks with flashing beacons
- \$2.35M to upgrade existing streetlights to LED and add new pedestrian scale lights
- \$1.5M for a concrete curb barrier to protect the new Class IV buffered bike lane
- \$2.5M for a new traffic signal at Senter and Balfour, to simplify a complex intersection
- \$1.1M for central transit signal priority, bus boarding islands, and other amenities like shelters and benches
- \$0.5M for pedestrian and bike sensors to add crossing time
- \$0.2M for radar speed signs and pavement messages
- \$1.0M for engineering, evaluation, data collection, and community engagement

"This urgent investment for the City of San José will save lives and make our streets safer," said Assemblymember Kalra, who championed the funding request in this year's State Budget. "The Senter Road corridor is one of the most dangerous in the City and a centerpiece of Vision Zero. These much-needed safety improvements will help children walk to school, improve commutes to work, and increase accessibility to a popular roadway that vitally connects communities."

Traffic fatalities have doubled in San José in the past 10 years, from 29 in 2010 to 60 in 2021. 30 to 50 percent of these fatal and severe traffic injuries occur on just 17 corridors, which are identified as Vision Zero Priority Safety Corridors. Senter Road, like many of the other Priority Safety Corridors in the City, runs through east and southeast San José, and through many of the City's disadvantaged communities.





## Pride Celebration Returns to Splash in San Jose

August ushered in Assemblymember Ash Kalra's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Pride Celebration. This year's celebration returned to Splash Video Dance Bar in downtown San Jose, which also hosted the 2019 celebration.

To kick off the night, Anjali Rimi, Assemblymember Kalra's guest of honor and the co-founder of Parivar Bay Area, which is the nation's only Transgender-led South Asian Queer organization, greeted event attendees with a motivational speech and a meaningful call to action, urging community members to share the compassion and unity.

Four honorees received recognitions from Assemblymember Kalra for their continued advocacy and commitment to ensuring that San Jose and Assembly District 27th are places for LGBTQ+ community members to feel welcome and empowered.

This year's honorees were:

**Legacy Award:** Dr. Amor Santiago (he/him) has provided executive leadership in nonprofit development, health and wellness programming, and multi-ethnic community collaborations in Santa Clara County and San Francisco. Dr. Santiago served in so many coalitions, associations, and partnerships that empower the underserved community, including Community Health Partnership of Santa Clara County, Asian Americans for Community Involvement, India Community Center, The Health Trust, Healthy Silicon Valley, APA Family Support Services, and Project Open Hand.

**Leader in Community Empowerment:** LifeMoves is the largest provider of interim housing and services for homelessness in Silicon Valley. LifeMoves' New Haven Inn is an inclusive shelter in downtown San Jose with focused support for individuals identifying as LGBTQ+.

**Leader in Public Service:** Kilani Louis (they/them) is the current Program Manager with the Santa Clara County's Community Clinical Disaster Operations Team, focused on supporting the testing and vaccination efforts for COVID-19 and MPX, while ensuring that these services are accessible to the entire community.

**Leader in Community Advocacy:** San José State University Lurie College of Education Queer Educators and Counselors Network (QECN) provides support, training, and resources to help students, faculty, and staff examine their own practice and engage with their own understandings of gender and sexuality. QECN was founded by Dr. Kyoung Mi Choi (she/her) and Dr. Robert Marx (they/them).

Congratulations to our 2022 Pride Celebration honorees!



Assemblymember Ash Kalra  
& Veggielution host:

**SAN JOSE**

# VeggieFest

**2022**



**Fresh Produce & Food**  
**Vegan Cooking Demo W/ Chef Reina**  
**Beer Garden**  
**Shopping and Vendors**

**Kids Zone**  
**Multicultural Performances**  
**Local and State Resources**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022**  
**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**DISCOVERY MEADOW PARK, 180 WOZ WAY, SAN JOSE**

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Juan Rodriguez at [juan.rodriguez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:juan.rodriguez@asm.ca.gov), or call (408) 277-1220.






