

# City takes aim at top problems

By Ann Gibbons  
Times Tribune staff

EAST PALO ALTO — Fifty-five residents Saturday gave the new city government a list of what they consider the most urgent problems and significant issues it should try to solve in the next five years.

The residents met at the second of three community meetings to help draft a five-year plan for the city. East Palo Alto, after decades as an unincorporated community, became a city July 1 by a vote of its 18,000 residents.

After meeting in workshops on specific subjects for several hours Saturday, residents ranked the needs of the new city.

Those in a workshop on community development urged the City Council to draft a comprehensive land-use plan. That plan should encourage the opening of businesses that residents need, such as grocery stores, a shopping center and banks, the workshop participants said. They said grocery stores, in particular, should be accessible to the elderly.

Businesses should be regulated, however, to ensure they are not operated from private homes in residential neighborhoods, they said.

Some businesses, such as liquor stores, auto wrecking yards and social clubs, should be discouraged from opening in East Palo Alto, they said.

The group even voted to recommend limiting the number of churches that could open in town.

Another workshop group considered the structure of the new city government. Its members said the City Council should seek citizen involvement by forming neighborhood groups, which would meet regularly to discuss community problems. Leaders of those groups would attend City Council meetings.

PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE 9-18-83