



# Pathfinder

*"We must work together on a common vision and a common goal."*

- Lailah Gifty Akita

## Teamwork Matters

A message from  
the City Manager



JASON STILWELL

**As the year draws to a close, and 2020 approaches, we recognize and celebrate some of our professional team's noteworthy achievements in 2019. We are grateful to the voters who extended and enhanced the pivotal Measure U sales tax to maintain and enhance City services. Remember how fortunate we are. Other cities without such support are undergoing layoffs and cutting services. We must continue to earn our residents' trust. Some of our accomplishments:**

- With more Measure U revenues starting in July, began hiring 57 newly authorized positions (unprecedented in scope; the equivalent of a decade's worth of hiring, all in a single year.)
- Made significant progress with the [Alignment Project](#), to identify the competencies desired in each position, then recruit to that, train to that, and promote to that. The Alignment Project will be an ongoing process intended to create and sustain an organizational culture that continuously strives to improve the quality of City services and inspires customer-based solutions.
- Reached a settlement agreement with a landlord accused of more than 4,000 code violations in rental housing across Santa Maria. Many repairs at seven of his properties were completed, and renovations continue at the other three.
- Santa Marians are now served by a state-of-the-art Computer-Aided Dispatch system, and a new

Records Management System. Earlier in the year, we began answering 9-1-1 calls from Guadalupe at our Santa Maria Public Safety Dispatch Center.

- Completed traffic flow improvements at Betteravia Road and Highway 101, one of the busiest intersections in Santa Maria.
- In the interest of public health, the City Council unanimously adopted a prohibition on the sales of flavored tobacco products for vaping (takes effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020).

That list is only a sample of our numerous accomplishments.

We also hosted several Citizens Police Academies; made progress toward a shooting range at Los Flores Ranch Park; completed Phase I of the Landfill Gas Expansion Project; completed the Depot Street alley improvements; co-hosted the inaugural Open Streets event; relocated more than 700 storage boxes belonging to Public Works and Community Development, out of the Fire administration building and into the old Library building; relocated part of the Finance Department; gave residents an alternative to PG&E and the opportunity for cost savings, by joining the Monterey Bay Community Power Program; welcomed three new Department Directors; began passport applications at the Public Library; held our fourth successful year of Downtown Fridays; Launched the new, more powerful, Intranet; and won a \$1.6 million grant to support hiring nine firefighting positions. There is not enough room to be comprehensive. We do a lot!

Thank you for all the meaningful work you do. Happy Holidays!

*Jason*