

12/15/09

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Madame Mayor, City Council, you were elected to serve the residents of Santa Clara.

You and staff have put a lot of work into the stadium proposal, and your efforts are currently on track for a June election. California law mandates you put just a little bit more effort into ensuring that we all understand the impacts of this proposal to our quality of life and health of the city prior to you putting on the ballot.

But you can do it, and staff is prepared to discuss the timeline tonight.

So, why are you prepared to abdicate your responsibilities and allow a for-profit business to call the shots for your constituency?

The SCEP initiative will not get a vote of the people any sooner.

However, it will deprive the people of the right to fully understand what the stadium would do to our quality of life and the health of the city. We already know there are serious impacts to the city. The people want to see the plan for managing those impacts so we can make an informed decision.

We already know that the stadium will hurt the city financially with a \$67 million hit to the General Fund. Without the parking plan to accomodate the non-NFL events needed to feed the General Fund, the losses could go up another \$18 million to an astronomical \$85 million loss!

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Santa Clara Plays Fair

www.SantaClaraPlaysFair.org

P.O Box 6244 Santa Clara, CA 95056-6244

Madame Mayor, Santa Clara City Councilmembers and City Staff, thank you & good evening. I'm Bill Bailey and I have lived in Santa Clara for 20 years. I'm the Treasurer of Santa Clara Plays Fair<dot>org. All of us are volunteers.

With respect to the **49ers stadium subsidy** on which Santa Clarans will vote, there is only one fair and correct measure to put on the the June, 2010, primary ballot, and that is the City Council's own measure.

If I may take you back to the events of July 8th and September 9th: Santa Clarans witnessed three members of this Council abdicating control of our City's Charter to Sacramento, all to help the 49ers hijack Senate Bill 43.

The result: Santa Clarans were denied the right to a ballot vote for the 49ers' Charter exemption.

No one is much fooled by the 49ers' transparent attempts to now manipulate that same ballot yet again. They are pretending to work through a "citizens" group. They're paying all of the bills for that group. They've even admitted that their intent is to ~~skip~~^{EVAD} the perfectly legal review of a completely-defective Environmental Impact Report.

So, which is it to be? A ballot process manipulated by the San Francisco 49ers?

Or a ballot measure controlled by Santa Clarans?

Santa Clara Plays Fair urges your support of Option 1...

...because, by their own actions these last thirty-some months, the San Francisco 49ers have demonstrated that they're not entitled to write our ballot measures for us.

Thank you.

12/15/09

LB

Good evening. My name is Brian Lowery. I have lived here in Santa Clara since 1986. I have been operating a computer consulting business here since 1989 with my office located at the Kiely House, just one of many beautiful, historical homes in our city.

When I first came to work here, Santa Clara was experiencing unprecedented growth from the development of the transistor. It had quickly transformed itself from an agricultural to an electronic, manufacturing epicenter. Not too many of us can picture those days when people like Ray Gamma and Tony Bell were working in the fields picking prunes for a living. It was very hard work I am sure, but the fruits of their labor helped turn Santa Clara into an "All American City"

Today however, our city is threatened by the ever changing economic forces. We are no longer an agricultural city, a manufacturing city, or even a high tech city. And since we are not any of these, what type of city do we wish ourselves to be? Santa Clara has a Senior Citizen Center that is free, a Youth Activities Center, an International Swim Center, numerous parks, a municipal utility that generates cheap energy for us, a beautiful main library, a renowned Convention Center and a Theme Park. Each of these public resources requires people and material to maintain them.

And how are we going to pay for them if we continually lose the very same companies that help us pay for them through the jobs and taxes they generate? What will the City do if it cannot maintain them for us? As a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee I know that the City Manager is projecting negative budgets until 2015. This is unprecedented in the history of this city. I ask each Santa Claran to ask themselves, just how are we going to pay for these bills in the future?

The stadium proposal before us will give us a chance to help our general fund. It has a chance to improve our entertainment area because that is all it is out there, an entertainment area, nothing more. If a stadium were not to be placed there, nothing will be there twenty years from now. A stadium might inspire Intel, Yahoo, Google and others too to keep their corporate offices here; which means good paying jobs and better tax revenues for our City. It might inspire a future type of economic growth that we so desperately need now and in the future.

