

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

So. San Mateo County Branch

(East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City)

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TO ALL THE CITIZENS OF EAST PALO ALTO:

Because of extreme importance of the incorporation election Tuesday, June 7, 1983, the South San Mateo County NAACP is distributing copies of the letter stating the branch position in favor of incorporation, which was printed in the Times-Tribune last month.

We feel it is especially important to fight the totally mistaken idea that we will lose our homes if we incorporate. We know Proposition 13 prohibits both the raising of property taxes and service and user fees without a 2/3 vote of the people, unless there is an inflationary rise in the cost of services (such as has happened in Pacifica and other Peninsula cities). When there is a rise in cost, we will pay more taxes whether we become a city or remain unincorporated - or suffer cuts in vital services. We should certainly prefer to pay any such taxes or fees to a city government which we elect than to a county which will take all it can get from us and give us minimum services in return.

Please read the letter below, then come to the polls next Tuesday to vote to SAVE OUR COMMUNITY - YES ON INCORPORATION, PROPOSITION A.

THE PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE, Friday, May 20, 1983—Page B-4

Time to incorporate

AT THE APRIL 1983 general membership meeting of the South San Mateo County NAACP, the branch voted to become a member of the East Palo Alto Organizations for Independent Government, a coalition of organizations working for the incorporation of East Palo Alto.

We wish to stress the fact that many of our members are longtime homeowners in East Palo Alto. As members of an organization dedicated to civil rights and self-determination, we realize that East Palo Alto residents, both homeowners and renters, would of necessity be better off as part of a self-governing city. We in East Palo Alto can no longer afford to be at the mercy of San Mateo County, with no meaningful voice as to what happens to us and our tax dollars. As a city, the county would be obliged to return to us certain tax funds that they can now spend as they please. East Palo Alto has been subsidizing the county more than the other way around. We would also receive state funds, such as \$90 for every registered voter. While more business in East Palo Alto would be desirable it is not necessary for cityhood now — the tax base is already there. There is no reason for taxes to go up more under a city than under the county.

Opponents of incorporation west of the freeway include those who do not want to be part of a predominantly minority community, and landlords who are afraid a city would be more sensitive to tenants' rights than the county.

In view of the way San Mateo County has treated East Palo Alto in the past, cityhood opponents east of the freeway seem to be acting like abused children who run to the abusing parent or step-parent because they are afraid to be on their own. They appeal to fear, not responsibility. Those who might lose homes because of increased taxes are just as likely to lose them if East Palo Alto remains unincorporated, and with much less to say about it than under a city council that they would elect.

We are not children and we can make it on our own without taking the abuse San Mateo County has heaped upon us over

the years. We urge everyone to vote yes on incorporation June 7. If, through the legal maneuvers of incorporation opponents, the election is ruled invalid, we urge everyone to work to accomplish incorporation at the earliest possible date.

William Tinsley

President, South San Mateo County NAACP
EAST PALO ALTO

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON INCORPORATION CALL: 327-5846, 364-8181