

**October 19, 2010**

**Dear Ray,**

As a concerned citizen, I am alarmed by the policies impacting the entire Peninsula. Measure P is an important vote; and I want to get it right. So please read carefully about this vital issue.

**It has been an unbelievably emotional, explosive and nasty campaign on both sides.**

In my research, I found **6 Critical Reasons** I'm recommending to members of the Citizens Committee for A Better Peninsula and all of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) a "YES" vote on Measure P.

**Reason #1 - The out-of-control City bureaucracy**

For the past dozen years or so, the RPV Council has upheld their special-interest support groups while neglecting the best interests of the entire taxpayer base. It is past time to stop the capricious, arbitrary decisions made against those seeking approval of a project...through the Planning Commission and City Council.

The RPV City Hall bureaucracy has forgotten whom they serve. They're no longer willing to act as public servants because they are on a power trip with the belief they know what is best for the "public good."

Marymount College is a great example. For more than 10 years, ongoing opposition to the project has included unnecessary and arbitrary changes as well as ridiculous and expensive delays.

**Marymount College has been badly treated.**

During that time, Marymount has needlessly spent \$5 million that's right \$5 million attempting to pacify the RPV City Hall process. Based on this treatment, you could expect Marymount to spend 3 to 4 times that amount for another 10 years and still be waiting. Enough is enough.

That's why Marymount had no choice but to appeal to the voters. The last-minute "approval" of some of the projects was too little; too late with no assurance that delay after delay won't continue. They are making a civic plea for a decision about the public good and because of the future of the Planning Commission and City Council.

**Reason #2 - It's the people, not the politicians, who must bypass the politicians' stalling tactics**

I find it incredible and frankly shameful that Marymount is attacked for giving up on an impossible City Council hurdle by going directly to the voters.

The fear of the RPV politicians and bureaucrats is that other homeowners or

property owners being mistreated might do the same thing oh my! The city establishment and their friends lose control.

When we in the community take action by using the ballot without fear against the politicians and the bureaucrats, we take away from them their unfair power over us. That's a good thing, not a bad thing.

Is that not what democracy is all about?

### **Reason #3 - The City failed to have a vision for the community good**

Community benefits of this modest expansion are impressive. It includes a pool, recreation facilities, playing fields, athletic equipment **all without taxpayers paying one dime.**

The City Council should be trying to assist Marymount not stifle such plans for their friends.

The community needs these and other benefits without tax money.

### **Reason #4 - Lots of community good, not community harm**

I've talked to those close to the Marymount measure, both for and against.

I was concerned with the lights and noise. All the plans resolve these problems. I was especially concerned with views. No interference.

Selfishly, I was concerned with increased traffic on PV Drive East (I live off it) from the project. Based on the studies, this isn't going to be a problem.

And with the larger parking lot, there's no more kid and visitor parking in the neighborhood. That's another great advantage.

### **Reason #5 - The project has community and city oversight**

Oversight? Probably too much. They must follow all the barriers the bureaucracy has established for approvals. But they will not be violating current city codes. So let the project proceed.

### **Reason #6 - The anti-religious prejudice has blinded too many to the benefits of the Catholic college**

The discriminating nature in which this religious institution is being treated infringes on their First Amendment rights to expand and grow their religious-based mission.

If the officials In Washington saw how badly the city has treated Marymount these 10 tortuous years, I believe they would say it violates the RLUIPA law signed by President Clinton. The RLUIPA law provides stronger protection for religious freedom and prohibits that land use ordinances cannot cause a burden on religious

properties.

**The bottom line?** The city failed to do its duty. The city is now in panic mode because it's frightened that it is losing control. And now, RPV citizens are empowered to take action.

Marymount did the right thing to take it to the people and avoid millions more dollars in costly delays and years more of red tape simply to provide a community resource that will benefit all of us.

And that's why I'm recommending a **"YES" vote on Measure P.**

Best wishes,

Craig A. Huey  
Citizens Committee for a Better Peninsula