

Argument in favor of Measure ____

In 1978, Star Wars won seven Academy Awards, Saturday Night Fever topped the charts and Harvey Milk was assassinated. Here in Albany, 1978 was also the year that Measure D passed.

Measure D created new zoning restrictions on multi-family housing. The city council is not asking the voters to change those. The measure also created unrealistic parking requirements, making multi-family housing more difficult to build. The council is asking voters to restore the council's ability to modify these parking requirements in response to Albany's changing priorities.

Measure D required two off-street parking spaces for every new housing unit, from single-family homes to studio apartments to Pierce St. condominiums. Over the years, this requirement has had negative consequences:

All of Albany's bungalows with just one parking spot have become "legal non-conforming." In case of major earthquake or fire damage, all these homes are technically required to be rebuilt with two off-street parking spaces.

Today seniors and families with children are being priced out of Albany. Outdated parking requirements limit Albany's ability to respond to our affordable housing crisis. Multi-family housing has become infeasible to build.

Encouraging multi-family housing in mixed-use buildings along transit corridors, with appropriate size and design requirements, can help address these housing needs as well as revitalize our commercial areas. More goods and services in walkable business areas benefit all residents and will help broaden our tax base.

While we have completed major updates of our zoning code since Measure D was passed, its outdated parking requirements remain frozen in time. A YES vote will restore the city's ability to adjust parking rules. This will allow the council to meet the needs of today's residents, not those of 1978.

Your city council respectfully asks Albany voters to vote Yes on Measure ____ to bring our parking rules into the 21st century.

Peter Maass, Mayor
Peggy McQuaid, City Council Member
Doug Donaldson, Planning and Zoning Commissioner
Rochelle Nason, City Council Member
Michael Barnes, City Council Member

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ALBANY CITY CLERK