

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE BB

Measure BB supports increased opportunity and participation and promotes diversity in city government.

Spending \$18,000 (total) a year to compensate all five Council Members who spend countless hours conducting City business for Albany is the right thing to do. Paying our Council shows our commitment to supporting community service and costs less than one tenth of one percent of our \$25 million annual dollar budget.

Whether Albany should compensate their Commissioners or offer health care to Council Members is a question open to debate but is not addressed in Measure BB. It is important to know that while all other cities in the County of Alameda compensate their elected officials, none compensate their volunteer appointed commission members.

We all value Albany's small town ambiance. However, Albany is part of the metropolis of the East Bay Area. Our elected officials must represent us in that environment. It is desirable to support their efforts with this very modest pay increase. Compensating those whom we elect to represent us will only enhance our ability to attract diverse and qualified candidates for public office and will not affect Albany's character.

Please vote yes for Measure BB.

Thank you.

s/Robert Lieber

Mayor