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Rubin puts his actions behind his 'smart-growth' words

It's been three months since Jon Rubin and Mary Janney embarked upon their venture to build a new San Mateo County organization that would represent the interests of, as they put it, "smart growth." Believing that there was a disconnect between the quality of life provided by cities and the County through services paid by sustainable growth, the Peninsula Coalition was born.

So serious is his commitment to building the organization, that Rubin has resigned as a principal in Bay Relations, a public relations and lobby firm in Daly City. The board of directors of the coalition has been built by people of like-minded objectives.

They include Linda Asbury of the San Mateo Chamber of Commerce; Tim Auran, Burlingame Realtor and planning commissioner; Michael Berube of Borel Real Estate Co. in San Mateo; Anthony Clifford of First National Bank; Greg Cochran of the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; Tony Fazio of Winning Directions in South San Francisco; Janney of Sterling Court in Burlingame; Todd Kaufman of Genentech in Sacramento; Travis Kiyota of PG&E in Daly City; Tom Mohr, former superintendent of San Mateo Unified School District in San Mateo; Kevin Mullin of Mullin Communications in South San Francisco; Bill Nack of the San Mateo County Building Trades in Foster City; Stacey Wagner of BFI in San Carlos; and will include staff member, Annie Egan.

Rubin served as chief of staff for state Sen. Quentin Kopp, and has worked with Bay

Area boards of supervisors, cities, state and local agencies. He serves on the Joint Powers Board for Caltrain, the tri-county governing body for San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara county railway systems.

As president and CEO of Peninsula Coalition, Rubin is looking forward to putting his organization behind efforts to pass Measure A, the 1/2 cent sales tax for transportation, and the Marina Shores Village initiative in Redwood City. He is under no illusions about the challenges that both issues face in the November election, but believes his coalition can build grass roots support for their passage.

Rubin says the Coalition has \$100,000 in funds and that more is on the way as its membership expands. He says he will announce the names of new members as they join the organization.

Here is what a recent survey of 28 probation officers in the County Juvenile Probation Department found: they collectively have 539 cases, 23.4 percent of which are in San Mateo, 22.3 percent in Daly City, and only 9.1 percent in Redwood City. Redwood City isn't that much smaller than the other two cities, so why is its caseload so much smaller? The disparity is glaring.

The numbers are important because from all indications, youth gangs are on the rise in the County once again after a lull during the 1990s. So what is the reason for an increase in gang activity? Does it revolve around the economy and an increase in joblessness?

What is Redwood City doing that brings its numbers of youth on probation down to 9.1 percent? That is a question the police chiefs in Daly City and San Mateo should be asking, if those numbers are accurate. The statistics were provided by Community Crime Prevention Associates, which was asked to assist the Probation Department in analyzing data of youth in the county program.

If opponents of Safeway support a downsized version of the new store, why would they be so upset that Mayor Rosalie O'Mahony has brought the project back only six months after its rejection? Isn't the purpose to bring a new Safeway store to Burlingame? But they should have no fear. Safeway is not happy with the mayor's proposal, because they won't build a new store for \$20 million, which when Walgreens is included, is just a little larger than their present store. So have no fear, a new Safeway is not near.

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