## Flag Raising Honors India's 75th Year of Independence

On Thursday, August 18, 2022, Assemblymember Kalra had the honor of returning to San Jose City Hall to once again co-host the Indian Flag Raising Ceremony. Originally started by then-Councilmember Kalra back in 2017, this tradition continued through Councilmember Sylvia Arenas representing District 8, who graciously took over the event when Kalra moved onto State Assembly. This year marked the first return since the pandemic, and even more importantly, marked the 75th year of India Independence Day. Over a hundred community members gathered at San Jose City Hall to watch the raising of the India flag, and to honor the day India gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1947. The flag raising was followed by food and performances that highlighted the culture, heritage, and traditions of India.



In honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of independence, Assemblymember Kalra also introduced Assembly Concurrent Resolution 206 on the Assembly floor, which was co-authored by his colleagues. This resolution proclaims it as statewide significance and urges all Californians to celebrate India Independence Day. In attendance were also many guests of honor, including County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Vice Mayor Chappie Jones, Councilmember Matt Mahan, and representatives from the offices of County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, Senator Dave Cortese, and Assemblymember Alex Lee. Also supporting the event were President & Event Coordinator Rajesh Verma, and Chairman & Founder Dr. Romesh Japra, of Festival of Globe/Federation of Indo-American Association of Northern California, who later that weekend hosted their India Independence Day Parade in Fremont.

"As the first Indian American on the State Legislature in California history, I am always honored to find opportunities to pay tribute to my heritage and my culture," stated Kalra. "This year especially was important for me and my family, as well as the Indian American community, not only because we are returning to celebrate in-person but also because it has been 75 years since India gained independence."

## Italian American Heritage Foundation Celebrates Family Festa



"Congratulazioni" to the Italian American Heritage Foundation as they celebrated 40 years of the Italian Family Festa on August 20, 2022. Taking place at History Park San Jose, this multi-decade festival brings the community together to celebrate Italian culture and traditions, including grape stomping, cooking demos and contests, bocce, classic marionette performances, opera, wine tasting, and more.

Assemblymember Ash Kalra visited the festival, alongside Senator Dave Cortese and a representative from Assemblymember Evan Low's office, to present a State Resolution honoring 40 years of the Italian Family Festa. Especially since it was the first time bringing the event back in person, this was a celebration that no one wanted to miss.

The Italian Family Festa is the signature event of the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). IAHF's mission is to share Italian heritage with the San Jose community. As part of their mission, IAHF also annually awards scholarships to high school and community college students. Also, major donations are given annually to Opera San Jose, the Salvation Army, and other charitable organizations. Italian and American customs, culture, folklore, and traditions are promoted through the annual Italian Family Festa, language classes, cooking classes, opera, musical programs, art shows, and film festivals.

"Thank you to the Italian American Heritage Foundation for continuing this tradition to recognize the rich culture of Italian Americans", said Kalra. "All while giving back to the community!"

## National Night Out Back After COVID-19 Hiatus

National Night Out is a community favorite and if you haven't been to one before, please check it out next year! Occurring on the first Tuesday of every August, National Night Out serves as an opportunity for neighbors to host celebrations that foster positive relationships between the community and law enforcement. These celebrations range from small block parties and ice cream socials, to park festivals and resource fairs. The events are free and family-friendly, and often times have food, games, and live entertainment. 2022 marked the first year of its return since the pandemic.



This year on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, there were over one hundred National Night Out celebrations in San Jose, and dozens of locations throughout Assembly District 27. This included celebrations hosted by the Silver Leaf, Guadalupe Washington, Mt. Pleasant, Seven Trees, and Welch Park Neighborhood Associations, where the AD 27 team set up booths with kids activities, giveaways, and state resources, and information. Assemblymember Kalra came down from Sacramento to spend the evening in the community, visiting roughly ten locations throughout south and east San Jose, and downtown San Jose. This is one of Kalra's favorite events as it provides a great opportunity for him to hang out with neighbors and meet people from all over the district.

"Being with my community is one of my favorite parts of my job," said Kalra. "I am so happy to be with our neighborhood associations to celebrate our residents and the commitment to building stronger relationships with our first responders."

