Rebuttal to Argument Against the San Mateo Sales Tax Measure

We agree on one thing: **every tax dollar must be spent responsibly.** However, fiscal responsibility also means confronting reality and not allowing the services we depend on to deteriorate.

Measure H asks for an additional ¼¢ to protect the basics that keep San Mateo safe and strong: police and fire protection, paramedics and 911 response, safer streets and pothole repair, clean parks and other essential city services.

Opponents argue that approximately $7 million won't eliminate the projected deficit, which is now $18.2 million. But rejecting $7 million because it doesn't solve every problem means the city will have to make more significant cuts that affect our everyday lives. Measure H is about the people who coach your child's Little League team, who make Music in the Park happen, who respond to the 17-year-old's cardiac arrest fast enough to save their life and so much more.

We should demand efficiency and accountability City Hall. Yet efficiency alone doesn't fill potholes, answer 911 calls, or ensure firefighters and paramedics are there when our families need them.

We should insist on accountability **and** protect essential services. An oversight committee will continue reviewing how funds are allocated and spent, providing transparency and public accountability.

And let's be clear: **this measure will not increase the cost of groceries or prescription medications**, which are exempt from sales tax.

Measure H is a practical investment in the city we all call home—while demanding responsible stewardship of every dollar.

Vote YES on Measure H for a safe, strong, and fiscally responsible San Mateo.