

January 13, 2011

To the Edenvale Community Center Youth:

I would like to begin by commending you for being part of Pastor Sonny's evening basketball program. Many times in politics, such as in life, people from different groups and parties find themselves at odds with each other. Making the effort to find common ground is the first step in realizing that despite those differences, we are all very much the same.

As a resident and a Councilmember of the City of San José, I completely support this program. I will definitely visit the program and look forward to the opportunity of meeting all of you in person. I also fully support Pastor Sonny's recommendations to run these games as a basketball league. With that, my office is currently looking for referees who are willing to volunteer their time and their skills to your games in order to continue with the spirit of good sportsmanship.

In honor of January's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, I would like to conclude this letter by reflecting on his wise words, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." I urge you to continue participation in this program, enjoy yourselves amongst your peers and have faith that by being a part of this, you are taking the first step towards finding common ground and creating positive ties amongst each other and the rest of the community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Ash Kalra
Councilmember, District 2
City of San José