



# Proclamation

## Commending Herb Borock

**WHEREAS**, Herb Borock began his community activism in the fall of 1968 as a volunteer helping with a petition campaign to qualify Senator Eugene McCarthy as a write-in candidate for the Presidential election, which led to his coordinating the local precinct organization for the re-election of Senator Alan Cranston; and

**WHEREAS**, also in the fall of 1968, Herb Borock registered for a course on the Strategy and Tactics of Confrontation Politics at the Midpeninsula Free University that led to his participation in successful mass political movements against classified research at Stanford and ROTC at Stanford; and

**WHEREAS**, Herb Borock participated in the Associated Students of Stanford University (ASSU) where he served as Parliamentarian of the ASSU Senate, a member of the Nominations Committee, and an alternate to the Stanford Judicial Council; and

**WHEREAS**, in the fall of 1969, Herb Borock was Northern California's coordinator of a petition campaign to lower the voting age to 18; and

**WHEREAS**, following the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, Herb Borock coordinated the initiative petition campaign to place a rent relief initiative measure on the ballot that obtained the required 12% valid signatures of registered voters in three-and-a-half weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, Herb Borock was treasurer of both the Palo Alto Citizens for Rent Relief and Palo Alto Area Democratic Association (1978-79); a District-level delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention for Senator Ted Kennedy; Coordinator of the Baylands Conservation Committee (1980-81); publicity Chairman of the Palo Alto Civic League (1982-83); Chairman of the Midpeninsula Freeze Campaign (1982-85); member of the California Democratic Party Platform Task Force on World Peace and International Relations (1983-84); member of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Peace Center (1983-85) where he served as Secretary in 1984, Chairman in 1985 and Treasurer from 1985-87; and was a member of the Executive Board of Urban Ministry of Palo Alto (1999-2000); and

**WHEREAS**, Herb Borock currently focuses his community activities on Palo Alto City Council where he is a frequent advocate to encourage City officials to comply with the Conflict of Interest laws, the Public Records Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, and the Brown Act; to

require City Council appointed committees, boards, and commissions to be advisory to the Council; and for the City Council to provide proper oversight of Council Appointed Officers; and

**WHEREAS**, Herb Borock has written articles on local political issues in the Stanford Daily, the monthly Grapevine newspaper, and the Palo Alto Weekly. He also contributed articles to The People's Almanac (Doubleday: 1975), the People's Almanac #2 (Bantam Books: 1978), Big Brother and the Holding Company: The World Behind Watergate (Ramparts Press: 1974), and In These Times.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Lydia Kou, Mayor of the City of Palo Alto on behalf of the City Council commend and honor Herb Borock's many decades of devotion, institutional knowledge, and service to the City of Palo Alto.

PRESENTED: December 18, 2023

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**Lydia Kou**  
**Mayor**