

s/Gregory Harper
individually and on behalf of, Neighbors of Staton Street
Block Captain, Former Commissioner and Chair, Housing
Advisory Commission

s/James Kilpatrick
individually and on behalf of, President, Berkeley
Property Owners Association (BPOA)

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE GG

We believe in emergency services as much as anyone, but we aren't taking the City's kool-aid prescription -- and neither should you. Property taxes for young families are obscenely high.

Fire protection is an essential City service and should be a top priority in the City's core budget. Public safety should always come before politics, but the City consistently treats it as a political football.

Measure GG is all posture and no substance. **You could drive a truck through these holes:**

- ✓ No guarantee the fire department will be adequately staffed
- ✓ No protection against the City reducing non-Measure GG support for fire, paramedic and related services
- ✓ No protection against Measure GG funds being used for other purposes

It's another bait-and-switch job like the City has used over and over.

Why put public safety on the block? So the City can retain its core budget as a slush fund for things the public might not approve of:

- ✓ Developer cost overruns and fraud bailouts
- ✓ Staff raises far beyond cost of living increases
- ✓ Outside contractors providing ineffective services

Council has ignored the critical need to identify and adequately fund essential services, before making hard decisions about the many nice-to-have services.

Deficit, what deficit?

In 2004 while crying wolf, the City experienced wind-fall revenues of \$15,000,000+. We didn't have a financial crisis in 2004. We don't have a financial crisis now.

Today, with a simple majority vote, Council could provide adequately for the Fire Department from the General Fund. Firefighters obviously don't believe Council will do the right thing, so they are reluctantly supporting any means in which they can be funded.

Join your Neighbors. Do what we did in 2004. SAY NO to this tax and demand that the Council start putting public safety above politics.

s/Marie Bowman

individually and on behalf of, President, Berkeley Alliance of Neighborhood Associations (BANA), individually and on behalf of, Steering-Committee Chair, Berkeleyan's Against Soaring Taxes (BASTA!), Former Chair, City of Berkeley, Housing Advisory Commission (HAC)

s/Laurie Bright

individually and on behalf of, President, Council of Neighborhood Associations (CNA)

s/Dean Metzger

individually and on behalf of, President, Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA), Former Commissioner City of Berkeley Transportation and Zoning Advisory Board