

The Platform

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS:

For EASY READING, all submissions shall be limited to 350 words per article, attempt to comply with the Plain Writing Act of 2010, and submitted to the president by the 2nd Monday of the month.



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MGO DEMOCRATIC CLUB *presents* DEVELOPMENT OF THE OAKLAND ARMY BASE, Part II



CALIFORNIA
CAPITAL & INVESTMENT
GROUP

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 7:00 PM, STERN HALL,
TEMPLE SINAI, 2823 WEBSTER STREET, OAKLAND**

Don't miss the Metropolitan-Greater Democratic (MGO) Club's second program on the Oakland Army Base development. Developer Phil Tagami, the Chief Executive Officer of California Capital Corporation, will discuss status of transformation of a major portion of the base to a global trade and logistics center and its anticipated effect on Oakland employment. The plan is known as Oakland Global (go to <http://oaklandglobal.com> and click on the short video titled "Oakland Global--Logistic Cluster"). The total funding currently dedicated to the project's first of two phases is approximately \$500 million.

Phil is a lifelong resident of Oakland, where he resides with his wife and two children. He has been actively involved in the Oakland community for years as a business owner, an appointee to several state and local commissions, and a volunteer serving on the boards of directors of many organizations. Over the past 20 years he has managed millions of dollars of rehabilitation and new construction projects, both as a principal and as a consultant, and has been active in local/regional politics and policy making, serving on numerous commissions and boards.

The Metropolitan -Greater Oakland Democratic Club is a grassroots Democratic organization that has been involved in Oakland and Alameda County policy and political issues for over 55 years.

More information is available on our website, <http://mgodems.org/>

Attendance at an MGO Democratic club meeting is free and members of the public are welcome. Click [Here](#) or go to www.facebook.com/mgodems or mgoclub.wordpress.com



WELCOME to new member Joseph Tanios. Joseph is the Construction Inspection Supervisor for the City of Oakland, teaches construction project management at Laney College and is the founder and president of Cedar Building and Custom Management.

RECAP: FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Eboard met on Monday, March 10. Present were Gretchen White, Chris Dobbins, Judy Cox, Jim Mordecai, Joe Trapp, Gary Sirbu and Henry Topete, the dog. We also had a club member join us- a first, in my experience: Ken Pratt. Thank you, Ken!

As I say every month, members are welcome to join us at EBoard meetings, which convene the second Monday of the month from 6 to 8 pm in the private dining room at Piedmont Gardens. I don't mean to preach, but really, it adds much to the meetings to have direct involvement from members: if all of you would come to just one board meeting a year it would enrich our board tremendously.

Gary Robinson, asked to come to present an update on the Fast Food Workers Movement, also joined us. (See article on Fast Food Workers Movement.)

Because we did not have a quorum, we could not pass any issue. Acceptance of February minutes was postponed until April.

Arrangements for the March 20th program with Phil Tagami were discussed.

An update on the plans for the April 3rd mayoral debate were discussed. Ken Pratt brought up his objection to our not including all 13 mayoral candidates, an issue that the MGO and MOBN debate planners have discussed at length. Included in the discussion was the possibility that other candidates may file between now and the debate and how that would be decided.

Planning for April, May and June programs were discussed. We are thinking about programs on the issue of athletic teams and Oakland stadia, hoping to get a political star like Kamala Harris or Gavin Newsom, and a program on UCB with Janet Napolitano. There was a light discussion and agreement about starting off our Fall programs with a series about Oakland schools.

Gary Sirbu, who has been dogging the fire department vegetation inspection issue, gave a follow-up to our Op-Ed in the Trib, and several letters to Council. (See article on Fire Department Inspection Update.)

Members are ALWAYS welcome and encouraged to attend EBoard meetings, which meet the second Monday of every month, from 6 to 8 pm, at Piedmont Gardens.

For more information contact Gretchen.white@sbcglobal.net or 655-8118.

**SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE BIG DEBATE**

**Thursday April 3rd, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Temple Sinai, Oakland**



Please mark your calendars for a rip-roaring mayoral candidate debate on Oakland public safety co-sponsored by MGO and MOBN (Make Oakland Better Now.)