Tonight I plead with all Santa Clarans to stop fighting over this issue. We have been at it for more than 2 and 1/2 years with nothing to show for it. We are no better off than we were when we first started. Economic forces have moved on and wreaked havoc on our friends and neighbors. This is the time to come together and move forward.

Tonight I plead with Cedar Fair to give Santa Clara a fair shake. If you wish to change what you give to our city based on foot traffic, then let us help you by putting the Stadium in the main parking lot. Let us help you with the foot traffic by asking you to open up your theme park during game day weekend with concerts in your amphitheatre on Friday and Saturday nights and by letting patrons move back and forth between your theme park and the stadium and thus to our golf course and our hotels. Let us help you so that you can grow with us and be successful too.

Tonight I wish to apologize to Mr. Jed York and the San Francisco 49ers for the time it is taking for us Santa Clarans to accept you in our

community. We are a diverse group, we have our differences of opinions on your proposal, but we mean well. Please indulge us just a little while longer. I am sure we will get it right by you. And may God bless our Santa Clara.

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The New York Times

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December 15, 2009

Poll Reveals Trauma of Joblessness in U.S.

By **MICHAEL LUO** and **MEGAN THEE-BRENAN**

More than half of the nation's unemployed workers have borrowed money from friends or relatives since losing their jobs. An equal number have cut back on doctor visits or medical treatments because they are out of work.

Almost half have suffered from depression or anxiety. About 4 in 10 parents have noticed behavioral changes in their children that they attribute to their difficulties in finding work.

Joblessness has wreaked financial and emotional havoc on the lives of many of those out of work, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll of unemployed adults, causing major life changes, mental health issues and trouble maintaining even basic necessities.

The results of the poll, which surveyed 708 unemployed adults from Dec. 5 to Dec. 10 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus four percentage points, help to lay bare the depth of the trauma experienced by millions across the country who are out of work as the jobless rate hovers at 10 percent and, in particular, as the ranks of the long-term unemployed soar.

Roughly half of the respondents described the recession as a hardship that had caused fundamental changes in their lives. Generally, those who have been out of work longer reported experiencing more acute financial and emotional effects.

"I lost my job in March, and from there on, everything went downhill," said Vicky Newton, 38, of Mount Pleasant, Mich., a single mother who had been a customer-service representative in an insurance agency.

"After struggling and struggling and not being able to pay my house payments or my other bills, I finally sucked up my pride," she said in an interview after the poll was conducted. "I got food stamps just to help feed my daughter."

Over the summer, she abandoned her home in Flint, Mich., after she started receiving foreclosure notices. She now lives 90 minutes away, in a rental house owned by her father.

With unemployment driving foreclosures nationwide, a quarter of those polled said they had either lost their home or been threatened with foreclosure or eviction for not paying their mortgage or rent. About a quarter, like Ms. Newton, have received food stamps. More than half said they had cut back on both luxuries and necessities in their spending. Seven in 10 rated their family's financial situation as fairly bad or very bad.

But the impact on their lives was not limited to the difficulty in paying bills. Almost half said unemployment

had led to more conflicts or arguments with family members and friends; 55 percent have suffered from insomnia.

“Everything gets touched,” said Colleen Klemm, 51, of North Lake, Wis., who lost her job as a manager at a landscaping company last November. “All your relationships are touched by it. You’re never your normal happy-go-lucky person. Your countenance, your self-esteem goes. You think, ‘I’m not employable.’”

A quarter of those who experienced anxiety or depression said they had gone to see a mental health professional. Women were significantly more likely than men to acknowledge emotional issues.

Tammy Linville, 29, of Louisville, Ky., said she lost her job as a clerical worker for the Census Bureau a year and a half ago. She began seeing a therapist for depression every week through Medicaid but recently has not been able to go because her car broke down and she cannot afford to fix it.

