



# City of East Palo Alto MINUTES

## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016

6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

EAST PALO ALTO GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2415 UNIVERSITY AVE. – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

### MAYOR:

DONNA RUTHERFORD

### VICE MAYOR:

LARRY MOODY

### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

RUBEN ABRICA, LISA GAUTHIER, CARLOS ROMERO

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. All were present, except for Councilmember Gauthier. Her absence was excused.

**PRESENT:** Rutherford, Moody, Abrica, Romero

**ABSENT:** Gauthier

#### 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (*Government Code section 54957.7(a)*)

**Action:** Upon motion by Vice Mayor Moody and seconded by Councilmember Abrica, the City Council **unanimously voted 4-0, with Councilmember Gauthier absent**, to approve the Agenda.

**AYES:** Moody, Abrica, Rutherford, Romero

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Gauthier

#### 3. STUDY SESSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE 2010 RENT ORDINANCE

##### A. Possible Amendments to the 2010 Rent Ordinance

(Victor I. Ramirez, Rent Stabilization Program Administrator, Valerie J. Armento, Interim City Attorney, and John D. Lê, Deputy City Attorney)

## **Recommendation**

Take public comment on recommendations concerning possible amendments to the 2010 Rent Ordinance, and provide direction to staff.

Rent Stabilization Program Administrator Ramirez presented to the City Council the various specific recommendations to amend the 2010 Rent Ordinance. He discussed that landlords should be providing information on tenants' rights, and spoke of consequences should that not happen. He talked about the definition of maximum allowable rent. Mr. Ramirez also discussed the topics on Pass Through Clause, demolition, and compliance with State and Federal laws.

After his presentation, the City Council asked to hear public comments. Thereafter, the City Council and Staff had a robust discussion on several matters such as the Pass Through Clause and extenuating circumstances, the role of the Rent Board, demolition, opportunity for voters to amend the ordinance, banking, the potential election timeline, and the Maximum Allowable Rent.

Towards the end of the meeting, the City Council agreed that the Rent Stabilization Ordinance Subcommittee and Staff should meet again in a less formal setting to converse on simplifying the recommendations and bring that back to the City Council.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON STUDY SESSION ITEM**

There were seven speakers on this item. During this time, the City Council and the public had an opportunity to thoroughly engage on this topic.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes Recorded, Prepared, and Respectfully Submitted By:



Terrie Gillen  
Deputy City Clerk

*Minutes were approved at the regular City Council meeting on April 5, 2016.*