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RETIREMENT SYSTEM



MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

12-27-2023 ★



SPENCER HOROWITZ CHAIR OF THE BOARD

- Mr. Horowitz is a public member appointed to the San Jose Federated Board on August 28, 2019. His current term expires on November 30, 2024. Mr. Horowitz is the Chair of the Governance Committee.
- A technology Business Development Executive with more than 30 years of experience in silicon valley, Mr. Horowitz advises multinational corporations and startup ventures on corporate strategy, strategic communication, and venture capital solicitation. He has also served the City of San Jose as an Airport Commissioner and Small Business Development Commissioner.
- Mr. Horowitz earned a BS in Computer Science from Kean College, and an MBA in Finance and Economics from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.



JULIE JENNINGS

VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

- Ms. Jennings is the Federated Employee Representative appointed to the Board January 2020. Her current term expires November 30, 2027. Trustee Jennings serves on the Audit and Governance Committees.
- Ms. Jennings joined the City in 2002 as a Senior Analyst in Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS), managing the fiscal section of the department and overseeing the Operating Budget. She is currently the Recreation Superintendent overseeing the Parks and Community Facilities Development (P&CFD) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget that provides funding of \$315.2 million over five years. She has over 20 years of experience working in Silicon Valley companies managing financial planning and analysis in manufacturing, sales, and system implementations. She holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Economics from San Jose State University.



PRACHI AVASTHY

- Ms. Avasthy is the employee member and was appointed to the board on April 5, 2022. Her current term expires November 30, 2025. Ms. Avasthy serves on the audit and governance committees.
- Ms. Avasthy is currently Division Manager, Risk Management and Contracts Administration in the City's Community Energy Department aka San José Clean Energy. Her association with the city goes back to June 2018 when she joined the city. She has over fourteen years of experience in wide range of positions in investment banking, consulting and public sector. She holds a Master's degree in Commerce from Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi and a Bachelor's degree in Commerce with honors from Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi. She is a CFA charter holder.



ANURAG CHANDRA

- Mr. Chandra was appointed to a Public Member of the San Jose Federated Board in December 2016. His current term expires November 30, 2026. He is the Chair of the Investment Committee and serves on the Joint Personnel committee.
- Mr. Chandra earned his BA with honors from Stanford University and his JD from Loyola Law School as a St. Thomas More scholar.
- Mr. Chandra has managed over \$1.5 billion across three venture capital funds. He has also been a senior executive in three enterprise technology companies, two of which were sold successfully to public companies. He also spent time in the public equities, hedge fund world, focused on public technology companies. Mr. Chandra has advised companies and funds internationally, primarily in India, China, the U.K., Ukraine, and Russia. He has also lectured at the Stanford Graduate School of Business and has mentored Stanford University undergraduates pursuing entrepreneurship. In 2005 he was selected in the “Top 40 Under 40” by the San Jose Business Journal.
- Mr. Chandra is active in his local community, including a 5-year term on the local Little League Board, and in social impact investing.



MATTHEW FAULKNER

- Matthew is an accomplished assistant professor of finance in the Department of Accounting and Finance at San Jose State University's Lucas College of Business. With a solid foundation in academia, Matthew completed doctoral studies at Florida Atlantic University, showcasing a dedication to advancing knowledge in the field of finance. Prior to that, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in finance from the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 2011. Additionally, he holds a graduate certificate in Applied Statistics (2012) and an International MBA (2013) from a dual degree program offered in partnership with Universitat de València in Spain, underscoring his commitment to global finance and diverse cross-cultural experiences.
- Matthew is a CFA® Charterholder and a FINRA arbitrator, exemplifying his expertise and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct in the financial industry. He actively contributes to the finance community as a reviewer for multiple finance publications, staying at the forefront of research advancements.
- Beyond his academic pursuits, Matthew devotes time to community engagement as a first tee® volunteer coach, using the game of golf to instill vital life skills and values in young individuals and is a member of the SJSU Athletics Board.
- In his leisure time, Matthew enjoys pursuing creative endeavors such as playing the golf, guitar, painting, and exploring new cultures through travel.



DEBORAH “DEBBIE” ABBOTT

- Deborah “Debbie” Abbott teaches finance, serves on two boards, and has over thirty years of experience in finance and marketing with leading Silicon Valley companies. Recognized as a master teacher, Debbie has been teaching finance at San Jose State University since 2006. In her role as a teacher, Debbie’s goal is to help students understand how mastering finance gives them the power to make decisions that can transform business and their personal lives.
- In her role as a board member of San Jose’s Federated City Employees Retirement System, Debbie’s goal is to work with the Board and Office of Retirement Services to grow investments prudently and deliver dependable retirement income for system employees and their families.
- After receiving her MBA in Finance from UCLA, Debbie worked as a financial manager at Xerox for ten years where she was recognized for her financial forecasting and planning. Subsequently, she held senior marketing management and consulting positions at Cisco, Flex, Catalyst Strategies, Plantronics, Xerox and more.



MARK LINDER

- Mark Linder represents the retirees, and his term expires on November 30, 2024. Mark has over 30 years experience in local government including almost 13 years with the City of San Jose. Mark served the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District, the Town of Los Gatos, the City of Cupertino, and the City of Campbell. Most recently served as interim town manager for the Town of Windsor and interim city manager for City of Sonoma. He is the Chair of governance and disability committees.
- Mark Linder has a Bachelor's degree from Macalester College and a Master Public Administration from San Jose State.



DEVORA "DEV" DAVIS CITY COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE BOARD

- Councilmember Dev Davis is the City Council Liaison to the Board and was appointed in March 2017.
- Councilmember Dev Davis represents District 6 in San Jose. Before being elected in 2016, Councilmember Davis spent 12 years as an education researcher for Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO). With a strong interest in community organizing, she served as a Chair of the City of San José's Early Care and Education Committee, a delegate to the Junior League of California's State Public Affairs Committee, President of the North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association, and Public Relations Chair for the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Playground Committee.
- She has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Master's degrees in Public Policy and Education Policy, Organization, & Leadership from Stanford University.