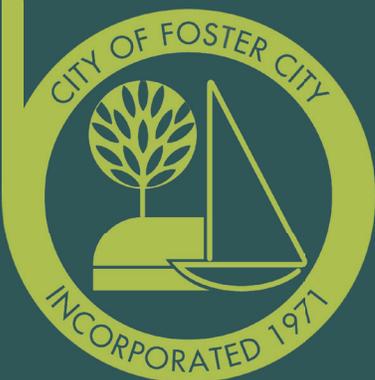




City of Foster City

COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



CATHERINE MAHANPOUR
Mayor



Top: Councilmember Jon Froomin, Mayor Catherine Mahanpour

Middle: Councilmember Sam Hindi, Councilmember Richa Awasthi

Bottom: Vice Mayor Sanjay Gehani



Dear Foster City Community,

It is an honor to present to you the Community Annual Report for FY 2019-2020 on behalf of the City of Foster City and the Foster City City Council.

To say this past year has been challenging would be an understatement. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been a public health crisis of immense proportion. Across the country, and throughout the world, we experienced the economic and social disruption that completely altered our daily lives. Many people lost their jobs, businesses had to shut their doors, schools were ordered to close, and families had to adjust to a new norm in their homes.

The racial reckoning that then pierced throughout our nation brought upon civil unrest and a call for widespread reform. Following that, record-breaking wildfires ignited throughout California, putting further strain on local government emergency response and resources.

Despite the trying times and ever-changing obstacles, Foster City has made huge strides. Not just as an organization, but as a community. We are proud of all the accomplishments in the past year and recognize this isn't done alone. Many of our community members, businesses, and non-profit organizations have mobilized and adapted to a new normal, working to address inequities and gaps necessary to help meet basic community needs.

This report includes just a few notable accomplishments that demonstrate our City at work. Dedicated City staff and departments have been working diligently to ensure the continuation of essential services. I hope you find that the highlights are a reflection of the pride we all take in Foster City, as we all strive towards long-term stability and success. With what has been accomplished in FY 2019-2020, I am positive that this has only made us stronger and that we will emerge from this with great resolve and resiliency. Foster City's best days are ahead. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mahanpour

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 IN TEN

FY 2019-2020 was an unprecedented year. Despite the challenges, the City Council and City staff are proud to present a high-level summary of our key accomplishments for this fiscal year. Thanks to collaboration, flexibility, innovation, and resiliency, we were able to ensure the continuity of essential services, while continuing to improve our quality of life in Foster City.

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RESPONSE TO COVID-19

During these unprecedented times, Foster City has had to remain agile and quick to adjust to ensure a high level of service was maintained for the community. It meant that as many returned to work and in-person businesses resumed, policies had to be established and workplace modifications put in place to protect the health & safety of both its employees and visitors.

Technology was also used in various ways to help streamline operations, such as for appointment scheduling and to conduct RFP/bid submissions via online. The City also implemented 'Camino,' a guided application process software to assist homeowners, contractors, and design professionals with required documents/drawings for permit submittals.



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COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers make a profound impact on our community, enhancing the work we do, and filling gaps that otherwise we would not be able to. Foster City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) are neighbors who are trained on preparedness, disaster first aid, light search and rescue, fire suppression, and working as a team, to be of greater service to their families, neighbors, and community in times of emergency. This past fiscal year, 302 CERT volunteers dedicated 1,131 hours in Foster City!



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PUBLIC SAFETY

The well-being and safety of the community remains of utmost priority. Foster City is the 11th safest city in California. In the past fiscal year, the Foster City Police Department handled 28,254 incidents, including responding to 18,123 calls for service.

In response to the community concerns regarding police accountability and transparency, the City hosted a virtual Town Hall Meeting to provide an opportunity for honest and open dialogue. It was specifically regarding local community and police relations and had around 165 attendees. This is part of the City's ongoing effort to seek and better understand how it may improve its policies, processes, and practices to better serve and represent its constituents.

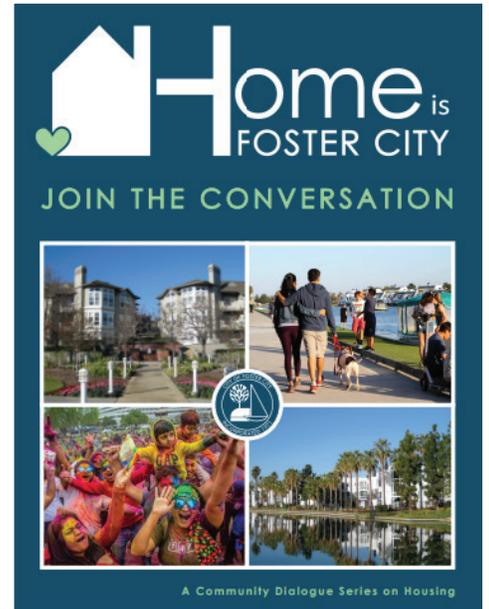


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HOUSING

Housing is a topic with many interrelated issues that affect us all. Home is Foster City is an initiative that began in FY 2019-2020 with the intent of hosting conversations on who we are as a community, to better learn together, and understand various factors as they relate to housing. Due to the public health orders, a temporary pause was placed on this, but it remains an important matter.

One critical issue the City has been tackling is the expiring affordable housing covenants (74 BMR units) at Foster’s Landing. Staff, alongside City Council, worked with the property owners, Essex, to explore solutions that could help prevent the displacement of the long-term residents or potentially assist them in their relocation efforts. A virtual Town Hall Meeting was held for the Foster’s Landing tenants and periodic updates were sent to tenants to provide them with resources during this difficult time. Most notably, the City was able to work with Essex to preserve the affordability of the Phase I units for an additional year by providing rental subsidies split 50/50.



