

Judge sets trial date in mayor bribe case

BY JULIE O'SHEA
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A trial date has been set in a case that accuses former East Palo Alto Mayor R.B. Jones of soliciting bribes, however lawyers on both sides agreed they'd try and work out an out-of-court settlement.



JONES

A petition filed by former Peninsula Rep. Pete McCloskey alleges plans to build a restaurant and lounge at 2381 University Ave. near Bay Road have been held up at City Hall because his client, C.L. Gaines, refused to pay Jones thousands of dollars in bribe money.

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But the city, in response to the court petition, said Gaines failed to present sufficient facts to back his claims, and his request should be thrown out.

The two sides met yesterday in San Mateo County Judge Quentin Kopp's courtroom to set a April 21 trial date.

Adriana Moore, appearing on behalf of Gaines, said the two sides would undergo a neutral evaluation — essentially a mediation session — to try and avert a trial. Lawyers have to pick an evaluator by Nov. 8, Moore said.