

Comment

Letters

Support the rent law

I AM OUTRAGED at the dirty political activities surrounding rent control. I am a homeowner and the mother of five future renters. I believe in fair rent control. I have read and agree with the present rent ordinance now in effect.

I have personally been approached by four different people soliciting signatures. None of them had read the rent ordinance or attended a single City Council meeting. None of them was aware that there was a rent ordinance. During my last encounter with one of these solicitors I was physically

attacked for expressing my opinion. Minutes later, my children and I were harassed by two officers from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department.

It bothers me that the forces behind the opposition to rent control are the same people who were against incorporation and who are presently planning a conspiracy to recall the present City Council.

It bothers me that we have little control over the fraudulent ways in which the absentee landlords are obtaining signatures to overturn the City Council's rent ordinance.

It bothers me that many of those people who are obtaining signatures are renters who have been led to believe that they are working toward the establishment of a rent ordinance. What they fail to realize is the city of East Palo Alto already has a rent ordinance with a rent stabilization board to interpret and enforce it.

It bothers me that money is a primary incentive for a large percentage of those people soliciting signatures. Many are unemployed and honestly need the money.

It bothers me that people in power are playing upon the ignorance of black people using tactics practiced during slavery. I love my people. It hurts to see many of us misled by absentee landlords working in their own best interests to become multi-millionaires taking advantage of the poor and ignorant.

It bothers me that intelligent but misinformed people signed the rent ordinance petition without reading it.

I want to compliment and commend the "Gang of Four" on the City Council for listening and addressing the needs of this city.

Nebantu Ankoanda

EAST PALO ALTO