

Citizens committee for CBAs in limbo

Panel purged by city administrator rendered helpless on a technicality

By MARK HEDIN

NOW THAT SIX deep-pocket newcomers to the mid-Market are more than three months into the process of “giving back” as part of the community benefit agreements they signed to qualify for the Twitter tax break, the committee that was the community’s sole voice in the process has been sidelined on a technicality. For how long is unclear.

“June’s probably a wash,” Ivy Lee, an aide to District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim, said in mid-May while discussing efforts to reconstitute the Citizen’s Advisory Committee, “but hopefully July.”

The panel’s next order of business was to review the first quarterly reports submitted by the \$1 million-plus payroll companies required to execute a CBA: Twitter, Yammer, One Kings Lane, 21Tech, Zoosk and Zendesk.

“It was never clear what we were supposed to do.”

Mara Blitzer
CAC SEAT 9

Four members of the unpaid CAC were informed the day before the May meeting that they had been “deemed to have resigned” due to unexcused absences from meetings of the committee, which was formed in 2011 to advise the city administrator on the framework of benefits, review the draft agreements and take public input on them. The committee has no authority to accept or reject the agreements or order specific changes, only to make recommendations based on community feedback.

The city’s power play blindsided many CAC members, most of them unaware of the procedure that has cost the committee dearly in lost time as the CBAs are starting to be implemented.

Bill Barnes, the city administrator’s chief liaison between the tech companies and the CAC, on the advice of the city attorney’s office wrote the panel May 1 that four of its members had to reapply for their seats through the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee if they wished to continue serving, explaining that the city attorney had determined the CAC had not followed procedure in excusing absent members. Four unexcused absences, triggered the purge, although the minutes show that, by that standard, at least three of the miscreants had been out of compliance since November.

“I was surprised,” said Brad Paul, one of the disenfranchised. “It wasn’t explained to us, how unique it was, the way that we had to vote to excuse an absence.” Paul missed six of 2012’s dozen meetings and three of the four this year.

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JUNE 2013

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Wins 2nd place: overall excellence

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‘SHORTY’ LEGASCA DIES AT 69

They called him ‘Mayor of 6th Street’

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

LAFAYETTE COFFEE SHOP



Lafayette Coffee Shop on Hyde Street, a relic from the Tenderloin’s past, is 60 years old, outliving others in the central city, though it has middle-class counterparts in other districts.

LAST OF ITS KIND

Eatery’s faithful have been dining here for decades

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

WHEN MIMI YEE’S way-cheap Manor House restaurant on Jones Street closed March 1, scores of bereft customers drifted away like wind-blown leaves. Some trudged to the west side of the Tenderloin to Lafayette Coffee Shop, 250 Hyde St., where the owners say their business is up.

Lafayette’s business card — a stylish contrast to cardless, bare-bones Manor House — pictures a chunk of prime rib, mashed potatoes, gravy and a pile of canned corn. It trumpets, “Good Food Friendly Environment Since 1925,” the year Kezar Stadium went up. The city’s population, 96% white then, was climbing to 600,000. Bread cost 9 cents a loaf.

Confirming the Lafayette’s seminal year wasn’t easy. Records in the Main Library’s sixth-floor San Francisco room showed the five-story building that houses the restaurant was built in 1907. The restaurant’s space was a retail store in 1913. The city directory that goes back to the 1800s first mentions the Lafayette Coffee Shop on Hyde in 1953. Owned then by Nick Reckis, the coffee shop was next door to Lafayette Cleaners, space that’s now part of the Midori Hotel. City restaurant records show that George Kodros took it over in 1969.

Lafayette has a palpable feel of even older days. Its round neon sign in front, old-timey white lettering on a brown background —

mentioning at the bottom, of course, prime rib — is the first hint of a time warp. You enter, passing on the right the cash register and its CASH ONLY sign. Just beyond, in front of the grill, is the Formica counter and its eight stools. Behind them, filling out the restaurant, are 10 comfortably worn, deep red Naugahyde booths, the signature of the place.

This is 1950s straight up, though the imaginative regular customers suggest their haven has legs into the ’40s or ’30s. Who really knows? For sure, it’s such a classic that it’s not hard to imagine Humphrey Bogart, a loose liplock on a dangling Camel, sliding onto a stool, asking around for some creep who owes him a C note.

The Lafayette has been used often as a backdrop diner for the old times, the owners say, most recently a year ago by local documentary filmmakers. Another historic addendum: The Lafayette, next door to the Cadillac grocery, is across the street from the former Wally Heider studios where the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane and Van Morrison recorded in the late 1960s and ’70s.

MEI’S REIGN

On a Monday morning about 11 a.m., Mei holds forth in a stentorian voice that can peel the peach wall paint. The Lafayette is clearly the waitress’ empire. She’s ruled here for 27 years. Short, and gruff as a drill sergeant, she can also at any second rock the place with peals of laughter.

“Everybody knows me,” she says abruptly. “Like Mimi!” With that, eyes dancing, she throws her head back and laughs like there’s no tomorrow. Four customers, scattered in corners, hunker over their food, pay no attention until one glances up to bark:

“I’ll have a root beer, Mei!”

“Coming, coming!” she shouts back.

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Central City Extra honored for its overall excellence

S.F. Peninsula Press Club hands paper 8 news awards — 3 are blue ribbons

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

CENTRAL CITY EXTRA again took home kudos from the San Francisco Peninsula Press Club's June 1 Greater Bay Area Journalism Awards dinner. Winners for the 36th annual event were selected from 463 entries from 11 counties, and represented work done in 2012 in print, online and broadcast media.

