By Joaquin De La Torre

San Jose City Council members unanimously approved the city’s updated definition of racial equity Tuesday. The vote was preceded by discussion about the definition and how it will affect San Jose residents.

The approved definition is a revision from a Nov 9, 2021 meeting, where council members directed the Office of Racial Equity to revise the original definition with input from community stakeholders.

The original definition of racial equity was “when race no longer predicts life outcome and when outcomes for all groups are improved.”

Zahina Maciel, Director of the Office of Racial Equity, revised the definition, including language that was “bold and explicit in acknowledging the historical and continued injustices and trauma to communities of color.”

According to Maciel’s presentation, a key aspect of the approved definition for racial equity is that it requires goal setting, measures progress and uses strategies targeted to close the gaps.

“We can debate semantics and definitions all day. But if the work that we do doesn’t lead to tangible, measurable results, then what are we doing,” said District 7 Councilmember Maya Esparza.

“Rhetoric vs. action

The revised definition includes requirements of goal setting, progress tracking and strategy use to lessen disparities.

We can debate semantics and definitions all day. But if the work that we do doesn’t lead to tangible, measurable results then what are we doing? This is what our community is relying on us for and that component is absolutely critical because our residents don’t need rhetoric, they need action.”

Community stakeholders including the Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet, the National Compadres Network and the Vietnamese American Roundtable were consulted on the new definition, according to the presentation.

“It’s a definition that centers race. It’s a definition that acknowledges that racial inequalities are deep and pervasive,” Maciel said.

During the meeting, Vice Mayor Charles Jones asked Maciel to highlight specific and measurable examples of how San Jose residents will benefit from the revised definition.

“If we, for example, think about an indicator around education and we all get behind this indicator about schools, city organizations and accounting, then there are things within our sphere of influence that we’re going to be able to do to change an indicator around education,” Maciel said.

“Whether it’s policymaking, or investments, or programmatic pieces.”

District 10 Councilmember Matt Mahan asked if the Office of Racial Equity has determined specific, more important city services for Brown and Black neighborhoods to see improvements such as funding schools rather than general services like postal services.

Angel Rios, Deputy City Manager said council members should look at services that have been historically underinvested in communities.


Although several council members asked for clarification regarding the definition, District 8 Councilmember Sylvia Arenas said moving forward with it is “the only option.”

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We have to make sure that we’re okay with growing more to those folks who need it and whose neighborhoods need it. That’s part of racial equity,” Arenas said.

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Redefinition

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Racial equity definition revised

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Underdogs favored to triumph
Bengals end 31-year playoff drought, stun the Chiefs en route to Super Bowl LVI

The playoffs have been a roller coaster of emotions this season, from heavily favored teams losing to true underdogs such as the Bengals reaching the championship. It’s a season in which anything can truly happen, but the Cincinnati Bengals will most likely be Super Bowl champions.

The Bengals will face off against the Los Angeles Rams, who will be the second team in NFL history to play in a Super Bowl in the 2021 season that ended with their rookie quarterback Joe Burrow suffering a season-ending knee injury. Burrow was drafted to the Bengals in 2020 as the number one overall pick, according to a Cincinnati Bengals 2020 webpage statement.

He was the player to turn the team from a laughstock to a championship contender. The hype that surrounded Burrow during the 2020 NFL draft was deserved as the number 3 overall pick, according to a Tuesday press conference, “Emotions are high after a game win or loss, and it’s one of those things you’ve got to be glad it happened, smile from it, and think about the good things. We’ll see what happens in these next couple days.”

This is a season in which anything can happen. The Bengals are once again underdogs riding into the Super Bowl with only the Rams in their way to complete a historic run.

My prediction is that the Cincinnati Bengals will pull off the upset 31-27 on Sunday. Off-season trades by the Rams resulted in the game with an interception late in the fourth quarter, bringing the team up 20-17 which gave the Rams their second Super Bowl appearance in the past four years. Garoppolo faced plenty of scrutiny throughout the season with his playing style labeled as “game manager.”

