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CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U

Vote Yes on Measure U, the Sunshine Ordinance

No matter what the issue, or your opinion, you deserve *timely access to the same information* available to elected officials and City staff, the *opportunity to comment* in open meetings *before decisions are made*, and *prompt access to public records*.

Why is Sunshine Needed?

- The State has defunded the key Brown Act requirement to give notice of public meetings.
- Too many times people wait for hours in overcrowded spaces before being allowed to speak for a minute or two on complex issues that differ from those previously announced, or they are locked out entirely and silenced. Too often reasonable requests for public records are denied.
- Enforcement is absent except through costly lawsuits and referenda.

Is Sunshine Enforcement Expensive?

Measure U provides for an Early Alert System to *immediately correct sunshine violations*, and a Commission process to fairly resolve disputes *without* costly lawsuits.

Will Sunshine Bring Berkeley to a Halt? NO!

Measure U respects the public by allowing 3-minute public comment, requiring advance planning, ensuring an adequate sized meeting place, providing for equal time for all sides in land use public hearings, and a method to adjourn meetings by 11:00 pm. If the comment rule results in unreasonably longer meetings, the Measure provides a way to change it. Requiring advance planning for an adequate sized meeting place is common sense.

Is Sunshine Environmentally Friendly? ABSOLUTELY!

Council packets are now printed form. Going paperless saves trees and reduces waste collection costs. City employees will no longer need to retrieve records from storage in Livermore. Measure U saves money, helps the environment and ensures your inalienable right to know what your government is doing.

Vote Yes on Measure U, the Sunshine Ordinance,

Everyone Needs It!

SHIRLEY DEAN
PATRICK SHEAHAN
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