The Extra, submitting stories and graphics in the Newspapers Non-Dailies category, won eight awards.

Extra Editor and Publisher Geoff Link's headlines got two prizes: first for "No ifs or ands in litter — but plenty of butts," which topped a July story about teen volunteers who picked up 2,072 cigarette butts in two hours, and second prize for "Free food for sale," the May story about sidewalk food sellers.

The award presenter told the audience that "Free food for sale" does exactly what headlines should do: "According to the jury, it tells it all."

The Extra took second place for Overall Excellence among non-dailies, beating out the Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal. First place went to

the Palo Alto Weekly.

Recently retired reporter Tom Carter took third prize in the Series category for his Tenderloin Stars stories — about Frank, 21 Club barman (February), artists living in SROs (March), Hospitality House Executive Director Jackie Jenks (June), and Sumi Monoarfa, monthly volunteer chef and resident of the Dalt Hotel (August).

In the Specialty Story category, Carter also won third prize for his potent, thorough story "Diabetes Central," about the scourge of the disease in the Tenderloin (November).

Two first prizes went to reporter Jonathan Newman, one in the category of Feature Story of a Serious Nature for his "Free food for sale," the other in the Feature Story of a Light Nature category for "It's a shoe-in a Shiekh," his July tale of the people who waited in line for six days to buy Air Yeezy II sneakers.

Art Beat contributor Ed Bowers won third prize in the Analysis category for "Poet's Tenderloin Tour" (December-January), a lyrical, first-person look at the neighborhood's heroes, homeless and characters, an innovative adventure in urban journalism. ■



PHOTO BY TROY HOLDEN

Artist Richard "Luckey" Perri has his portrait taken by Troy Holden in Perri's Oddfellows Building studio at Seventh and Market, where he's worked for decades.

Burnishing Tenderloin's image

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

PHOTOGRAPHER Troy Holden is looking for individuals and families who live or work in the central city to shoot in their home or place of business. In 10 months, he's done 32 such sittings as part of his Behind Brick Walls project and is aiming for 50 by the end of June.

He'll give each participant a free, framed, 8 x 10 color portrait.

There's no catch.

Holden launched his project with \$1,500 from the TL CBD. "We're mandated to use 5% of our budget each year to promote a positive district identity for the Tenderloin," wrote CBD Director Dina Hilliard in an email. She expects this project to help "prompt a change in the usual perception that the Tenderloin is a neighborhood to be

avoided [and] highlight that behind the brick facades of the buildings is, in fact, a rich and vibrant community."

Holden, who lived in the central city for 10 years, starting in 1996, says the CBD commission pays for only the printing and framing of the portraits. "All of my time is donated — it's a labor of love for a neighborhood I care about. My subjects have been traditional families, single mothers, same-sex couples, millionaires, SRO residents, artists and much more."

From the 50 portraits, he'll pick out the strongest images, print them on 24 x 36 archival quality paper and, with the subjects' permission, donate them to a historical society or possibly publish them online.

For more info or to schedule a sitting: 283-7452 or troyholden@gmail.com. ■



PHOTO BY ELLEN BUNNING

The Central City Extra winners, from left: Marjorie Beggs, senior writer; Ed Bowers, Art Beat writer; reporters Jonathan Newman and Tom Carter.

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

NEWS IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE
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City's power play blindsides CAC members

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Barnes showed The Extra the dates of communications between his office and the city attorney's showing that, despite such erratic attendance by Paul and others, the situation was not under official review until April.

Losing those four members, combined with three existing vacancies, means the committee's four surviving members can no longer conduct official business, as the required quorum for the 11-member body is six.

"The members of the CAC were taken aback," said Mara Blitzer, who as senior project manager for TNDC holds Seat 9, which is reserved for an expert in commercial real estate leasing. "In my opinion, it is really unfortunate that the (city's administrator's) staff took the stance that they did. It's disruptive to the process. We really struggled with how the city has supported this committee."

The committee's rules and regulations, as described on the city administrator's website, simply say: "If any member cannot attend a meeting of the Committee, he or she should notify the Office of the City Administrator in advance of the meeting about the absence. Any member who misses four meetings within a 12-month period, without the approval of the Committee shall be deemed to have resigned."

For an absence to be excused, it must be voted on by the CAC and the result noted in the minutes of the meeting, Barnes said.

'ADMINISTRATIVE SNAFU'

Back in 2011, when the Citizen's Advisory Committee was formed, "It was never clear about what we were supposed to do," Blitzer, one of four members who have been on the CAC from the beginning, told The Extra. "Some people were emailing (their excuse to) the chair, some were emailing the city administrator. ... The city administrator sets the agenda and was supposed to put the topic of excused absences on the agenda. That was a massive administrative snafu. There was no procedure in place."

Jessica Huey, of the city administrator's office who has been drafting the CAC agendas and taking the minutes throughout the committee's existence, said knowledge of the rules was left for the committee members to figure out for themselves.

"It wasn't something on anybody's immediate radar in starting the committee," she said. "Now that it has become an issue it's being dealt with. It just happened. There's no story behind it other than it came to the committee's attention."

Huey confirmed that both the city administrator's office and the committee chair, Dina Hilliard, would get messages from committee members about upcoming absences. But although she was in frequent communication with the committee and Hilliard about agenda items, Huey said they never discussed adding absences to the agendas. Although she literally types up the agendas, Huey said, "All the agenda items are set by the chair. Obviously, there's conversations that happen between the chair and the city administrator's office, but whatever's been set at the meeting or communicated in an email" would be what was reflected in the agenda.

