

## EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

The City Clerk's Office received  
the attached correspondence regarding  
**Item 6-B on the  
5-6-14 City Council Agenda**

## Lara Weisiger - Re: Letters of Support

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**From:** "margie@echofairhousing.org" <margie@echofairhousing.org>  
**To:** <clerk@ci.alameda.ca.us>  
**Date:** 5/6/2014 2:25 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Letters of Support  
**CC:** Watson-Hajjem Angie <angie@echofairhousing.org>, Reno MaryAnne <maren01...>  
**Attachments:** ECHO appreciation 5-6-2014.pdf; Support Letter.pdf

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To the City Clerk:

Please refer these letters to the Council for tonight's City Council Meeting, May 6, 2014. They are in response to item 6-B.

The person who wrote the second letter doesn't wish to have her name recorded on the minutes of the meeting, but is willing to have her name revealed to the Councilmembers privately. Please let me know how to reveal her name to them and at the same time protect her anonymity.

Thank you,  
Marjorie A. Rocha, Executive Director  
ECHO Housing  
770 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541  
Tel: 510-581-9380 ext. 17 | Fax: 510-537-4793  
margie@echofairhousing.org  
Website: <http://www.echofairhousing.org>

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May 6, 2014

TO: Margie Rocha, Director of ECHO and AngieWatson-Hajjem, Fair Housing Specialist

FROM: Jan Mason, OMM, INC., Mason Management

RE: Appreciation of ECHO Services

Dear Margie and Angie:

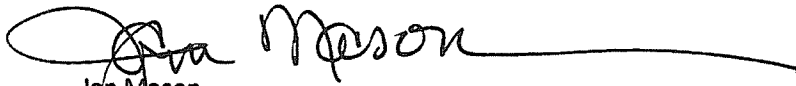
I would like to take this opportunity to express our company's and our client's appreciation of the services ECHO provides to property managers, landlords and tenants in the City of Alameda.

I have been referring clients to ECHO for many years. As a property management company, we sit in the middle of many issues between landlords and tenants. We have been fortunate and have relied on the professional expertise and mediation skills of the ECHO staff to provide information, education and many times - resolution- to misunderstandings, disagreements and disputes.

Your services are invaluable to those of us that wish to maintain a sensible, careful and equitable approach to the management of tenant occupied properties in our City. The education of landlords, agents and tenants is so important in maintaining good relationships so that rental housing in Alameda stays desirable, safe and fair for all parties. Your service participates in that fairness.

Thank you and I look forward to ECHO receiving the City funds necessary to continue to support the programs you have in place for the benefit of the citizens of Alameda.

Sincerely,



Jan Mason  
Owner, OMM, INC.

May 6, 2014

Alameda City Council

Alameda CA

Re: Statement in support of continued funding for ECHO

Dear Council Members:

I have resided in Alameda CA since 1991. Until recently, I had no need for ECHO as I rented from an ethical property owner who dealt honestly with me for 19 years. Unfortunately, at nearly 66 years of age, I am facing a 60-day eviction notice due to my protestations over the fraudulent description of my apartment complex by the landlords/ owners. Specifically, they characterized their property as both pet and smoke free, which was false when I first moved there in 2008 and remains false.

I have and am suffering ill health due to this fraud. This has been compounded by first being coerced to pay more rent, then to sign a new lease (which omitted the clauses mentioned above) and subsequently being served in early April 2014 with a "Pay or Quit" 5-day eviction notice and a 60-day eviction notice when I declined to sign said lease.

Where does one turn in the face of such injustice? Alameda does not have protective laws around eviction or rent increase as do other nearby cities. This lack leaves Alameda's elderly, disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens with no recourse when they are victimized in such manner.

When I called ECHO, it was in desperation and with great anxiety. The consolation and advice I received from Ms. Mills was invaluable in calming my distress and informing me of what I might do to survive. She also offered to contact my landlords and advocate for me. What the outcome of this awful chain of events might be is still uncertain. However, I am very sure that the support I received from ECHO and Ms. Mills was and remains a lifeline to me.

Honorable Council members, keep in mind that such injustice could very well befall your mother, grandmother, aunt, or even you someday. I never thought it would happen to me. Please continue funding for ECHO so that those like me will have a place to turn.

Sincerely,

Your Alameda neighbor