



DRAFT

Rent Stabilization Board

May 7, 2007

Honorable Mayor Tom Bates and
Members of the City Council
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Rent Stabilization Boardmembers' Concern regarding Fantasy Building Tenant Artists

Dear Mayor Bates and Council Members:

On behalf of the nine commissioners of the City of Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board, we wish to extend our profound concern regarding the current situation of the Fantasy Building tenant artists. As you are aware, the Fantasy Building tenants face potential extraordinary rent increases that could lead to their displacement in the near future.

As the City's elected body overseeing the interests of Berkeley's roughly 50,000 tenants and rental property owners, the Rent Stabilization Board views the situation of the Fantasy Building tenant artists with extreme interest and concern.

We sincerely hope that an outcome similar to the 2006 Drayage Building tenant artists' situation-----the eviction of all the sitting tenant artists----will be avoided at all costs and a satisfactory resolution found for the Fantasy Building tenant artists and owner.

The Rent Board commends Mayor Bates and City Council for establishing a three member special committee to mediate a solution between the Fantasy Building tenant artists and the owner.

We urge the City Council's special mediation committee to use all available City of Berkeley resources, means, measures and goodwill at the Council's disposal to seek a resolution to the current crisis.

The nine Rent Board commissioners are monitoring closely the ongoing situation and applaud the efforts of the special mediation committee members to achieve a resolution.

The Rent Board recognizes the deep and longstanding tradition of support that the City of Berkeley has extended to local artists, craftspersons and the property owners who rent to them.

The commissioners sincerely hope that the City Council will continue this historic tradition of City support.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Kavanagh on the behalf of the nine Commissioners of the Rent Stabilization Board

cc: City Manager
City Clerk