

East Palo Alto Youth to Rally Against Prop 6!

CONTACT: Anna Turner (650.322.9165) // Charisse Domingo (650.814.4004)

WHEN: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 // Public Gathering at 5:30PM

WHERE: Bell Street Park, University Avenue and Bell Street, East Palo Alto

WHAT: The South Bay Coalition to Defeat Proposition 6 -- made up of youth-serving organizations, student groups, justice organizations, unions, and families from San Jose to East Palo Alto -- will be holding a rally to voice our opposition to Proposition 6.

BACKGROUND: Billed as a "tough on crime" initiative, Proposition 6 on the November 2008 ballot will take away billions from the state's general fund, prosecute youth as young as 14-years-old as adults if charged with a "gang-related felony," necessitate that all occupants who are recipients of public housing subsidies submit to annual criminal background checks, as well as eliminate bail for undocumented individuals charged with violent or gang-related felonies. "Prop 6 will gut our entire community - young people, people of color, poor people, families, immigrants. That's all of East Palo Alto. We need to spread the word for everyone to stand up for ourselves and vote no on Prop 6," says Douglas Fort, an East Palo Alto resident, member of the South Bay Coalition to Defeat Proposition 6, and candidate running for East Palo Alto City Council.

Adds Eliza Smith, East Palo Alto resident and youth coordinator with Youth Community Services, "Lack of full knowledge hurts too many people. Voters make it worst by passing tough-on-crime laws that fill up the prisons without knowing the full effect of laws. This law is wrongly called "Safe Neighborhoods," and people should not get misled by it."

Led by East Palo Alto youth, the rally and march on Tuesday, October 21 will feature community speakers who will testify to the effects of Prop 6. The rally will start at Bell Street Park, march to the 101 Freeway, and come back to Bell Street Park where there will be a balloon release signifying family and community members who could be affected if Prop 6 passes.

Anna D. Turner
Youth United for Community Action
FIRE Program Coordinator
2135 Clarke Ave
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
o: 650.322.9165
f: 650.322.1820