

EXHIBIT A

Argument Against Measure

U

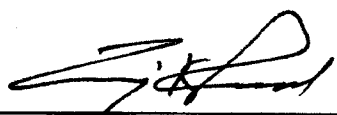
City Hall wants to increase the sales tax 1/2-cent to 8.25-cents -- the highest in the region, taking \$27-million annually from the local economy for 6-years. (Source: City Finance). With a 460,000 population, that's \$352 annually per resident, or \$1,408 for a family of four. This higher sales tax will drive retail sales to neighboring counties and cities, hurting local retailers.

Sacramento City's bureaucracy has grown beyond our ability to fund it. Wasteful spending and fraud are prevalent: The Mayor's staff charging vacation and other personal expenses on credit cards; the Council failing to fund a whistle-blower hotline, for \$15,000, while spending \$500,000+ on consultants for a new arena.

Measure U supporters argue City services are underfunded, including police and fire. But 85% of City's General Fund goes to these departments, with much of that siphoned off into pensions. The City over-staffs fire engines, while fire calls have declined for decades. City cops refuse to contribute to their own generous pensions, while CHP officers contribute 12% of salaries for lesser retirements. Without pension concessions from police, any extra sales tax revenues will only encourage further pension stonewalling. Result: still fewer police services.

Has the City Council earned your confidence to spend tax dollars prudently after recently exposed financial scandals caused by City mismanagement? Examples: Utilities Department manager taking kickbacks from scrap metals dealer; millions in legitimate permit fees not collected; and poorly negotiated waste collection contracts, resulting in higher monthly garbage fees, averaging \$9 higher than nearby cities, with higher rates far into the future.


Recently the Council increased sewer and water rates a whopping 16% and 10%. Parking costs have skyrocketed. How much more does City Hall want? Your family spending priorities are more important than those at City Hall. Vote No on Measure U.



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