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DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The City took tremendous strides this year in demonstrating its commitment to diversity and inclusion. Aside from issuing a proclamation recognizing Pride Month, the City Council approved the flying of the rainbow flag in support of the LGBTQ+ community for the first time in its history. The flag was donated by the Island United Church in Foster City and was flown

proudly to honor Pride Month throughout the month of June 2020. June 19th (Juneteenth) was recognized and observed for the first time as well this year!

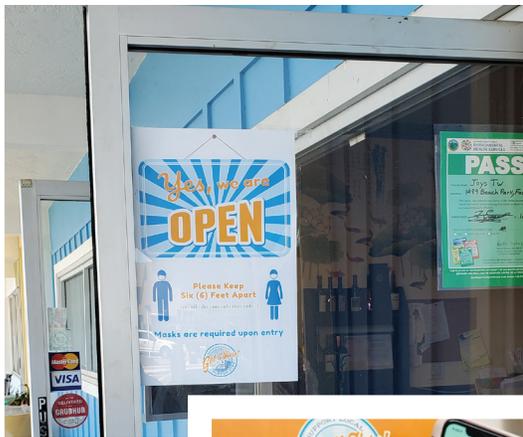


SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMY

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The pandemic proved devastating for industries across the board. Recognizing the need to alleviate the impacts on our local small businesses, the City embarked on several efforts to provide immediate relief to support business operations and help avert layoffs during the COVID-19 public health emergency:

- \$500,000 for Small Business Resiliency Grant Program that disbursed \$10,000 each to fifty (50) local businesses.
- \$25,000 to Stamp Me Program for free \$10 vouchers that would help generate business for participating restaurants; the Stamp Me Program launched in November 2019 to support our local businesses.
- “Rethink, Reopen, Restart” Kits to over 70 local businesses.
- Suspension of code enforcement actions against businesses not permitted to operate outdoors, including creation of Temporary Outdoor Guidelines to guide businesses as they adjust operations.



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INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

What this public health crisis exposed was that inequities do exist and that there's a growing need for essential and basic resources. Thankfully to our community partners, we were able to support some of the most vulnerable segments through:



- \$10,000 to San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District for its Free Meal Program to address food insecurity
- \$10,000 to San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation to supplement costs of mobile hotspots & internet access to bridge the digital divide
- \$5,000 was donated to Foster City Village, a volunteer-based non-profit, to help provide protective supply purchases, grocery bag deliveries, food distributions, and gasoline cards for volunteer drivers for our seniors
- Bi-monthly food distribution partnership with Rotary and Second Harvest Food Bank



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TRANSPORTATION

A new SamTrans bus line, the Foster City Commuter Express (Route FCX) was introduced this past year, bringing weekday morning and evening express bus service between Foster City and downtown San Francisco. FCX is a step in creating a sustainable multi-modal transportation network for Foster City, removing cars from the road and encouraging commuters to use public transportation.

Friendly Streets, Foster City was implemented, temporarily dedicating a 2.25 mile stretch of road on northbound Beach Park Boulevard for bicyclists and runners. The goal of this effort is to make Foster City streets friendlier and safer, as well as to sufficiently provide physical space for pedestrians, runners, and bicyclists in response to the increase in recreational activity along the Levee Pedway.



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INFRASTRUCTURE

Most notably, significant progress was made on the Levee Improvements Project during this past fiscal year. In January 2020, all regulatory permits necessary for the City to begin construction were obtained. Additionally, the lowest awarded construction bid was within the project budget! The City remains committed to delivering this project on budget and on time! More information on the Levee Project can be found at www.fostercity.org/LeveeProject.



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RECREATION PROGRAMS

Aside from the social importance, recreational activities and public spaces support the health and well-being of the community, and are an integral part of Foster City.

In 2019, the City held its inaugural Summer Days event, in partnership with SF Etsy, Moveable Feast, Classic Entertainment, Rotary Club, and Lions Club.

However, when shelter in place orders went into effect in early March 2020, the City had to quickly pivot and re-invent recreation programs. Innovative offerings included: virtual events (such as Bingo, trivia, classes); summer camp and learning hubs to support children and families; and a partnership with Pop of Joy to bring uplifting balloon art, chalk art, and yard sign displays to the community.



CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED 7 PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS IN WHICH TO DEVOTE ATTENTION AND RESOURCES TO FROM FY 2019-2021. THESE STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS WILL SERVE AS GUIDANCE IN PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICES, DEVELOPING QUALITY SPACES, AND FOSTERING A QUALITY COMMUNITY FOR THE FUTURE.



IMPROVE & MAINTAIN CITY FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURES

Maintain the high quality condition of the City's parks, roads, facilities, and critical infrastructure.



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT & MOBILITY

Create a sustainable multi-modal transportation network, decrease traffic, delays, and congestion, protect neighborhoods from cut-through traffic, and provide a safe environment for all roadway users.



SMART PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Maintain and preserve our community character, pride, and identity, while responding to changing economic and social conditions.



DIVERSE & RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMY

Maintain a stable and sustainable local economy through relationship building with economic stakeholders, and business attraction, retention, and promotion.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & SOCIAL EQUITY

Promote environmental sustainability and social equity programs to protect the natural environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, meet water conservation goals, and safeguard the health and well-being of the community.



FISCAL & OPERATIONAL HEALTH

Over the past year, the City Council remained dedicated to smart land use, improving traffic, improving our infrastructure, and long-term.



EXCELLENT PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Promote community well-being and safety, using a broad and proactive approach to achieve a high quality of life for its residents, businesses, and visitors.



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