

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE T

Blight and homelessness are pervasive and enduring problems in Richmond, both underfunded and under-addressed

This measure will provide funding for code enforcement and cleanup of blighted vacant properties, blight elimination, dumping cleanup and enforcement of legal actions to address blight. Vacant properties negatively impact the community by attracting crime, blight and illegal dumping. Properties that remain vacant undermine the safety and vitality of our neighborhoods and take up space that could be used for housing and businesses, creating jobs and providing tax revenue.

This measure will also provide multiple services to mitigate homelessness. According to the Point in Time count of January 2018, there were 270 unsheltered individuals in Richmond, living in encampments under overpasses, in vacant lots, along freeways and railroad rights-of-way and along creeks. Contra Costa County Health Services CORE team logged 721 unique contact points with homeless individuals between January 2017 and April 2018.

Homeless encampments are significant problems for both the occupants and the surrounding communities. They are unhealthy and unsafe for their unsheltered residents and have negative impacts on community health and safety. Areas surrounding unmanaged encampments can experience increases in blight and criminal activities including drug abuse and petty theft. They also foster an image that the neighborhood is declining, which can affect property values and community pride.

Measure T will have no effect on the vast majority of property owners who keep up their property responsibly.

The undersigned Proponent(s) or Authors hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

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