



THE NAIROBI VOICE

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INCORPORATION: THE COMING OF A NEW CITY!

In this winter quarter issue of the Nairobi Voice, we will concentrate upon one topic of tantamount importance to us and our community. This crucial issue is the INCORPORATION of East Palo Alto.

On April 13, 1982, the residents of East Palo Alto will go to the polls to decide whether East Palo Alto is to become a city. There are four ballot measures to be voted on and each must get a majority vote for incorporation to happen.

The first ballot measure is Proposition A -- the formation of a new city of East Palo Alto. A YES VOTE means that our community will elect its own city council, plan its own future, set its own priorities, and take the responsibility for solving our own problems.

The second ballot measure is Proposition B -- the dissolution of the EPA Water District and transferring it to our new city. A YES VOTE means that San Mateo County will no longer be responsible for controlling this service and that our new city will have this responsibility.

The third ballot measure is Proposition C -- the dissolution of the EPA Sanitary District and transferring it to our new city. A YES VOTE means that our new city will plan and coordinate all sanitation services.

The fourth ballot measure is Proposition D -- the dissolution of the Ravenswood Recreation and Park District and County Service Area #5 (police and garbage collection), and transferring these two services to our new city. A YES VOTE means that our new city will have responsibility for planning and coordinating recreational services, cleaning up our parks and, especially, controlling (hiring and firing) the police who serve East Palo Alto.

Remember, you must VOTE YES on all four ballot measures -- Propositions A, B, C, and D in order for East Palo Alto to become a city.

THIS IS THE ONE TIME THAT YOUR VOTE WILL REALLY COUNT. WON'T YOU HELP TO CREATE A NEW CITY. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITIONS A, B, C, AND D.

PROVERB OF THE MONTH:

ANTICIPATE THE GOOD SO THAT YOU MAY ENJOY IT!

SHATTERING THE MYTHS OF INCORPORATION!

#1 SOMEBODY SAID THAT EAST PALO ALTO DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO INCORPORATE!

THAT SOMEBODY IS WRONG! Many financial experts and public officials have carefully looked at the financial picture for our new city. ALL of them agree that EPA has more than enough money to incorporate...SRI International; Angus McDonald & Associates; Recht Hausrath & Associates; San Mateo County Manager; San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission; San Mateo Board of Supervisors; Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown; Congressmen Pete McCloskey and Tom Lantos; State Senator Marz Garcia; & Assemblyman Byron Sher.

#2 SOMEBODY SAID THAT PROPERTY TAXES WILL BE RAISED BECAUSE OF INCORPORATION...

THAT SOMEBODY IS WRONG! Proposition 13 prohibits tax rate increases by local governments. Therefore, our new city CANNOT raise your property tax. Tax assessments will go up by two percent each year with or without incorporation. The difference is that with incorporation, East Palo Altoans will decide how our tax dollars are spent.

#3 SOMEBODY SAID THAT SERVICE FEES WILL BE INCREASED BECAUSE OF INCORPORATION...

THAT SOMEBODY IS WRONG! Proposition 13 prohibits service fee increases as a substitute for tax rate increases. Therefore, our new city CANNOT increase service fees for this purpose. Service costs will go up due to inflation, with or without incorporation. The difference is that with incorporation, East Palo Altoans will decide how our service fees are spent.

#4 SOMEBODY SAID THAT EAST PALO ALTO DOESN'T HAVE THE LEADERSHIP TO RUN A CITY...

THAT SOMEBODY IS WRONG! Things are happening in EPA because people are making them happen...a new Chamber of Commerce, a new Middle School, a new Community Plan, a new Senior Center and housing complex (Runnymede Gardens)...and much, much more. In EPA, we have the wisdom, the ability, and the leadership to manage our own affairs. Things are happening because we, the people, have decided to make them happen.

#5 SOMEBODY SAID THAT EAST PALO ALTO CAN BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF MENLO PARK...

THAT SOMEBODY IS WRONG! Menlo Park will not annex all of EPA. Why? Because Menlo Park has 26,000 residents including 7,000 in Belle Haven while EPA has 18,000 residents. If EPA were annexed then 25,000 of the 44,000 residents will live in EPA and Belle Haven -- more than fifty percent. Menlo Park will not hand over control of the city to EPA and Belle Haven. If you lived in Menlo Park, would you?

**Support the Incorporation
of East Palo Alto!!**

NAIROBI VOICE EDITORIAL

Once upon a time there was a community that did not believe in itself. For years, the community was told by outsiders that there was not enough money to start a new city and that, even if there was, the people did not have enough common sense to manage their own affairs. And the people believed every word. In fact, some community leaders preached this gospel.

The people knew that they paid more than 2 and 1/2 million dollars in taxes and fees to the county. The people knew that they were not satisfied with the services provided by the county with this money. The people knew that they had no influence over what happened in their community because they did not control it -- YET, THEY BLAMED THEMSELVES FOR ALL OF THEIR PROBLEMS.

One day a young child asked the city leaders, "Why don't you make things change?" Some leaders said, "Foolish child, don't you know that the county can do more for us than we can do for ourselves". Others said, "Sweet child, I am a leader and look at all of the things that outsiders have done for me. There is no need for change." Still others said, "This is the way things be and there ain't nothing we can do about it".

The young child thought about all of the things that these leaders had taught in the schools, the churches and the homes. They had taught the child to grow up and be a responsible citizen; to get involved in building the community; and to serve the people and serve them well. Most important, they had taught the child that a people are responsible for their own destiny and that they must do for themselves if they expect to prosper and receive the blessings of life.

The child said, "I believe what you have taught me. You who say that outsiders should keep control of our community do not practice what you preach. You who say that things are OK have lost touch with our community. You who say that we can't build a better future are the most tragic, for you have lost hope."

"I learned what you taught me and I learned it well. I believe in unity for our community; self-determination so we can decide for ourselves; collective work and responsibility to make positive change; cooperative economics to rebuild our community. I believe in our purpose to become independent and be responsible for ourselves. I believe we have the creativity to build a new life. And I have faith that we can lead, govern and educate ourselves."

The leaders thought about what the child had said. Most of them realized the truth of their own teachings. They started a mass movement to incorporate their community into a city, chose a city council, made sure that the city council was accountable to the people, and they lived happily ever after.

VOTE YES ON PROPOSITIONS A, B, C, AND D

THE BENEFITS OF INCORPORATION!

There are many, many benefits for the residents of EPA after incorporation.

- o CONTROL OF LOCAL SERVICES...police, human services, recreation, public works, sanitation, roads, etc.
- o CONTROL OF LAND AND LAND-USE...planning, zoning, community development, use permits, code enforcement
- o CONTROL OF DOLLARS.....tax dollars and fees, state and federal funds, totaling 3 to 4 million annually
- o CONTROL OF LOCAL POLICY....city council, boards and commissions, and neighborhood associations

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TO HELP CREATE A NEW CITY...
YOU MUST VOTE YES ON
PROPOSITIONS A, B, C, & D

SHULE YA TAIFA
(The School for the Nation)

Shule Ya Taifa is the educational component of the Nairobi Secretariat and is a member of the Council of Independent Black Institutions (CIBI). Academic training is offered for youth from ages 2 to 12 in the areas of mathematics, science, communication skills, art, music, political education, physical education, health science, and Kiswahili.

Shule Ya Taifa is located at 321 Belle Street in East Palo Alto, California. For more information, call 415/327-5847.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE SPRING QUARTER BEGINNING APRIL 5, 1982.