

Initiative Measure to be Submitted Directly to the Voters at a Special Election Called for this Purpose

The City Attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

Establish a Declaration of Policy of: “Thou Shall Not Covet” to Make It Clear to All Owners of Professional Sports Teams that the City and County of San Francisco Will Not Endorse or Condone the Relocation of Any Team With an Extensive History in Another Location

The love affair that American sports fans enjoy with professional sports are special. At their best, professional sports teams break down barriers and allow all fans to come together around a point of focus, to experience situations together. At the other end of the spectrum, pro sports are simply a business venture intended to enrich owners and investors. Although one could say ‘business is business’ when teams decide to move, too often it is at the emotional and economic expense of communities, sometimes struggling communities, that have supported the sports organization for generations and through good times and bad. When team owners become too fixated on money, they seem to forget that they not only represent the community, but depend on it.

We do not believe anyone should be denied the right to relocate to a place where he or she feels they can make the most on their investment. However, if more cities exercised a greater respect for one another, or dare we say, exemplified *true sportsmanship*, franchises might pick up on the message and show greater respect for their long-term fans and communities.

Many of us in San Francisco loved our 49ers, and though they only moved south some 40 miles, we were still saddened to see the team leave after 68 years in the City. How can we feel proud doing the same thing to another area, let alone, our neighbors? We regret and apologize for this conduct by our City leaders, which paved the way for the owners of one of the jewels of Oakland, CA, the Golden State Warriors, to begin to pack up and leave. The move shows no respect for the great Warrior legacy established in Oakland, CA. In addition, the East Bay workforce will certainly suffer, in an area that should expect to receive the economic boost associated with hosting “the league's greatest fans.” The activities of encouraging the Warrior’s move by the governing body of San Francisco and their associates isn’t in keeping with the character of our City, it is an embarrassment, un-American and certainly un-San Franciscan.

Thou Shall Not Covet Policy of San Francisco shall be: We the People of the City and County of San Francisco California will not invite, entice, encourage, cajole or condone the relocation of any professional sports team that has previously established itself in another municipality and has demonstrated clear and convincing support from community and fans for at least twenty years and is

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profitable. And we stand against any sports team ownership group that attempts to avoid payment of an outstanding public debt. Instead of looking for an opportunity to take from our neighbors we wish to fully support each other and the entire Bay Area.

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