"The way to get excused is to have the committee excuse you," Barnes said. "The chair never included a separate agenda item on it."

Hilliard, who chaired the committee from its inception until she resigned in April to welcome her new baby, told The Extra that "I had no idea" about the procedure for excusing absences. "I assumed an excused absence was when you let it be known that you'd be missing a meeting," she said. "I'm really sur-

"Rules are rules, but before you bring the hammer down, I do feel like there could be some kind of warning and discussion and a head's-up."

Dina Hilliard
FORMER CAC CHAIR

prised and disappointed that this has happened.

"The people removed from the committee had a lot of really great contributions to make to the committee. I don't know if the city administrator talked to them offline, I certainly hope they did. Rules are rules, but before you bring the hammer down, I do feel like there could be some kind of warning and discussion and a head's-up."

Eva Perring, who's held Seat 1, which represents low-income families in the neighborhood, since the committee was formed, said she was unaware of the unfamiliar procedure.

Paul, a veteran community activist, said the procedure is a first for him.

Paul, who also sits on the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee, which is former Supervisor Chris Daly's precursor to the CAC, said he repeatedly brought up the time conflict between the two committees that look out for the community's best interests.

But when asked for alternative dates to accommodate members' schedules, Blitzer recalled, "They (the city administrator) wouldn't change. They couldn't find available rooms ... (they) limited their search to City Hall, when there's the whole community. It also took them a long time to provide us with copies of the meeting minutes. It seemed to me that they were very short-staffed and not paying attention."

At the May 2 CAC meeting, for which minutes are not available as its lack of quorum made it not an official meeting, Barnes apologized for the confusion created by the purging of the four members, and encouraged the just-ousted panelists present to reapply for their seats.

He also said the city would be hiring someone to work exclusively with the CAC and another citizen's advisory committee in the Bayview. That person, since hired, is Tim Ho, who will be taking over Huey's role with the CAC.

"We were going to try to start the process of reviewing applications for tax breaks sooner," Paul said. Citing the way that the Twitter and One Kings Lane CBAs were finalized with only minimal community input, in part because the CAC was unable to field a quorum in late December and early January and hold a hearing for public comment, he said, "The way to avoid that in the future is to start the process sooner."

QUARTERLY REPORTS HELD UP

Paul also said that the committee hoped to get an early start in framing and reviewing CBAs with companies that recently applied for the payroll tax exclusion, but the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, which reviews those applications, said none had applied this year, though the tax break application deadline isn't until November.

On May 30, Web music streamer Spotify announced it had leased three floors of the Warfield building, within the tax break boundaries, and reportedly has the \$1 million-plus payroll that would mandate a new CBA.

In any case, the CAC anticipated being busy this month reviewing the first quarterly reports on the CBA progress. Those agreements were finalized Jan. 31, so quarterly reports covering February through April activity were expected by the end of May.

But quorum or no, those reports are nowhere in sight. Zendesk made a presentation to Market Street for the Masses in late May, describing various CBA activities including: 359 volunteer hours by its staff at Glide, Episcopal Community Services and the Tenderloin Tech Lab out of its goal of 625 hours this year; almost \$15,000 in local spending at two catered events; film screenings; walking tours, partnerships with Luggage Gallery on art installations, and donating eight bikes to the Tenderloin After School Program.

Zendesk also listed community investments that it described as being outside of its CBA, including sponsoring a float in the 2013 Pride Parade, Sunday Streets, the TNDC birthday dinner on May 17, Luggage Gallery's ArtPad event and the CHEFS Summertime Program.

Barnes, however, said he had not seen Zendesk's accounting, nor any others, and blamed "a state of flux in the CAC," but not the lack of a quorum, for the holdup in producing the quarterly reports. He said CAC members had expressed concerns about the reports' content and format, so the city administrator staff is considering various formats. Barnes said he'd contact The Extra when a format had been agreed to and forms delivered to the CBA firms. No word yet by June 3.

"They (the CAC) wanted a more consistent and transparent form of reporting," he said, "Now that there's this extra delay, we're writing up three or

four different options."

He also said that more important, in his view, would be the six-month report the CAC is required to give the Board of Supervisors and the annual report on the CBAs the city administrator must make to the board.

"I think most (CBA companies) have been pretty good about notifying the community and city about their efforts," he said, citing Twitter's grants and Yammer's volunteer days as examples. But "there's obviously some stuff that's below the radar."

APPLICATIONS PUSHED BACK

The CAC vacancies were posted May 7 based on information Barnes provided to Rules Committee Chairman Norman Yee aide Matthias Mormino.

Kim's aide Ivy Lee said the supervisor had been personally recruiting CAC applicants and mentioned the openings in her newsletter.

"We're really pushing to fill the seats not with just anyone, but people with real expertise who could have an impact on building relationships between the neighborhood and community and these companies," Lee said.

The mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, which reviews applications for the payroll tax exclusion, on May 23 sent an email through its Central Market Partnership organization mentioning a May 24 application deadline and describing the application process.

Vacancies must be posted for 30 days and applications received 10 days before the Rules Committee can act on them. A dozen applicants met the May 24 deadline (See sidebar on Page 6.)

Ultimately, however, the Rules Committee finalized its agenda for the June 6 meeting without including the CAC vacancies. Barnes on May 28 cited "concern about the level of outreach" and said the Memorial Day holiday had af-

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Type 1 Diabetes?



Up to 70% of people with diabetes develop nerve damage.

