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CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE V

Vote YES for the FACTS – Fiscal Accountability, Clarity, Transparency and Sustainability.

Berkeley faces insolvency or worse. We have at least \$1.2 billion in unfunded obligations which will grow, exponentially, if not properly addressed. The City has no plan to deal with this crisis. The FACTS Ordinance is the critical first step and would require the City to tell us the truth. Good government requires accurate facts and transparency. Only then can Berkeley residents, working together, develop a comprehensive plan to solve this problem.

Commitments have been made that cannot be kept. Through well-meaning but misguided generosity our City has paid its employees' contribution toward their retirement while total employee costs are eating up an ever-increasing percent of the operating budget leaving fewer dollars for other vital City needs. For too many years the City has balanced the annual budget by cutting safety net services for our young, elderly and poor residents, by allowing our parks streets, pools, storm drains and buildings to decay and by draining emergency fund reserves.

In January 2010, under citizen pressure, Council passed a resolution requiring the City Manager to prepare a full report on the City's financial obligations. The resolution was ignored; no report has been made. Resolutions can be ignored. This ordinance cannot. **Without the truth and a plan it is premature to impose new taxes.**

Join us in supporting Measure V

Committee for FACTS

Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA)

Northeast Berkeley Association (NEBA)

Berkeley Budget SOS

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CNA)

LeConte Neighborhood Association

Mark Humbert, President, Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA)

Isabelle Gaston, President, Northeast Berkeley Association (NEBA)

Ted Edlin, President, Council of Neighborhood Associations (CNA)

Shannon R. Brown, Director, Berkeley Budget SOS

Jesse Arreguin, Berkeley City Councilmember