### Photos from National Night Out 8/2/2022



Santa Clara County Search and Rescue Team at Silver Leaf National Night Out



Kalra greets residents of Second Street Studios in Downtown San Jose



Kalra hosted a table at the Guadalupe Washington National Night Out location



Kalra poses with Seven Trees Neighborhood Association leaders



## Have Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines?

**Talk to  
your Doc!**

Keep your family safe  
from the worst  
outcomes of COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines  
are recommended for  
people who are pregnant,  
breastfeeding, trying to get  
pregnant, or could become  
pregnant in the future.

Unvaccinated people are 8.6x more likely  
to be hospitalized than those who are  
vaccinated and boosted. Vaccinated  
persons with COVID-19 are one-third less  
likely to transmit to others in their household  
in the Omicron period.

Visit [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or call 833-422-4255  
to book a vaccine appointment today.





## MIDDLE CLASS TAX REFUND

### 1. Determine your eligibility

You are eligible if you:

- Filed your 2020 tax return by October 15, 2021
- Meet the California adjusted gross income (CA AGI) limits described
- Were not eligible to be claimed as a dependent in the 2020 tax year
- Were a California resident for six months or more of the 2020 tax year
- Are a California resident on the date the payment is issued

### 2.

#### When will you receive your payment?

Californians are expected to receive payments between October 2022 and January 2023.

### 3.

#### How will you receive your payment?

Generally, if you filed electronically and received your 2020 tax refund by direct deposit, then you should get your payment the same way. Otherwise, you will receive your payment on a debit card.

### 4.

#### What amount are you eligible to receive?

For your CA AGI, go to:

- Line 17 on your 2020 Form 540
- Line 16 on your 2020 Form 540 2EZ

The amount you receive depends on how you filed your tax returns (Joint returns, Head of Household or surviving spouse, or as an other individual), and on whether or not you have dependents.

Visit the California FTB website to estimate the refund amount you are eligible to receive.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**Ash Kalra**

DISTRICT 27

## WATER CONSERVATION IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS TOOLKIT



*This project was made possible by Valley Water through the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program.*

Please join us in our efforts to bring fun and engaging content to K-12 students, schools and families that encourage small doable changes in our neighborhoods to save water in Santa Clara County and California and increase awareness about how as individuals we can make a huge impact.

Help the Campaign by:

1. Follow @DripandDropSave  
Tag two friends and comment!  
Hashtag: #DripandDrop

OR

2. Share @DripandDropSave posts  
Tag Valley Water  
Hashtag: #DripandDrop

## Asm. Kalra Joins Rose White & Blue Parade

Assemblymember Ash Kalra and his staff joined the Rose White and Blue Parade in San José, celebrating the Fourth of July with the community. Cheers from on-lookers, loud patriotic songs, and so many American flags handed to children created great memories. This year, the parade livestream was viewed on the elected officials' Facebook page in three languages - Spanish, Vietnamese, and English. With technical assistance from CreaTV, Assemblymember Kalra was invited to host the parade livestream in the Vietnamese language.

Assemblymember Kalra was happy that the celebration was able to unite residents together in celebration of liberty, especially after a challenging time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, he wanted to express the message that although our nation has strived towards the hope of equality, we can still do better in our historic fight for dignity for all. Kalra shared, "We may have taken steps backward along the journey, but we must not relent in the fight for equality and freedom. Our grand experiment is still a work in progress, and it is up to us to decide what direction we will take."



## Meet a New Friend at the San José Animal Care Center, and Make a Best Friend for Life!



### September Feature: Pongo ID#A1250301

Pongo is a neutered male, white and black shorthaired rabbit. His age is unknown, and he has been at the shelter since March 17, 2022.

Pongo has had a rough life on the streets. Did you know San Jose has a colony of domestic rabbits that were abandoned in downtown? They may look cute on someone's lawn, but sadly the average lifespan of a domestic rabbit that has been born in the "wild" is only 2 years. However, when they are neutered and kept indoors with their family, they can live to be 10!