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THE WAITRESS

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Lafayette is open daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., employs four to five workers depending on the hour, about half as many as at Manor House, which closed at 3:30 p.m. because Mimi feared being in the neighborhood's seedy center after dark.

Mei and Nam, the day cook, get off work in late afternoon when the owners of eight years, Stanley and Stephanie Yang, come in and take over as cook and waitress. Prices are a dollar or two above the Manor House menu. Lunch ranges from \$5.20 for a cheeseburger with hash browns (a thin dime more than a hamburger) to \$11.60 for prime rib, which costs a dollar more at dinner. Corned beef, a Thursday special, is \$6.80; Manor's cost \$4.95. Still, a \$6 Lafayette lunch of a hot ham sandwich with veggies and mashed potatoes is a good deal, and the chef's salad for \$6.45 probably beats anything in town.

In fairness, by way of explaining Manor House's across-the-board lower prices, building owner TNDC kept the rent down provided Mimi would anchor prices at rock bottom because most of her customers were poor, dependent on Social Security or disability checks.

TAKING OVER FROM UNCLE JACK

The Yangs bought the Lafayette from Stanley's uncle, Jack Chow, after Stanley served a stint as apprentice cook. Uncle Jack, they say, owned the place for nearly 40 years until he retired and went back to China.

On a Sunday evening, 45-year-old Stanley is at the counter, wiping his hands on a rag, and Stephanie, a pretty, talkative waitress with a ready smile and gay laugh, is at the cash register. He says some of Mimi's customers always crossed over to the Lafayette, but now his business is up maybe 10%.

"She served cheaper dishes," Stanley says. "Our quality is definitely better." My eyebrows go up. "It's what customers say," he adds quickly.

He shops at Costco, Restaurant Depot and farmers' markets, same as Mimi.

His regulars start coming in around 11 a.m. every day and he says 7 in 10 have been customers more than five years. Manor House closed on Saturdays. "We couldn't close for even a day — people would complain," Stanley says.

The Lafayette's most popular item is prime rib, he says, though the turkey dinner is high up there. Daily specials are popular, as well, he says. "It's like a neighborhood cafeteria."

One customer, Dave, who insisted on a first-name basis, theorizes that all old-timey restaurants in the city run the same menu day after day, week after week.

"Isn't corned beef and cabbage on every menu on Thursday?" he asks, and



Mei, inset above, is the Lafayette's daytime waitress, and she rules, queen of the counter since 1986. Her domain is the Tenderloin. Customers, some who have been coming here for decades. Stanley and Stephanie Yang, above right, own the place — he is the m

immediately answers his own question. "Yeah, yeah, Lefty O'Doul's is about the same, too." Dave is alone in the first booth, turned sideways, his arm resting on the back. A knee is hiked up on the seat in a domestic sprawl. "It's a San Francisco menu."

"The Tennessee Grill," pipes up the only other customer. He's in a booth across from Dave, finishing dinner. "That's another one," referring to the Taraval Street stalwart. Likewise, Original Joe's back in the day.

"The only loss was on Friday night when they got rid of Swiss steak," says Dave, his history credential dating to March 1984 when he first crossed the Lafayette threshold. He even remembers when Mei was hired.

THE LAFAYETTE FAMILY

Dave lives up the street. Years ago, he dropped in once on his way to work as a security officer. He's eaten here pretty much every day since. But in recent months, because he visits a friend in a rest home on Sundays, it's been merely "19 times a week."

Dave, talkative, lives alone and the Lafayette is like his family, but he calls it "relationships." It's not uncommon for three or four booths to be in a common conversation. Maybe someone drops in, like a pickup ball game, to kick the talk forward with something new. Money, women and George Burns' purple jokes, it's all game, and their voices and outrageous judgments about life fill the place. "Only one out of five women are any good," one proclaimed on a recent Sunday.

Rarely does Stanley join in, while

"Mei's a little abrasive, but she has to be. She loves a good argument and I love to argue with her, my sparring partner. She runs the drug dealers off who hang around outside. 'Move your office!' she tells them."

Donna Lisa Stewart

LONGTIME CUSTOMER OF THE LAFAYETTE

Stephanie laughs at everything.

"You're a Manor House customer or you're a Lafayette customer," Dave declares. He ate at Manor House three or four times in nearly 28 years, praising the banana-strawberry milkshake. But he feels that dishing out a buck or two more at the Lafayette is a small price for what he gets.

"We build relationships," Dave says. "The customers know each other, you sit down and socialize with your friends, sit with the same people, tell the same stories — or accepted lies. It's a family neighborhood restaurant."

On a morning in April, Don Brochette, 67, is sitting in the back booth at the window, whose ledge goes toward the door and holds a half dozen healthy plants, a green touch Mimi's lacked.

The booths were here before Brochette, who lives on Turk, started coming in 1972.

"But Donna Lisa would know how long they've been here," he said. "She's in once a week, sometimes twice. She started coming here in 1957 when she was in the service."

"I love the booths," Brochette continues, growing lively with introspection. "They stack the food here. I love Mei — she's the main reason, a good waitress, friendly, always busy cleaning things." Mei, seated momentarily in the booth across from him, laughs. "And the new cook is good." He pauses, looks around. "You know, you can relax in a booth, spread out."

56 YEARS AND COUNTING

Two weeks later, on a Saturday about 12:30 p.m., Donna Lisa Stewart arrives smiling, showing beautiful teeth as she says hello to everyone on her way to the back booth. Her long silver earrings flash and her turquoise nails are evident

nostalgic token the Tenderloin



erloin diner with 10 deep-red Naugabyde booths that generally are filled with regular night-time cook, and she picks up where Mei leaves off.

as she plops down Spike, her little black and white dog, then sits beside him across from Brochette, who is finishing lunch.

