

**CITY OF UNION CITY PUBLIC SAFETY
SERVICES TAX MEASURE UU**

UU

MEASURE UU: "Shall the existing Public Safety Services Tax set to expire on April 23, 2009, be continued and expanded, for an additional eight (8) years, beginning April 24, 2009, in order to fund essential police and fire protection services in Union City as well as youth violence prevention and intervention programs?"

YES

NO

**CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF
MEASURE UU**

The City Council of the City of Union City ("City") has placed Measure UU on the ballot to ask voters to approve an extension and enhancement of the special tax for "public-safety services" previously approved by the voters in 2004. This tax constitutes a special tax pursuant to the California Constitution (Proposition 218), which requires approval by two-thirds of those voting to pass.

The City operates both police and fire departments that serve the City. Both departments employ a significant number of full-time employees. The City provides equipment and stations for both departments. The City also operates other departments that run programs that contribute to the maintenance of public safety in the community. The proceeds from the Measure will be used to purchase, operate and maintain equipment for public-safety services, to pay salaries of police and fire personnel, and to provide funding for other public-safety services expenses. The Measure also has been enhanced to provide \$500,000 annually for youth violence prevention and intervention programs and services.

The Measure will "sunset" after eight (8) years and cannot be renewed without a future vote. It will be imposed on the occupants of residential and non-residential property within the City based on estimated usage of public-safety services. The amount of the tax will be based on the use of the property and parcel size, as set forth in Measure UU, and will result in the typical residential property owner paying approximately \$20 per year more than under the 2004-approved public-safety services tax. The Measure will be adjusted annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index and any annual adjustment would be capped at two percent (2%).

As with the 2004-approved public-safety services tax, the Measure will not be imposed on unimproved parcels, and a partial refund will be available for unoccupied improved non-residential parcels. The City will be authorized to contract with Alameda County to collect the tax on the property tax rolls. As the City Council did with the 2004-approved public-safety services tax, if the Measure is enacted, a low income exemption from the tax will apply for the duration of the tax.

If this measure does not receive at least two-thirds (2/3) approval of those voting, the measure will fail and

the 2004-approved public-safety tax will expire in April of 2009, resulting in the loss of approximately \$2.7 million annually to the police and fire department budgets.

s/MICHAEL S. RIBACK
City Attorney of Union City