Her partner works at the Ford plant in the area, but his schedule has been sporadic. They have two small children and at this point, she said, they are “saving quarters for diapers.”

“Every time I think about money, I shut down because there is none,” Ms. Linville said. “I get major panic attacks. I just don’t know what we’re going to do.”

Nearly half of the adults surveyed admitted to feeling embarrassed or ashamed most of the time or sometimes as a result of being out of work. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the traditional image of men as breadwinners, men were significantly more likely than women to report feeling ashamed most of the time.

There was a pervasive sense from the poll that the American dream had been upended for many. Nearly half of those polled said they felt in danger of falling out of their social class, with those out of work six months or more feeling especially vulnerable. Working-class respondents felt at risk in the greatest numbers.

Nearly half of respondents said they did not have health insurance, with the vast majority citing job loss as a reason, a notable finding given the tug of war in Congress over a health care overhaul. The poll offered a glimpse of the potential ripple effect of having no coverage. More than half characterized the cost of basic medical care as a hardship.

Many in the ranks of the unemployed appear to be rethinking their career and life choices. Just over 40 percent said they had moved or considered moving to another part of the state or country where there were more jobs. More than two-thirds of respondents had considered changing their career or field, and 44 percent of those surveyed had pursued job retraining or other educational opportunities.

Joe Whitlow, 31, of Nashville, worked as a mechanic until a repair shop he was running with a friend finally petered out in August. He had contemplated going back to school before, but the potential loss in income always deterred him. Now he is enrolled at a local community college, planning to study accounting.

“When everything went bad, not that I didn’t have a choice, but it made the choice easier,” Mr. Whitlow said.

The poll also shed light on the formal and informal safety nets that the jobless have relied upon. More than half said they were receiving or had received unemployment benefits. But 61 percent of those receiving benefits said the amount was not enough to cover basic necessities.

Meanwhile, a fifth said they had received food from a nonprofit organization or religious institution. Among those with a working spouse, half said their spouse had taken on additional hours or another job to help make ends meet.

Even those who have stayed employed have not escaped the recession's bite. According to a New York Times/CBS News nationwide poll conducted at the same time as the poll of unemployed adults, about 3 in 10 people said that in the past year, as a result of bad economic conditions, their pay had been cut.

In terms of casting blame for the high unemployment rate, 26 percent of unemployed adults cited former President George W. Bush; 12 percent pointed the finger at banks; 8 percent highlighted jobs going overseas and the same number blamed politicians. Only 3 percent blamed President Obama.

Those out of work were split, however, on the president's handling of job creation, with 47 percent expressing approval and 44 percent disapproval.

Unemployed Americans are divided over what the future holds for the job market: 39 percent anticipate improvement, 36 percent expect it will stay the same, and 22 percent say it will get worse.

Marina Stefan and Dalia Sussman contributed reporting.

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GB Dec. 15 2009

Good evening. Au Nguyen, Newhall Street.

You know, this is not about jobs. This is not about a stimulus package. Because if it were, we can do a lot better, for a lot less money.

First of all, it doesn't matter where the stadium is built, there will be lots of construction jobs. Santa Clara, or San Francisco, it doesn't matter.

Secondly, construction jobs will be gone after the stadium is built, maybe 2 or 3 three years. What's left will be part time jobs. After all, the 49ers only play about 10 home games a year. Part time jobs don't have benefits.

And finally, how much public money does it take to create these jobs?

The 49ers want a public subsidy of 114 million dollars. Plus, they want the Stadium Authority, which is a city agency, to borrow another 330 million dollars.

Let's compare this to something real. Tesla Motors is a Bay Area builder of electric cars. They are looking for a location to build their new factory. Two different cities in Southern California are vying for the deal. Downey has offered a subsidy of 9 million dollars. Long Beach, 29 million. When the factory opens, it will create 1500 jobs. Good jobs, with benefits, and a living wage.

So, the question you should be asking your elected representatives and your union leaders is this: "Why does Santa Clara want to spend more money, to create fewer jobs, that don't pay as well?"

Real jobs for real people, NOT bailouts for billionaires.

Thanks for your time.

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