Against EO nits Vote

By Wallace Wood Sentinel Staff Writer

An attempt to avoid public embarrassment to county Eco nomic Opportunity Commission officials and other persons con- be reached for comment. nected with the EOC's current councilmen to embarrass themselves a bit yesterday.

including City officials many city councilmen -- admitted just a little sheepishly they voted against any city sponsorship of the housing survey at a secret "personnel" session two

weeks ago. Once the fact was out, however, few showed much reluctance in saying they have little faith in the EOC's survey and want no part of it. At three councilmen have directed

their wives and families not to

answer EOC questionnaires. EOC area service center director Chuck Keaty, who is co-ordinating the survey, said he didn't think the council's attitude "is any worse than some people's who just pay lip service to us."

"Some of the questions are almost personal," Councilman Councilman Ernest Wicklund, Sr., declared. "They hire some of the least qualified people (for interviewers) and we have no control over them. We didn't want them snooping any more than they had to." Wicklund said they his family has refused to answer questions.

Mayor Sam Leask had only guarded "no comment" the decision at the closed session, but said strongly he lieves the survey's may not be fair," and that he "doesn't expect them to be valid." The mayor also said he has ordered no answers given to interviewers at his house. Vice-mayor Raymond Goodrich made a similar statement about questionnaires.

The city was asked to join the survey, along with the county Health department, some time ago. Originally, the plan was to have the EOC's 12 interviewers trained by the city's building department spot obvious housing code vio-

lations. This would have been helpful to the city, since Santa Cruz must update its old "workable program" from the Redevelopment for federal agencies. workable program is a collection of data on the community's plans for self-improvment. Catalaguing substandard housing is one step in updating.

Thumbs quickly went down on this city training idea when it came up at the closed session. Some councilmen said they didn't "want any part" of an EOC-run project, since the city would have little or no control over inter-Others. such viewers. Wicklund, pointed out the interviewers would not save the city any money in the long run. "We have to do a more exhaustive survey, using building inspectors who know Wickwhat they're doing," lund said yesterday.

City Planning Director Neal Walton confirmed this viewpoint. He said the council's aconly against training EOC workers and direct city involvement, and that he and the building inspectors were allowed to suggest questions which interviewrs might ask. "These questions will help us know where to look" for substandard housing, he declared.

Walton added that "one of the things which is going to have to be done is a systematic housing code enforcement program. And they couldn't do that for us."

Keaty backed Walton's statement, in turn. He said the results of the survey will be turned over to the city and to the county health department, which also suggested questions

for the survey,

it." Councilman Eugene Fleming, who said he wasn't at the closed session, nevertheless threw in that "I wouldn't threw in that

"if they want

want anything like this done which wasn't under close supervision by the city."

Councilmen Norman Walters

housing survey actually led city matter was discussed at a clos-

"avoid to Iwas some people with good intension would have led to needless tinutions, but bad ideas." He said ill-will all around. "the public could have gotten

embarrassing They indicated a public discus-

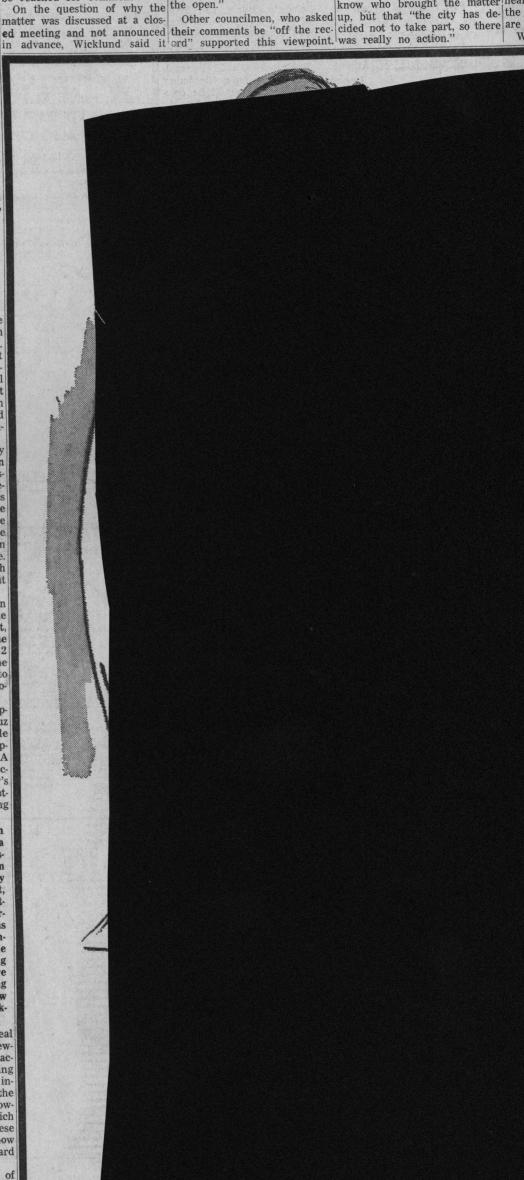
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who is it w Mrs. Lorette Wood, or reached for comment.

On the question of why the atter was discussed at the council's representative on the property who had hashed it out in the EOC, said she does not said and Richard Werner could not some very wrong ideas about the council's representative on uary



See John Duffy