

Ravenswood

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Serving East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven district of Menlo Park

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Nairobi Granted \$70,000 To Study Incorporation

By Adenrele Iposu

A local study group assigned the task of looking into the problems of "self-government" for East Palo Alto and an experimental school district with Belle Haven District (otherwise East Menlo Park) of the City of Menlo Park last week received grant for its study. Both East Menlo Park and East Palo Alto are predominantly black communities.

The study estimated to cost \$70,000 is being funded by The John Hay Whitney Foundation Foundation of New York. The study group, The Initiative for the Improvement of Education and Government (IIEG) in two teams is being directed by Barbara Hatton and Robert Newby, for the experimental school district between the two communities and Ron Bailey and Joan Saunders for the

incorporation of East Palo Alto.

The study team for the experimental school district is an outgrowth of the consultant team of the Mothers for Equal Education (MEE) owners of the Nairobi Schools. Henry P. Organ, a Stanford University administrator and chairman of the board of directors of the Nairobi Schools was instrumental in obtaining funds for the IIEG.

Both East Menlo Park and East Palo Alto are served by two independent school districts; the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) and Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) respectively.

The team to study the "problems of self-government in East Palo Alto," will investigate the general aspects of incorporation, revenue sharing and the formulation of a tax base for the

community.

Although the East Palo Alto Municipal Council is elected by voters in East Palo Alto it is an unincorporated community governed by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

The need for the incorporation of East Palo Alto has been a moot point since the community was first constituted in November 1967. The problem came to a head in March this year with the death of Gregory White, a black youth shot by a white San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff, when the youth was said to be fleeing the scene of an alleged stolen vehicle.

In the course of its work, the study teams will work with the two communities, local groups, county and state authorities and make available results of its findings periodically. The IIEG project continues through May 1973.

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