This led to the 49ers drafting quarterback Trey Lance from South Dakota State in the first round with the number 3 overall in the 2021 NFL draft. Garoppolo may have played his final down as a 49er saying in a Tuesday press conference, “Emotions are high after a game win or loss, and it’s one of those things you’ve got to be glad it happened, smile from it, and think about the good things. We’ll see what happens in these next couple days.”

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San Jose State University administration’s decision to temporarily transition back to remote learning until Feb. 14 was the right call, even if it isn’t the decision most students wanted.

It’s no secret we’re collectively exhausted with the coronavirus pandemic, but that doesn’t mean we can willfully ignore the dangers of the COVID-19 virus.

As Valentine’s Day approaches, many might want to go on a romantic getaway with their partners. Thanks to online instruction, this will be an option for students. Or maybe you’ll be a little tight on cash the week before Valentine’s Day because of a jumbo teddy bear you’ve bought your special someone. Remote learning is the best way to make sure you always eat at home, making both your wallet and your mom proud.

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Folk music legend's ultimatum leads to action

By Eva Martin

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the rise of the Nazi Party

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“hypnotized” the public into adverse side effects. The 19 virus at higher risks of claims saying vaccines who’s defended disputed healthcare professionals in of the platform’s failure Experience #1757 is not the Dr. Robert Malone. “false and societally harmful music platform.

Young is not the only one questioning the potential danger caused by The Joe Rogan Experience podcast. On Jan. 30, more than 20 doctors, scientists, and healthcare professionals signed an online letter to report “false and mistakenly harmful assertions” from the model released on Dec. 31 in which Rogan interviewed Dr. Robert Malone. “The Joe Rogan Experience #4775 is not the only transgression to occur on the Spotify platform, but a relevant example of the platform’s failure to mitigate the damage it is causing,” a group of healthcare professionals said in an open letter.

Dr. Malone is a virologist who’s defended content claims saying vaccines pushing the healthy, young, and you’re eating well, you, you’re eating well, like, I don’t think you need to worry about this.”

According to data released by Washington State Department of Health on Jan. 26, unvaccinated 12-15-year-old people were 12 times more likely to be hospitalized with the COVID-19 virus than those who are fully vaccinated. Young wrote in a Jan. 26 letter posted on his personal website that 60% of his music streams come from Spotify but his livelihoods are made up of his money gain from people their lives,” Mitchell added.

After controversies erupted regarding the spread of COVID-19 misinformation on platforms including Twitter and YouTube, the spotlight is on now on podcasts, compared to written or visual posts its harder to track falsehood in audio format. The host’s voice is in listeners’ ears and information is received as soon as it’s delivered, with no time to provide a disclaimer to the audience.

The Joe Rogan controversy is more than just a debate over free speech; it reveals the influence artists still have on streaming services. Yes, Spotify did not follow Young’s ultimatum, but their choices pushed the company to take some steps to prevent dangerous claims from spreading on its audio streaming service.

Spotify’s chief executive Daniel Ek said in a Sunday news release that Spotify will issue a “content advisory” for any podcast episode that includes a discussion about the COVID-19 virus. It will direct listeners to a “COVID-19 hub” with links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and trusted news sources.

For the first time, Spotify published all of its long-standing, platform rules on Sunday, including its commitment to ban content that promotes “dangerous and false information.”

Currently Rogan’s platform remains available on Spotify. Rogan responded to the controversy during his podcast on a video he published on his Instagram Sunday evening. He said that he was not spreading misinformation but there is “a distorted perception” of what he does on his shows. “I do not know [if guests are right],” Rogan said. “I’m not a scientist. I’m just a person who sits down and talks to people and has conversations with them.”

Folk music legend Joni Mitchell’s ultimatum led to action. The singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell, is more than just a debate over free speech; it reveals the influence artists still have on streaming services. Yes, Spotify did not follow Young’s ultimatum, but their choices pushed the company to take some steps to prevent dangerous claims from spreading on its audio streaming service.

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