



## Council majority makes light of coalition

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SANTA CRUZ — A new political coalition formed to oppose "the policies of the extremists currently controlling the City Council" is being dubbed politics as usual by the council majority.

Called the All Santa Cruz Coalition, the new group includes Norm Lezin, Salz Tannery president and former Santa Cruz mayor; and Ernie Dillon, president of Dominican Hospital Foundation.

Also in the group are Frank Gallagher, state senior senator; Mary Anderson, past president of the county Day Care Association; Col. Joe Townsend, president of the Round Tree Home Association, and Lee Courtright, president of the Santa Cruz High School Cardinal Club.

According to the group's statement, "The coalition has been in the planning stages for the past several months after it became clear that it was important to

demonstrate the broad base of opposition to the policies of the extremists currently controlling the City Council."

Lezin is quoted, "We share a desire to protect the rights of all residents, whether they be young or old, a dedication to improving essential city services, and the conviction that city government must serve the interest of its citizens, and must not be dedicated to serving the dogma of an extremist ideology."

Mayor Bruce Van Allen says, "It sounds like the Berkeley Coalition that formed against rent control. Once again they're trying to carve out a non-existent political position in the city of Santa Cruz.

"It sounds like an attempt to create a political illusion," Van Allen says.

Van Allen is seeing re-election to a second term as is Councilman Michael Rotkin who says, "They represent the conservative forces that have run Santa Cruz for decades, and I'm not surprised they formed a coalition.

"As in the last two elections, citizens will have to choose between conservative rhetoric and the actions of a progressive council dedicated to citizen involvement in government."

Lezin replies, "Even though I have high personal regard for the incumbents who are running again, I don't feel that their views are representative of the majority of Santa Cruz residents and, while they are nice people to know, they have a peculiar private agenda not in the best interests of Santa Cruz."

Levin says that as a Democrat, he was the target of "personal attacks from local bigots. I never felt it was appropriate to introduce partisan politics or ideological agendas to city affairs."

Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt is in the council majority as a progressive politician.

She says, "I'm overwhelmed at the empty rhetoric that focuses on emotional language, rather than on focusing on the

issues.

"What does he mean 'extremist dogma'? Let's have some discussion of the council's priorities on increasing affordable housing, human services and an end to violence against women.

"Let's talk about which of these issues they think are extreme. I will debate with anybody on whether it is extremist's dogma to try to find a way to get affordable housing," she says.

Dillon says that one of the extremist stands was the council's general reaction against the Miss California Pageant.

Rotkin and Councilman John Laird, the other progressive, were standing in support of protesters to the pageant.

Laird says of the coalition, "Welcome to the political arena.

"But, of the names I recognize, they are people who endorsed the (moderate-conservative) slate last election.

"This doesn't appear to be a new political realignment, or a change to me."