She was a 17-year-old medic in the Army, taking courses at the Presidio in 1957 when a sergeant at Letterman Hospital recommended to her a Greek restaurant in the Tenderloin called the Lafayette Cafe. Get the mousakka, he suggested.

"That's what I came in for," Stewart recalls, as Mei hands her a menu. "The food's always been good, and nothing has changed much since. They go out of their way for you here. Mei's a little abrasive, but she has to be. She loves a good argument and I love to argue with her, my sparring partner. She runs the drug dealers off who hang around outside. 'Move your office!' she tells them."

She laughs. Stewart was in the Army seven years and lived in several cities before returning to San Francisco in 1971 — and to the Lafayette. She lives at the Alexander Residence.

Stewart's unusual because she used to dine at Manor House almost daily until it closed, and once or twice a week at the Lafayette, which had better food, she says, but Mimi's was cheaper. Now, she's been eating lunch five days a week at the Salvation Army's Kroc Center, \$1.50 for seniors to eat inside, \$2.50 to go.

"It's hard to find a cheap place," she says. "I couldn't afford to eat here if it wasn't for the Salvation Army."

Her favorite Lafayette lunches are turkey, sometimes corned beef, "but ask them to slice it thin." The daily special, she points out, you can get any day. "It cracks me up." Today, though, she orders

scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, toast and coffee. Cost: \$7.95.

It's pretty clear that the Lafayette, with all its elements, has a strong nostalgic pull.

"I've seen people here I haven't seen for years and years," Stewart says. "A man comes down from Seattle every now and then just to see the people here."

HANDLING HARD CASES

It's a self-protecting community, too. Unruly customers rarely come in, but when they do, the hefty regulars handle the problem themselves. Calling the police is the reluctant last resort. A crazy man came in off the sketchy Hyde Street block the week before, yelling and swearing incoherently, likely high on drugs, Brochette says. He grabbed the guy and muscled him out with only "a little" resistance.

Stanley and Stephanie clean up after closing at 10, then step out into the dark street together. When asked one Sunday evening if he wasn't afraid at that hour, he said no. "I guess we live in the better part of the Tenderloin."

"Yeah," Dave cracked from his booth, "but he needs the protection."

The old boys talk like that. The chef keeps to himself. And the waitresses laugh like crazy. ■

LAFAYETTE COFFEE SHOP

LOCATION: 250 Hyde St. in the Tenderloin.
HOURS: open 7 days a week including holidays from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Donna Lisa Stewart has been a Lafayette regular since she was 17 and an Army medic. That was 1957. Spike, not so long.

THE CUSTOMERS

It's not hard to imagine Humphrey Bogart, a loose liplock on a dangling Camel, sliding onto a stool, asking around for some creep who owes him a C note.

The prime rib was better the next day

I ordered prime rib, one of five that chef and owner Stanley Yang expects to serve on Sunday nights. Mine arrived in short order with split pea soup, salad, green beans and mashed potatoes with gravy. The soup was thin, swimming with carrots and bok choy. It was enjoyable and tasty. The salad was exactly what Manor House served — iceberg lettuce with a slice of tomato and Thousand Island dressing. Passable.

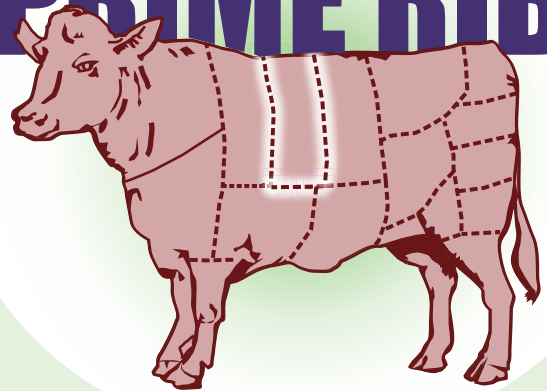
The prime rib arrived medium rare, as ordered. Its 8-inch length varied from ½- to 1-inch thick. The accompanying green beans were fresh and okay, though the potatoes were watery and the gravy lacked taste.

I couldn't eat the meat. I chewed and chewed and chewed. The flavor wasn't bad, but I couldn't break it down and ended up leaving moist wads on the side of my plate. So, after bread pudding for dessert, far too sweet for my palate, I took the remaining, thinner half of the prime rib home and put it in the refrigerator.

Late the next afternoon, I took it out and ate it with a cup of coffee. It was real good and tasty, inexplicably tender. I swallowed every bite, easily. ■

— Tom Carter

PRIME RIB



DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION BY LISE STAMPFLI

HEALTH VIOLATIONS FIXED RIGHT AWAY

The Lafayette, like every restaurant, gets unannounced inspections from the Department of Public Health and the one April 16 was not its finest hour. After a couple of years of "adequate" scores in the 80s, it came up "poor," in DPH terms. With 13 violations, it plunged to an embarrassing 61. Just one violation, however, was "high risk." It involved "the transmission of food borne illnesses," nothing to take with a grain of salt. It was corrected that day.

As in the past, Lafayette makes all of its corrections within a week, and all of these problems were fixed by April 23. ■

— Tom Carter

Citizen's Advisory Committee must fill 7 vacant seats

A DOZEN APPLICANTS have stepped forward to be considered for the seven vacant seats on the Citizen's Advisory Committee, which helps frame the terms of the city's community benefit agreements with companies seeking the payroll tax break.

