

February 22, 1984

Mr Paul Voakes, Editor  
Editorial Page  
Peninsula Times Tribune  
Post Office Box 300  
Palo Alto, Ca. 94302

Dear Mr Voakes,

Please place our letter in the Times Tribune's editorial section. Thank you sincerely for this consideration.

Yours very truly,

Ablina Richardson



enclosure (1)

February 22, 1984

Attention East Palo Alto:

Let the record show that there are many citizens who confidently support the actions and initiatives of the newly elected city government. East Palo Alto has now achieved incorporation. The growing city faces challenges which will ultimately affect us all. We must take a stand now to protect our community.

The issue of rent control should not be used as a tool to confuse and ultimately eliminate the existing population. Rent Control, as established by our city council, protects renters from being uprooted and forced out of the city.

Did you know that our youth and elders could be forced out by harsh economic pressure from absentee landlords, outside interests (land speculators, developers, etc.) who want to rape East Palo Alto so as to prosper while we suffer?

Our elected officials are doing exactly as they promised to do during their election campaigns. Through them we are realizing the ultimate goal of incorporation—control of our own land and resources and management of our own affairs. But many of the people who opposed incorporation now oppose our city's Rent and Just Cause Eviction Ordinance. These people advocate a recall election under the guise of a door-to-door campaign that they term "rent control." Gertrude Wilks, Pete McCloskey, Pat Johnson, L. Breckenridge, Edrick Gaggans, John Bostic, and Arn Cenedella are among those associated with the recall process.

The city council has done a monumental job within its first seven months of office. Besides enacting a rent ordinance protecting us from unjust evictions, they have established three citizens' commissions, appointed a city manager, and re-zoned the Ravenswood High School site to preserve our land rights. They also enacted the procedural legalities that cities must have in order to have access to State and County revenues to which we, as a city, are entitled. These accomplishments are but a few of those that have been made under the leadership of Abrica, Satterwhite, Mouton, and Blakey. The other councilperson (Wilks), however, has usually abstained, or has been absent when city business was conducted.

A number of underhanded tactics have been used to deny our rights as citizens and impede the progress of our new city government. For example, former congressional representative Pete McCloskey, land speculators, absentee landlords, John Bostic, and Edrick Haggans have forced our city to spend time, energy and money dealing with legal action which wastes our invaluable resources and assets.

Allegations of voter fraud (which were disproved), the harrassment of elders, the extensive use of the Peninsula Times Tribune to voice unpopular and self-serving positions, and the paying of four dollars per signature to solicitors of petitions are some of the many tactics being used which run counter the majority opinion of East Palo Altans.

Support our city government by attending the city council meetings. Please stay informed of the issues at hand and vote accordingly because our community must be unified if we are to progress.

Signed,

*Abena Richardson*

Abena Richardson,

*Amaechi Rhodes (are)*

Amaechi Rhodes,

*Faye McNair-Knox*

Faye McNair-Knox,

*Jawanza Osayimwese*

Jawanza Osayimwese

*Nobantu Ankoanda*

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