

IT TAKES COURAGE....

My name is Sally Zinman. I am the coordinator of the Berkeley Drop-In Center. I also am a citizen of Berkeley. I've been here for twelve years and raised a daughter here.

I'm speaking on behalf of the housing projects for people with AIDS. But I think more generically I want to speak on behalf of all the projects, housing and others, that are having trouble being sited in Berkeley and throughout the country because of people's fears, discrimination and stereotypes.

I found a quote about a year and a half ago that I put up on my office and looked at when the Berkeley Drop-In Center was going through the kind of problems we did at that time with neighbors.

It's from Eleanor Roosevelt and she wrote it in 1958:

**"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual persons; the neighborhood...; the school or college...; the factory, farm or office...Such are the places where everyman, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."
(Eleanor Roosevelt, 1958.)**

Thinking about that...it is always on places so close that you can't see them on a map, that people have the most trouble with their politics, it's in their own back yards, it's right next to them. Some people struggle with it and because they're human don't do "the right thing." They don't come up with answers that maybe they should. I'm not here to talk about them. I'm here to talk about you and your leadership.

I think **you** are the people who have to take the citizen action. You, I think, as the City Council, have to listen to people at their best, not at their worst. You have to show leadership.

And without that kind of leadership there have been little civil rights gains in the last 40 or 50 years. So I'm looking to **you** to speak **for** us...when in our confusion and our fear and discrimination we are not able to do the right thing in our own backyards.

(Speech given by Sally Zinman to the Berkeley City Council in support of City funding for a controversial AIDS housing in April 1995. The project was not funded.)