Following are descriptions of the 11 CAC seats that are intended to include representatives of the neighborhood's main constituencies, the people who occupy, or seek to occupy, those positions, and the credentials they claim.

SEAT 1: Eva Perring, whose CAC term expires in 2015, was one of four CAC members who survived the purge. A care provider with In-Home Supportive Services Consortium and a member of the Tenderloin Filipino-American Community Association, she represents low-income families in the neighborhood. She also was a sales associate with DSW Shoes and a First Bank customer service representative.

SEAT 2: This seat and Seat 3 are reserved for experts in job creation or workforce development, and one of the two must also represent labor. Felice Ana Denia, a dancer, founder of Denia Dance Co. and former member of Mid-Market Redevelopment PAC, held the seat until the May purge. She has not reapplied; the seat's term extends until August 2017.

The applicant for Seat 2 is Peter Masiak, who lives on Haight Street and lists his workplace as the SEIU offices on Rhode Island Street. His experience includes several years as a tenant organizer with the Central City SRO Collaborative and efforts to organize nonprofit workers. As a graduate student at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, he wrote or co-wrote studies of the Central Market Street payroll expense tax break.

SEAT 3: Steven Suzuki did not survive the purge and has reapplied for this seat, the lone candidate for it. Architect Suzuki is executive director of Asian Neighborhood Design, located South of Market. The nonprofit uses architecture, community planning, employment training and support services to help revitalize low-income area. Suzuki has served on the board of a handful of Bay Area organizations and currently is a board member of Japanese American Religious Federation-Housing Inc.

SEAT 4: Incumbent Nella Corpuz Manuel remains a member until 2015 in this seat, representing senior or disabled residents. Manuel, a senior who

lives in the Tenderloin, is the coordinator for TNDC's People's Garden at Larkin and McAllister, and treasurer of the Canon Kip Senior Advisory Council.

SEAT 5: Brad Paul, ousted in the May purge, has reapplied for the seat, reserved for someone with expertise in affordable housing or tenant protection and anti-displacement policies and strategies. He is the only applicant for the seat, which expires in 2015. Paul is a long-ago TL resident who helped start the neighborhood down its improvement path and create the trend toward supportive housing in SROs. Executive director of the North of Market Planning Coalition from 1982-87 and later a housing, urban development and planning consultant, he was a senior program officer focusing on strengthening neighborhoods for the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund. He now is deputy director for the Association of Bay Area Governments.

SEAT 6: Robert Marquez, the only CAC member who never missed a meeting, represents a community organization that provides direct services. He is director of S.F. Mental Health Client's Rights Advocates, the state-mandated program every county is required to have. He says he will reapply for the seat when his term ends at the end of July.

SEAT 7: Reserved for someone with "small business expertise and a familiarity with the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area," according to the vacancy notice, this seat became vacant when former CAC Chair Dina Hilliard resigned at the end of April to have a baby. Four people have applied for the seat; the term expires in August 2017.

David Addington is the former owner of the Warfield Building and Warfield Theater, and is part owner of Showdogs restaurant. He spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in 2009 on Prop. D, a failed bid to allow for high-wattage advertising on mid-Market buildings. "I spend some time nearly every day in Central Market and am pretty familiar with the goings on," he stated in his CAC application. He also was on the committee that helped form the Tenderloin CBD.

Also applying is self-described educator, designer and artist Julian Prince Dash, whose writes, "I am the neighborhood and the neighborhood is me. ... I see no distinction between the person sleeping in the house on the hills to the person sleeping on

the actual hill." Dash's business, Holy Stitch!, operates from 42 Turk St. He's hired young drug dealers and homeless veterans, he said in the application, and operated two pop-up, "denim-centered" shops, at 986 Market and 1100 Market, in conjunction with the Luggage Store Gallery.

The third applicant is Civic Center CBD Executive Director Robert Savoie, who serves on the advisory board of the Community Justice Center, worked as a fundraiser for the Stop AIDS Project and was executive director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Fourth is Aaron Selverston, founder and CEO of White Rabbit Strategic Consulting, which consults on political and initiative campaigns. He notes in his application that David Addington is one of his clients. "We need level-headed leadership that fights to preserve the creative and cultural core here," he says. He cites his six months of "nurturing relationships with nonprofit, city and business leaders all intent on a thriving low-income community."

SEAT 8: This seat, reserved for someone with expertise on homelessness, transitional age youth or supportive housing, became vacant when Daniel Hlad resigned Jan. 24 to avoid a potential conflict of interest — Hospitality House, where he works as development director, had won a grant from Twitter.

The seat has two applicants, Steven Tennis and Jeff Kositsky.

Tennis lives in the Hartland Hotel on Geary Street, is a Central City SRO Collaborative tenant organizer there and lists his occupation as an activist/advocate. He's led the Collaborative's regular disaster-preparedness workshops and works at the Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition as a resident food leader, helping to bring healthier foods items to neighborhood corner stores. He also is a volunteer corner captain for Safe Passage, a volunteer effort to help children navigate the streets of the Tenderloin. Tennis also has applied for Seat 11.

Kositsky, who submitted a three-page resume, has worked in the social sector for decades: He served eight years as Community Housing Partnership executive director and currently is chief operating officer for Green For All, a nonprofit that promotes building a green economy that helps low-income people. Kositsky has consulted various nonprofits and for several years was director of tenant ser-

vices for the Rural California Housing Corporation.

SEAT 9: Mara Blitzer, senior project manager at TNDC, represents real estate and leasing interests. She oversees large, complex developments — the most recent the newly opened Kelly Cullen Community in the old Central YMCA building. She has a master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. The term of the seat, which she's held since the CAC was formed in 2011, expires in 2015.

