ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE O

The City of Santa Clara is the third largest city in the County with an annual budget of close to $750 million dollars, yet its Council Members and Mayor are some of the lowest paid.

Our Council spends easily 30 hours a week doing their job, which involves more than preparing for and attending Council meetings. Between the City and local agencies there are over 25 committees or liaison positions. Our Council is also expected to represent our City at many civic functions throughout the County, State and Nation. They also make themselves available to all residents and many hold open office hours and coffee chats. These important commitments require hours of their time. **Simply stated, time spent as a Council Member and Mayor does not begin and end with Tuesday evening meetings.**

The Charter Review Committee spent many hours reviewing the role of the Council, what they do for our City and our residents, and most importantly what we, the residents of Santa Clara, expect of them. Committee members overwhelmingly agreed to recommend that voters approve an increase to Council Members' and the Mayor's monthly salaries.

This measure also forms a new Salary Setting Commission with the task of reviewing Council salary every 2 years. This new Commission is appointed by the Civil Service Commission, NOT the Council, and has the authority to increase OR decrease the Council's salary without their interference. Any increase in salary is capped, and there is no limit to any decrease.

The changes in this measure ensure that our council is fairly compensated for their countless hours of service, and ensures that future adjustments are done without Council interference.

We urge you to support this measure. Please vote "YES" on Measure O.

/s/ Beverly Silva
    Charter Review Committee Chairperson

/s/ Jodi Muirhead
    Charter Review Committee Member

/s/ Hosam Haggag
    Charter Review Committee Member

/s/ Howard A. Myers
    Charter Review Committee Member

/s/ Brian P. Lowery
    Charter Review Committee Member

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE O WAS SUBMITTED