Pongo was brought into the shelter sad, scared, tired, and filthy. One of the dirtiest buns ever brought in, he was covered in dirt, grease, and urine. Once reserved and standoffish, Pongo has learned with some help from our volunteers that people can be trusted. This big guy used to hide in the corner of his kennel when you tried to say hi, but now? He needed a little time to warm up in his foster home, but he's a love bug ever since he settled in. He's learning how fun it is to play, that the good life is indoors with people who care, and has decided that being brushed is THE BEST. Speaking of brushing, we're still working on cleaning Pongo up. Most of the dirt and grease is gone, but his fur is still urine-stained and yellow. No need to worry, Pongo will eventually shed all of this stained fur and have a new bright white coat for his smattering of stunning black spots to stand out against.

Are you looking for somebunny very special? A dalmation sensation perhaps? Pongo would love to be that bun. All he needs is a little time and lots of love, and he will return your love ten-fold.

Want to learn more about Pongo or make yourself a new best friend for life? For adoption inquiries and more information about this rabbit, please contact shelter rabbit volunteer, Cheryl at 408-621-3773. She offers free adoption support and care coaching. Or visit the San José Animal Care Center website at [www.sanjoseanimals.com](http://www.sanjoseanimals.com), or call (408) 794-PAWS (7297). Adoptions are conducted Tuesday through Sunday between 9am and 4pm, on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. If you are interested in adopting, please write down the I.D. number of the pet you would like (example: A1234567).





# Contact Us!

Want to sign up for the newsletter? Please email Celeste Walker at [celeste.walker@asm.ca.gov](mailto:celeste.walker@asm.ca.gov).

Do you live in Assembly District 27? Visit us at [www.assembly.ca.gov/Kalra](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Kalra) to find out!



## Capitol Office

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P.O Box 942849  
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P: (916) 319-2027  
F: (916) 319-2127

## District Office

100 Paseo de San Antonio, Suite 319  
San José, CA 95113  
P: (408) 277-1220  
F: (408) 277-1036

## State Agencies Contact Information

Administrative Law	(916) 323-6225
Aging	(916) 419-7500
Alcoholic Beverage Control	(916) 419-2500
Board of Equalization	(800) 400-7115
Bureau of Automotive Repair	(800) 952-5210
California Courts	(415) 865-4200
California Highway Patrol	(800) 835-5247
Caltrans	(916) 654-2852
Child Supportive Services	(866) 901-3212
Consumer Affairs	(800) 952-5210
Controller's Office	(916) 445-3028
Developmental Services	(916) 654-1690
Employment Development	(800) 300-5616
Fair Employment & Housing	(800) 884-1684
Fair Political Practices Commission	(916) 322-5660
Fish & Wildlife	(916) 445-0411
Food & Agriculture	(916) 654-0466
Health Care Services	(916) 445-1248
High Speed Rail Authority	(916) 324-1541
Insurance	(800) 927-4357
Motor Vehicles	(800) 777-0133
Parks & Recreation	(800) 777-0369
Public Health	(916) 558-1784
Rehabilitation	(916) 324-1313
Secretary of State	(916) 653-6814
Social Services	(916) 651-8848
Toxic Substances Control	(800) 728-6942
Veterans Affairs	(800) 952-5626

## English

### Blurb for E-newsletter – Survey

COVID-19 Recovery in San José: What support do you need?

The City of San José provides many resources to support those impacted by COVID-19. As they transition to providing recovery resources, the City recognizes the importance of doing this together with the community. What are your hopes for the future as we build a stronger San José? Take this survey from the City of San José's Recovery Task Force and help inform future programs that will support families and businesses most impacted by the pandemic.

## Updated MPX vaccine eligibility in Santa Clara County:

- All men or trans people who have sex with men or trans people, including gay or bisexual men
- Sex workers of any gender
- Close contacts of those with suspected or confirmed MPX
- Close contacts of others at a venue, event, or within a social group where a suspected or confirmed MPX case was identified. (Includes those who received notice from a venue or event of a potential exposure)