

Royal Park

CITY WATCH

On Wednesday, March 19, 1997, at 7:30 pm, the City Commission of the City of Oakland Park, will meet at City Hall. I am begging every Royal Park resident that can walk or crawl to attend the meeting. The election of March 11, 1997 may signal an end to our peaceful co-existence with the City.

Two new commissioners were elected that day. They join a third, Rob Sproc, to form a new majority on the commission. They ran, and were elected, on a platform that promised to THROW OUT THE WEIGHT BASED SYSTEM OF TRASH REMOVAL, AND FIRE THE CITY MANAGER. If this doesn't strike fear in your hearts, then I guess that we deserve what they plan on doing to Royal Park.

The city manager, Skip Johnston, a highly regarded professional, had demanded equity in city services. That meant, for garbage, that Royal Park would only pay for what Royal Park threw away. Businesses and restaurants, which discard the heaviest trash, were being forced to pay their fair share. Royal Park won. Our garbage fees went DOWN \$1400 to \$1500 A MONTH.

If we, Royal Park, as a group, do not attend the March 19th meeting, and let the new commission understand, loud and clear, that we INSIST on keeping both the city manager, AND the weight based system, then we deserve what we're going to get. We may deserve it anyway, since our candidates lost by only ELEVEN,(count them, 11 votes), and I've spoken to 5 people today, who "forgot" to vote.

Since Mr. Johnston has been the City Manager, Royal Park has benefited greatly. Without him, and

with the new commission, we're going to be right back where we were 4 years ago, at the mercy of every politician with an agenda slanted towards the wealthy.

It hasn't been that long ago since a previous commission shut a roadway, without any input from Royal Park. We fought for TWO YEARS, with a sympathetic commission, in order to reduce our garbage bills. With the savings, we were able to start the replumbing of our buildings. We are in the midst of a fight, with Skip Johnston's help, to stop those darned train horns.

Without a MASSIVE turnout, by Royal Park, on Wednesday, March 19, I'm afraid that all will be lost. For those of you who are saying, "So what!", let me spell it out, in dollars and cents.

The new commission wants to hire an outside trash company for residential deliveries. Businesses, commercial apartments, and condominiums will be on their own. That means, that we will have to seek out our own companies, and set a price with them. There will be NO help from the City. If they decide to double our rates, WE WILL HAVE TO PAY.

When was the last time that trash hauling companies were dragged into court for price-fixing and conspiracy. Wayne didn't get rich by being a humanitarian when it came to those on fixed incomes. Forget stabilizing our maintenance costs. We will be in the middle of a financial crisis that may cause some people to lose their units. All because ELEVEN people from Royal Park didn't vote. So, either we turn out, EN MASSE, to let the new commissioners know that we will not tolerate them messing with our finances, or we do as we did on Tuesday, election day, March 11. We sit home and don't do anything. And let the chips fall where they may. It's very scary to me. I hope it scares you, too.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR WATER???

In December, we had an unfortunate incident with our water. It was turned off, almost all day, because our lift station had broken down. Most of you don't even know what a lift station is, let alone that Royal Park has one. But almost all of you asked, "Why don't we have any water???".

The lift station removes our solid waste from Royal Park. Basically, it takes the stuff that we flush down the toilet, and sends it to the sewage system. **UNFORTUNATELY**, someone, or several someone's, decided to flush several 30 gallon trash bags down their commodes. It almost destroyed our lift station, and cost us many hundred dollars in repairs. Our residents were without water, for, to turn on the water, would assure burning out the lift station. Now we're talking thousands of dollars in repairs. We survived.

Today, March 12, 1997, we discovered several 20 gallon trash bags in our lift station. **WHOEVER IS FLUSHING TRASH BAGS DOWN THEIR COMMODES, PLEASE STOP IT!!!!!!** We can't afford to have you living here!!!! If you are unable to bring your trash to the dumpsters, **PLEASE** call the office. We will have your trash picked up. Please don't jeopardize all of Royal Park. We

will be happy to help you eliminate your trash. Lift station repairs are ridiculously costly. That's very understandable, if you've ever had to wade through the sewage. Our maintenance staff has been performing above and beyond the call of duty.

It's a no-brainer folks. If you need help, we'll provide it. Just don't put all of Royal Park in a precarious position. No one need know that you needed help. Just call us!!

NEW MAINTENANCE COUPONS IN THE MAIL

Our new maintenance coupons should be arriving by March 21, 1997. They will reflect an increase of \$48.00 a quarter for every owner, starting with April 1997. For those of you who have had cable TV, it will be a **DECREASE**, of out of pocket expenses, of about \$47.00 a quarter. This is exactly **HALF** of what you have been charged for expanded cable, over a three month period. For the 117 owners who didn't have cable, it will be an increase in your maintenance.

A condominium board, by law, is required to act in the best interests of the majority of members of the Association. Royal Park's majority signified their over-whelming approval to require cable for all

units. It is, in fact, saving 554 owners a lot of money.

The new budget, including the cable fees, will be discussed at the monthly meeting of March 20, 1997. Should you have any questions, please bring them to the meeting, and they will be addressed.

CALL THE CABLE COMPANY

All of our units are ready to be wired for cable. If you are among the 117 owners who do not have cable, **CALL THE OFFICE TODAY** to schedule having your unit wired. Those who have already done so have been enjoying **FREE** cable.

Gayle will give you the phone numbers at Comcast. They will come to your home, at **NO** charge, and wire your apartment for cable. If you do not have a cable ready TV, Comcast will provide an adapter box, **AT NO CHARGE**.

Every unit owner is entitled to **TWO** outlets, at no charge. If you want more, you will be charged for the installation. If you want **PREMIUM** channels, such as HBO, Showtime, or whatever else they have, you will be billed **separately** for those services. The expanded basic is included in the \$48.00 you're paying quarterly.