SEAT 10: The only applicant for the seat formerly held by Jesus Perez, reserved for a resident of District 6, is Antoinetta Stadlman. If approved, she will be a member for the unexpired term that ends in 2015. Stadlman works as a front desk receptionist for a Sixth Street SRO, was a former member and chair of the now defunct South of Market Redevelopment PAC and currently serves on the advisory board for the Tom Waddell Clinic. In 2001, Stadlman received San Francisco Foundation's Koshland Award, given to people who take on the challenges of helping the most problematic neighborhoods. She also applied for seat 11.

SEAT 11: Also reserved for a District 6 resident, this seat has been vacant since Linda Pierce resigned last year to take a new, demanding job. Four applicants are looking to fill the seat. Its term ends in 2017.

Antoinetta Stadlman, who applied for seat 10, also applied for this one, as did Stephen Tennis, who applied for Seat 6.

Peter Gallotta is a LGBT community activist and says he's lived in the Tenderloin for four years. An alumnus of the San Francisco City Hall Fellow program, a public service program for college graduates, Gallotta founded the Mama-G's Thanksgiving Street Dinner in 2009 and works for the S.F. Department of the Environment as an association in its Commute Smart Program.

Adam Leising is a doctoral candidate at Stanford University's Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment + Resources, with fields of study that include economics, sociology and engineering. He is a volunteer for Supervisor David Chiu and works for Best Bay Apartment as a residential manager for an apartment building on Hyde Street in the lower Nob Hill, Tenderloin area. ■

—Eric Louie, Mark Hedin, Brian Rinker and Marjorie Beggs contributed to this report.



DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION BY LISE STAMPFLI

Committee blindsided by city power play now in limbo

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

affected the process. Esther Lee of Yee's office said the CAC vacancies agenda item was pushed back to June 20 because the Rules Committee's June 6 calendar "has on the agenda time-sensitive items that need to be heard within a specific time frame."

So interested parties have a little

more time to apply to serve on the CAC. To be considered, candidates will have to apply by June 10 and appear at the Thursday, June 20, Rules Committee meeting, in Room 263 of City Hall, at 1:30 p.m. Applications are available at the Board of Supervisors website at http://www.sfbos.org/vacancy_application or from the Rules Committee

clerk in City Hall Room 244.

"There's a tendency not to have patience with the process," Blitzer said. "I'm frustrated too. But we're pioneers in this."

"In the best-case scenarios, when the neighborhood gentrifies, everyone's better off. We're asking people to be the best corporate citizens they can

be. The CBAs are an interesting place to start, but it's much bigger. There's real, unrealized opportunity there, room for the companies to step up and support the communities that were there when they moved in. The needs in the neighborhood are deep and wide and need to be addressed with a long-term commitment." ■

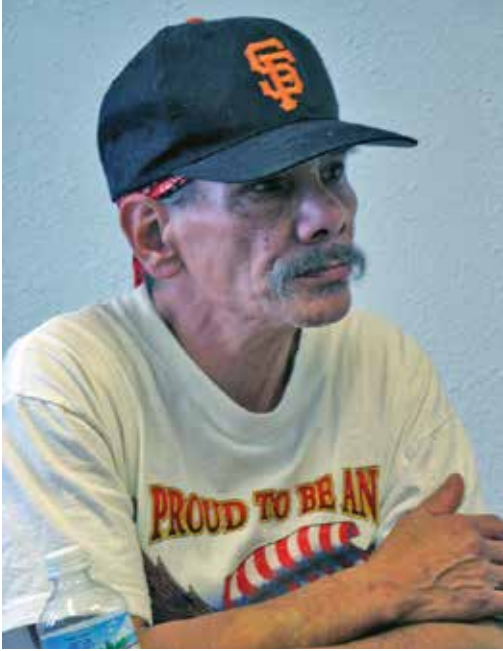


PHOTO BY MARK ELLINGER

SAMUEL 'SHORTY' LAGASCA Never backed down

Samuel "Shorty" Lagasca, a fighter for tenants' rights who spent the last four decades periodically homeless or living in a succession of Tenderloin and Sixth Street SROs, died May 13 at the Raman Hotel — his home for the past five years. He was 69.

He stood about 5 feet tall and claimed to be a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. His knowledge of and love for food, particularly Filipino cuisine, was well-known.

At his May 24 memorial at the Raman, Jana Drakka, a Zen Buddhist priest, reminded friends: "We're here to celebrate Shorty's life. He was tall in spirit, so don't cry about him." The mourners present shared Shorty stories.

Mr. Lagasca battled alcohol and drug abuse, served time in state prisons, lost his first wife to illness and his second to an automobile accident. In recent years, pain from a hip operation and the fatigue of battling ulcers racked his small frame, but his spirit never diminished. He was a walker and intimately knew the city's streets.

After years of ill fortune marked by emotional depression and paranoia arising from his combat experiences in Vietnam — where he was twice wounded — he finally brought order into his life. As he did so, he decided to help those around him.

He first became a volunteer for Food Runners, a 27-year-old nonprofit that now boasts more than 200 volunteers collecting perishable food from restaurants, bakeries, grocery stores and farmers' markets and delivering it to the hungry. Shorty once joked that his efforts "got me good hot meals."

In 2001 he became a tenant representative with the Tenderloin Housing Clinic's Central City SRO Collaborative, organizing tenants and trying to improve conditions at his home at the Drake Hotel. Mr. Lagasca once described the Eddy Street SRO as "hell" in the times before THC took over its operation. He was a compelling organizer and relentless advocate. If he saw something not right, he spoke up against it.

