



## Media Advisory

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North Bay Organizing Project releases Report on Equity, disputing inadequate report by the Sonoma County Economic Development Board.

NBOP, a diverse coalition of social justice, faith, labor and environmental organizations and North Bay Jobs with Justice are holding a Press Conference today at 7 am at the Double Tree Hotel in Rohnert Park to dispute the Economic Development Board's 2016 Report on the State of the County, celebrated today at that site. NBOP disputes EDB's dominate narrative that jobs, quality of life and community are thriving in Sonoma County. Because the EDB report ignores critical indicators of widespread local poverty and inequity, NBOP is presenting its own Report on Equity in Sonoma County: The Other Side of the Story. This Report examines the "human indicators" overlooked by the EDB, which show that over one-third of Sonoma County families live in poverty, low-wage jobs are increasing, housing affordability is dire, and transportation funding is inequitable. The data also demonstrate how people of color, immigrants and women continue to be marginalized.

Vice President of NBOP, current Realtor, and Santa Rosa resident Sibyl Day calls on local government to help battle rising inequity: "Everyone agrees that we are in a housing crisis. Today there are no protections in place for tenants, and profit-driven evictions are displacing our residents every day. Rent Stabilization and Just Cause Eviction policies provide the most basic protections for the thousands of renters, while at the same time maintaining the rights of landlords, predictable rent costs, and creating positive means of communication for both parties to settle rental disputes."

Transit Riders United member Janis Watkins says students who take the bus to school should be a higher priority for the County than well-connected wineries: "The Board of Supervisors voted against getting kids to school for a cost of \$248,262 a year, yet the County's Tourism Board just gave \$500,000 dollars to the SuperBowl to subsidize wineries. This is the wrong priority for spending public money."

For more information on NBOP, visit [www.northbayop.or](http://www.northbayop.or)