REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

Vote NO on Measure B

The Councilmembers who support Measure B are the very people who, during bankruptcy, approved a new contract, with pay raises, that cut our police force from 134 to 117 in 2009, to 104 in 2010, and to 90 now. Then, they approved a management contract with pay raises while employees in other California cities were taking salary and benefit cuts. Cutting all salaries and benefits 10 percent during bankruptcy would have saved \$7 million. Instead, they're asking for more taxes to fund those increased salaries and benefits.

Measure B supporters argue that it won't cost more than we've been paying because the State sales tax was reduced one percent. If this measure is approved, Vallejo will still have higher sales taxes than American Canyon, Napa and all Solano County. This will hurt people and businesses, and slow job growth and economic development. And, it doesn't address the real issue that most contributed to Vallejo's bankruptcy – unsustainable employee contracts and the exploding cost of pensions.

"Living within our means" doesn't mean increasing taxes to cover costs that are too high and need to be reduced. Because this is a general tax, there is no guarantee any increase will be spent on economic development, infrastructure improvements or quality of life services – and not on employee pay and pensions. Tell the City to make the needed changes to our employee costs first, then ask for more tax dollars!

Vote NO on Measure B

/s/Joanne Schivley, Councilmember /s/Stephanie Gomes, Councilmember