

MEASURE "A" - ALAMEDA'S TREASURE

IN THE LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S, THE CITY OF ALAMEDA WAS EXPERIENCING WHAT WAS CONSIDERED A DISASTER TO IT'S HOUSING STOCK, ESPECIALLY THEIR PRECIOUS VICTORIAN HOMES.

AT THAT TIME, DEVELOPERS AND GREEDY SPECULATORS WERE ACQUIRING SINGLE FAMILY HOMES AND REPLACING THEM WITH GROTESQUE AND UNSIGHTLY 2, 3 AND 4 STORY APARTMENT HOUSING, UP TO 60 AND 75 UNITS EACH, RESULTING IN HUNDREDS OF AUTOMOBILES, GARBAGE, LITTER AND UNWANTED TRAFFIC.

IN 1972, LED BY FORMER COUNCILWOMAN INEZ KAPPELLAS AND MAYOR CHUCK CORICA, VOTERS PASSED, AND FOR GOOD REASONS, MEASURE "A" THAT NOW LIMITS HOUSING TO SINGLE FAMILY HOMES AND DUPLEXES. BY VIRTUE OF THIS MEASURE, ALAMEDANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN A QUALITY OF LIFE SO NEAR AND DEAR TO OUR STANDARD OF LIVING. I CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS FULL PAGE ARTICLE IN THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE THAT MAKES TWO AWESOME STATEMENTS. THE FIRST SAYS "ALAMEDA WORKS HARD TO MAINTAIN IT'S SMALL TOWN CHARM" . FOLLOWED BY THIS AMAZING STATEMENT, "HISTORY IS INDEED REVERED IN THIS CITY, AND LOCALS DEFEND THEIR SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERE OF CHARMING NEIGHBORHOODS, HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE, LOW CRIME RATE, ABSOLUTELY STUNNING VIEWS AND COULD BE CALLED THE JEWEL OF THE EAST BAY, ENVIED BY ALL IN THE BAY AREA.

WHY WOULD ALAMEDANS WANT CHANGE? WHY NOW? WHY AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERENE TRANQUILITY AND ORDERLY GROWTH HAS THIS MATTER TO OVERTURN MEASURE "A" COME UP? THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE, WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND. FACES AND PLACES CHANGE, BUT THE DEVELOPERS AND GREEDY SPECULATORS ARE BACK AND THEY COULD CARE LESS ABOUT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE.

THESE SPIN DOCTORS WILL LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL ONLY WANT TO DO THIS AT ALAMEDA POINT. ABSOLUTE NONSENSE. DON'T BUY INTO IT. IF SUCCESSFUL THEY WILL THEN SPREAD LIKE A CANCER THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CITY. I PREDICT IF MEASURE "A" IS OVERTURNED, ALAMEDA'S PRESENT POPULATION OF 75,000 WILL SOAR TO OVER 100,000 BY THE YEAR 2020. TRAFFIC WILL BE A NIGHTMARE.

**Correspondence Presented at
the Planning Board Meeting
of 6-1-02
Re: Agenda Item # _____**

ASK THE PEOPLE OF THE LOVELY CITY OF SANTA ROSA WHO HAVE SEEN THEIR COMMUNITY SKYROCKET FROM 45,000 IN 1965 TO 155,000 TODAY. JUST ASK THE CITIZENS UP THERE WHAT THEY THINK OF UNCONTROLLED GROWTH AND LACK OF VISION.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND CONCERNED RESIDENTS SHOULD BE RAISING THESE QUESTIONS:

1. WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE CALLED "HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MAKE HOUSING SENSE"?
2. WHERE ARE THEIR OFFICES LOCATED AND WHO MAKE UP THEIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS?
3. WHO COMMISSIONED THE SO-CALLED SURVEY?
4. WHO PAID FOR THE SURVEY?
5. HOW, WHEN AND WHERE WAS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED?
6. WHAT AGE, ETHNIC AND NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS WERE CONTACTED AND INTERVIEWED?

THEIR POLL RESULTS IN THE JOURNAL COMPLETELY CONTRADICTS THE CITIES' HOUSING DENSITY NUMBERS.

IF YOU WANT TO BELIEVE "HOMES" STATEMENT THAT THEY WANT TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - FORGET IT - THAT'S THE FURTHEST THING FROM THEIR MINDS. THE ONLY THING, AND I MEAN THE ONLY THING UPPERMOST IN THEIR PERSONNA IS GREEN. MONEY THATS THE BOTTOM LINE.

WE SHOULD REMEMBER OUR HISTORY. BEWARE OF THE TROJAN HORSE AND THOSE BEARING GIFTS. THEY WILL TELL YOU ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO HEAR.

IN CLOSING, I DO NOT ENVY THE ROLE OF THE PLANNING BOARD IN THE COMING MONTHS. YOU WILL CARRY A HEAVY BURDEN, BUT THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMUNITY WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND SOLOMAN LIKE WISDOM FOR THE FUTURE OF ALAMEDA AND YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY. WE KNOW YOU WILL ACT DILIGENTLY AND HONESTLY, RESPECTING ALL OPINIONS AS PRESENTED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.

RESPECTFULLY,

A. J. "LIL" ARNERICH