Confirmed invitees are Patrick McCullough, Bryan Parker, Jean Quan, Courtney Ruby, Libby Schaaf, Nancy Sidebotham, Dan Siegel, and Joe Tuman.

The press moderators are Chip Johnson, SF Chronicle; Matthew Artz, Oakland Tribune; Robert Gammon, East Bay Express; and Bianca Brooks, Youth Radio.

This debate is a non-partisan public education program. The facility provider, Temple Sinai, and the co-sponsors, MGO and MOBN, have not endorsed any candidate, nor do they take any position on statements made or opinions given by the candidates during the debate

NOTE: As of March 4th 2014, fifteen persons have filed a Candidate Intention Statement Form 501

COUNTDOWN
Primary: 84 Days
General: 236 Days

MGO MEMBERSHIP

As election season nears, we will be putting on our endorsement meetings in which MGO members hear directly from the candidates, ask questions, and decide whom to endorse. We follow up by publicizing our endorsements with ads in local newspapers.

MGO will continue to continue pushing for accountability from Oakland's governmental officials and to lobby for essential reforms. But to do that, we need you!

As a member, you will

- receive the club newsletter;
- have access to our club listserve, MGOTalk;
- be able to take part in decisions about endorsements and positions on issues;
- be the first invited to club social events;

Therefore, we ask you to please, right now, get your checkbook in hand, and write a check to MGO for this year's dues.

The dues schedule is:

Single year dues for one individual:	\$50.00
Single year dues for two individuals, same address:	\$75.00
Two years dues for one individual:	\$90.00
Two years' dues for two individuals, same address:	\$140.00
One year dues for student or senior:	\$20.00
One year dues for limited income individuals:	\$20.00

Please make your check payable to MGO or MGO Democratic Club and forward your dues to:

MGO Democratic Club
PO Box 11622
Oakland, CA 94611.

Please contact MGO President Gretchen White at Gretchen.White@sbcglobal.net regarding dues or membership questions.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT WITH MGO.

OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT HILLS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (UPDATE)

Focus upon the Oakland Fire Department's mismanagement of vegetation inspection and control in the Oakland hills has continued to intensify since publication in the Tribune of the club's January op-ed publicizing the Auditor Courtney Ruby's startling report on this issue in January's Contra Costa Times (http://www.contracostatimes.com/opinion/ci_24909921/oakland-cannot-tolerate-lax-fire-inspections-hills)

After the op-ed went out MGO sent a follow-up letter to the Council requesting an oversight hearing. The Rules Committee responded by calendaring a hearing before the Public Safety Committee, and it will be held next month.

Additionally, the Fire Chief has submitted a request to the Finance Committee for supplemental funding to hire a civilian fire marshal to deal with vegetation inspections and management. The Chief wrote that OFD had already "identified" \$150,000 that is "eligible" for the position but that an additional \$25,000 is necessary to fund such a position for this fiscal year. The Committee was to deal with the request on March 11, but the scheduled hearing was cancelled at the last minute because a quorum was not present. We believe the matter will be quickly be re-calendared, perhaps before the full council.

The Auditor's report noted that 2011, 529 residential properties failed Oakland Fire Code inspections, but the department brought only 7.4% into compliance. In 2012 year, only 18 percent of such properties were brought into compliance. In 2012, 35% of OFD's firefighting personnel staff did not show up for private property vegetation inspection training.

Based on interviews with several members of the Department, the Auditor found that a "lackluster culture" existed around the performance of these duties.

Stay tuned. Gary Sirbu

FAST FOOD WORKERS MOVEMENT: UPDATE

MGO's platform (policy) in support of the Fast Food Workers movement was put before the membership last month and passed overwhelmingly.

Gary Robinson, our liaison with the Fast Food Workers movement (and past president of MGO) will keep us apprised of upcoming rallies and demonstrations.

Right now, there are none planned, but check MGOtalk, because that's where we'll be posting events that come up with little advance notice.

Gary says that the movement's long term goals are raising minimum wage and union organization.

As the movement gets into action later in the year, MGO plans on reaching out to other organizations in the area to build a formidable network of support for this important and worthwhile cause.