Paul Hogarth of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic recalled a time when he and Mr. Lagasca were preparing a flyer to draw tenants to a meeting. "Shorty told me: 'Make it read that attendance is mandatory,'" Hogarth said. "When I protested that you couldn't make people attend, Shorty said, 'Why not? They all promised me they'd come anyway.'"

Once at the Drake, a tenant was wielding a knife, threatening residents. Mr. Lagasca tried to defuse the problem without success. He ended up calling for police help, but everything went wrong and the cops shot and killed the tenant. Some blamed Shorty, and he felt bad. He was persuaded to see a therapist, who later assured Hogarth, "Shorty will be all right. He's a strong person."

That's the way Alison Murphy, a social worker with Citywide Roving Team, remembered Mr. Lagasca, too. "He was very resilient. If it became important to Shorty, you heard about it and he would try to make it your priority as

well," she said. Murphy recalled walking with him recently. "It took forever. Everybody stopped him and wanted to talk. He was the Mayor of Sixth Street."

Mark Ellinger, the neighborhood photographer who first met Mr. Lagasca in 2001 when he joined the SRO Collaborative, recalled the pain of seeing him grow frailer in the past year. "I'll remember his strength. You always spoke eye-to-eye with Shorty," said Ellinger, who tops 6 feet tall.

Drakka ended the memorial with a reminder that everyone has problems. "Like Shorty, we should stick to our guns," she said and read from the poem "Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver:

*Tell me about despair, yours, and I
will tell you mine.*

Meanwhile the world goes on. ■

— Jonathan Newman

DONALD BUSCH Native son, recently homeless

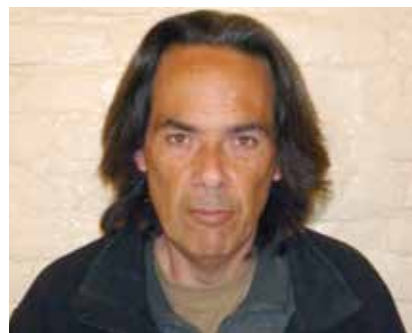


PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMELOT HOTEL

Who can say if Donald Busch's life was on a sustainable uptick when the San Francisco native was found May 15 in his Camelot Hotel room dead of unknown causes.

Previously homeless and in and out of SROs for many years, Mr. Busch had become a Camelot resident not even three weeks earlier. He was 47.

The week before he died, Mr. Busch was energized, seemed in good health and recently had led a meditation for a half-dozen people in a Tenderloin community center. That was a first for him and a hint that the dark-haired, handsome, 6-foot-3 man was more "stabilized" than he ever had been, a contrast to his life's "negative base" that all were reluctant to describe. That was according to professionals attending who worked with him the last year or two and didn't want to be identified.

To Rev. Glenda Hope, who conducted the memorial, Mr. Busch's death seemed to fit a sad pattern. Some people on the street struggle so to survive while battling other difficulties, such as mental illness and addictions, that when they are at last carefree in the lap of comfort, they take their final rest.

"We often see this," Hope said, "someone dying quickly after they have arrived." They can give up and let go what she describes at the end of every memorial — "the fever of life."

Mr. Busch was born and raised in San Francisco and went to St. Paul's Catholic School in Noe Valley, according to Camelot Manager Toby Baldwin, who had few other details. A copy of a color photo of Mr. Busch leaned against a floral arrangement on a table at the front of the community room.

Other mourners said that in conversation, Mr. Busch often had profound insights and "at times was really articulate." He wasn't judgmental and was interested in trying new programs. They said he intimated he had played with 1980s and '90s rock 'n' roll bands, but they didn't know what instrument or which bands.

Ultimately, to the Camelot community who did not know him, Mr. Busch's life and death were what Baldwin called "a head scratcher," ending, though, in a safe and comfortable home. ■

— Tom Carter

OBITUARIES

WANDA JUNE HILL Disarmingly punctual

The memorial at Alexander Residence to honor the life of Wanda June Hill opened softly with the sounds of 1950s Elvis, Ms. Hill's favorite, crooning spirituals. A table with a flotilla of framed family photos surrounding a green and gold urn holding Ms. Hill's ashes graced the front of the community room. Two Mexican votive candles — *veladoras* — burned beneath a photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge, the setting sun burnishing the red towers.

Ms. Hill, a 16-year resident of the Alexander, died from lung cancer April 19 at Laguna Honda Hospital where she'd been for a year. She was 83.

At the end of World War II, a teenage Ms. Hill and her family wandered west from El Dorado Springs, Mo., stopping first in New Mexico and later in small towns in California's Central Valley. When she reached San Francisco, she found home.

Sister Irene, chaplain at St. Anthony's Foundation, asked the gathering to share memories of Ms. Hill. "The reason for memorials is to honor our time on Earth," she said.

Neighbor Marvis Phillips said of his friend: "Wanda always said she loved to watch the ships come in and she loved sailors. When the fleet came in, she said, all of Market Street came alive. I miss her companionship daily."

Her daughters, Sadie Weir of San Francisco and Sharon Cragg of Oakland, recalled a mother who never smoked, drank or learned to drive. They remember as children living in the Mission, a driving lesson that ended quickly when Mom drove through a neighbor's fence and struck a garbage can.

"No more driving after that. Mom walked and took Muni everywhere the rest of her life," said Weir.

And she valued punctuality. "I re-



HILL FAMILY PHOTO

member Mom saying she was five minutes late for an appointment once. It gave her heart palpitations," