

To All East Palo Alto Homeowners and Renters

Dear Friends:

We are again in need of your support. I believe the survival of our community depends on it. On next Tuesday, 8 April 1986, you will vote for five City Council members and decide whether or not the rent stabilization ordinance remains in force.

The real issue is whether we care more about ourselves than we care about absentee landlords and developers. These absentee landlords have been able to pump thousands upon thousands of dollars into the fight against the City and affordable housing.

Last week several absentee landlords along with three candidates vying for a City Council spot came up with the 'ultimate' scheme: they proposed that you give up the opportunity to protect yourselves against unconscionable rent increases in return for their donating money (about 3 million dollars) to an affordable housing fund several years in the future. They ask that you deny your own self-interests by voting against Measure A. They neglected to tell you the source of these monies; they will come from the rental increases you will pay as soon as the present rent ordinance expires. Fancy that!!! They also propose in their 'affordable' housing scheme to convert many of their present rental holdings into condominiums; thus, putting these units out of the reach of average income citizens.

As mentioned previously, you will also be selecting five members of the City Council. There are 14 candidates vying for 5 seats. Some of these candidates are the same ones who fought cityhood so bitterly. Now that they realize that the City is a very viable entity and is here to stay, God willing, they have the unmitigated gall to aspire to be a member of its governing board. Perhaps they are just schemers; isn't it easier to undermine something from the inside than try to fight it from the outside? Look at all the candidates very closely. Most have been around here for quite a spell yet have not participated in helping our young City develop and grow. I offer our slate of candidates for your consideration and support. They are RUBEN ABRICA, JAMES E. BLAKEY, JR. ONYANGO BASHIR, JAHI MIREMBE and myself. Over the years they have been very involved working to help make this community the way it should be, must be for all of us. I know we're not out of the woods yet; even though we've seen a decrease in drug street sales, there is still too much street drug traffic; our Public Works Department is working diligently to repair deteriorating streets; it will have the pothole problem contained if it doesn't rain for a few more days; lastly, although still faced with Councilmember Wilks' suit against the City, we shall overcome.

Remember, do your homework on the candidates and the proposition, and then vote your conscience on April 8, 1986.

Peace,



Barbara A. Mouton

April 4, 1986