NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of San Rafael does ordain as follows:

DIVISION 1:

San Rafael Municipal Code section 3.28.040 is hereby deleted and a new section 3.28.040 is hereby added, to read as follows:

Section 3.28.040 - Special Tax Imposed - Non-residential.

A special tax of up to seven (7) cents per square foot is imposed upon all non-residential classed structures within the corporate limits of the City of San Rafael, on an annual basis, to fund a paramedic service program.

DIVISION 2:

San Rafael Municipal Code section 3.28.050 is hereby added to read as follows:

Section 3.28.050 - Special Tax Imposed - Residential.

A special tax of up to a maximum of $53.00 per living unit, is imposed upon all residential classed structures within the corporate limits of the City of San Rafael, on an annual basis, to fund a paramedic service program.

DIVISION 3:

San Rafael Municipal Code subsection 3.28.060(a) is hereby amended to add the following language to the end of the subsection:

"In its annual determination of the paramedic tax rate, the City Council shall endeavor to maintain parity between the tax rate for residential classed structures and non-residential classed structures. The City Council shall not set the tax rate in excess of the maximum rates allowed in sections 3.28.040 and 3.28.050 without prior approval of the electorate."

DIVISION 4:

The appropriations limit of the City of San Rafael shall be increased for a period of three (3) years by the total amount collected by the Paramedic Service Special Tax (Chapter 3.28, San Rafael Municipal Code) as required by Article XII B of the California Constitution.

DIVISION 5:

This Ordinance shall take effect if adopted by the voters of the City of San Rafael at the General Municipal Election to be held on the 2nd day of November, 1999. If the proposed increase to the special paramedic tax is not adopted, the paramedic special tax will remain at the level currently imposed.

_____________________________________________________
ALBERT J. BORO, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____________________________________________________
JEANNE M. LEONCINI, City Clerk
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY ATTORNEY
MEASURE P

This measure would authorize amendment of the San Rafael Municipal Code to increase the maximum rate of the City’s Paramedic Tax on residential and non-residential structures. The total increase could not exceed $13.00 per unit for residential structures, and $.02 per square-foot for non-residential structures. Currently, the maximum Paramedic Tax rate is $40.00 per unit for residential structures and $.05 per square-foot (with a $2,500.00 flat-tax maximum) for non-residential structures. This measure does not automatically raise the Paramedic Tax to the maximum levels authorized. Rather, each year, the City Council is required to set the tax level after reviewing actual costs of the Paramedic Services program during its budget process. The City Council could, but need not, increase the tax if, and only if, the Paramedic Services program costs exceed the Paramedic Tax revenue, and the Council could only increase the tax to that level necessary to fully fund the costs of the Paramedic Services program.

This measure would increase the maximum Paramedic Tax rate from $40.00 to $53.00 per unit for residential structures and from $.05 per square-foot to $.07 per square-foot for non-residential structures. This measure would eliminate the flat-tax limit provision currently applicable to the tax on non-residential structures. This measure would also increase the appropriations limit for the City of San Rafael for three (3) years by the total amount collected under this tax so as to enable the City to expand the money collected, as authorized by Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

This measure prohibits the City Council from setting the Paramedic Tax rate above the limits authorized. This measure prohibits the City Council from expending any of the tax revenue collected under it for any purpose other than the San Rafael Paramedic Services program. This measure retains the current requirement that the City Council attempt to maintain parity between the tax rate for residential structures and that for non-residential structures.

The ordinance amendment proposed by this measure will be adopted if approved by a two-thirds majority of those electors voting on the measure.

A YES vote approves the measure.
A NO vote rejects the measure.

GARY T. RAGGHIANTI
City Attorney of San Rafael

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE P

YES ON MEASURE P. It’s as simple as this: The cost of providing paramedic service in San Rafael exceeds the current amount of funding available to pay for it.

MEASURE P IS NOT A NEW TAX. The current tax rate of $40 per residential unit and five cents per square foot per non-residential structure is insufficient to cover the cost of the growing demand for emergency medical services. Measure P authorizes an increase in the limit of the current paramedic tax that should be adequate to maintain current service levels through 2003. Phased increases can not add more than a total of $13 for residential units and 2 cents per square foot for non-residential structures over the next three years.

DEDICATED FUNDS. Measure P ensures that approved funding can be used for no purpose other than paramedic services.

MEASURE P NEEDS A 2/3 MAJORITY TO PASS. It takes a supermajority (two-thirds of the voters) to approve this new level of funding.

MEASURE P WILL:
• Insure quick response times, a critical factor in saving lives
• Maintain this vital service at its current level
• Keep our four paramedic units in service

A YES vote on Measure P is needed to maintain our life-saving paramedic service at its current excellent level for everyone in San Rafael.

s/ Richard Geist, MD FACS, Chair
  Committee for San Rafael Paramedic Services

s/ Carney J. Campion
  Committee for San Rafael Paramedic Services

s/ Candice A. Gonzalez
  Committee for San Rafael Paramedic Services

s/ Stephen G. Mizroch, MD
  Committee for San Rafael Paramedic Services

s/ Paul G. Sloan
  Committee for San Rafael Paramedic Services

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED