

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE GG

Vote Yes on Measure GG, Our Lifeline Emergency Services

Like all City services, Berkeley's Fire Department, disaster preparedness, and emergency medical services have been cut back. In the past, ten stations served the citizens of Berkeley. Today we have only seven stations, and continued rotating station closures are planned.

But Measure GG will hold the line, and prevent additional station closures and cuts to Berkeley's fire and emergency services. Measure GG will also ensure that paramedics are available and ready to respond at every fire station.

Here's how Measure GG will hold the line on Berkeley's fire and emergency services:

- Keep our neighborhood fire stations open and eliminate rotating station closures.
- Equip paramedics at each fire station to provide emergency medical care.
- Fund neighborhood disaster preparedness so trained citizens can aid the first responders.
- Upgrade radio communications equipment for local public safety agencies.

Last year, our fire fighters were called to 12,000 emergencies. Seventy percent of those calls were for medical emergencies, yet only three fire stations have a designated paramedic.

Measure GG requires a two-thirds vote of the community so that these funds can only be used for our fire and emergency medical services. Measure GG also empowers a citizens' oversight committee to monitor all Measure GG expenditures.

Yes, commercial property owners will pay more and low-income residents will pay less. Not only is Measure GG fair, but it's essential if we are to restore the level of emergency services that we already take for granted.

Join Berkeley residents, the Fire Fighters Association, the Police Officers Association, and local emergency room physicians in protecting those services that protect our families, our homes, and our businesses.

Please join us in voting YES on Measure GG.

s/Tom Bates

Mayor

s/Zachary Weiner

Chair, City of Berkeley Disaster & Fire Safety Commission

s/Dorothy Bryant

Grateful Recipient of Excellent Paramedic Services

s/Shirley Dean

Former Berkeley Mayor

s/Benjamin Lerman, MD

Medical Director, Emergency Dept., Alta Bates Campus

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE GG

Unconscionable! Playing on our needs and fears by threatening us with rotating fire station closures and untimely medical help UNLESS WE PAY EXTRA FOR THESE BASIC SERVICES!

Measure GG proponents don't tell you that we haven't had ten stations since the 1950s! Or that the annual 8,400 medical emergency calls could be more effectively and efficiently handled with a proper medical dispatcher and trained paramedics who cost less than firefighters. Or that **BEFORE THEIR LATEST 14% RAISE, virtually all of Berkeley's firefighters were in Berkeley's top earner category** (over \$100,000 in salary alone) and 20% were compensated more than \$200,000.

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF MONEY. A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE BY COUNCIL WOULD FULLY FUND THESE SERVICES AND IMPLEMENT BETTER DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

Here is where the money is:

DOUBLING OF REAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE IN LAST EIGHT YEARS.

\$20,000,000 more annually, with \$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000 more expected each year. Additional \$12,000,000 comes in annually in Transfer Taxes.

EXCESSIVE LABOR EXPENDITURE. Average employee compensation of \$159,000, to go up 14% over the next 3 years. More City employees per capita (1:60) than virtually all other California cities. Firefighters are very highly compensated due to excess overtime.

RIDICULOUS MULTIMILLION DOLLAR GIVE-AWAYS. To developers, outside contractors, and for pet projects—none of which would pass muster at the ballot box.

Join your Neighbors and VOTE NO on Measure GG. Tell our government to fully fund our essential services, rather than diverting our money to non-essential and wasteful projects.

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 and Commissioner, City of Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission (HAC)

s/David Krasnor

individually and on behalf of, Co-Treasurer, Tyler and King Neighborhood Association, Vice-President, Council of Neighborhood Assoc. (CNA), Member and Former Delegate Alameda Central Labor Council and Parent of Two Children in Berkeley Schools (K-12)

s/Betty J. Hicks

individually and on behalf of, Oregon Street Neighborhood Watch, Former Treasurer, San Pablo Neighborhood Council and Former City of Berkeley Planning Commissioner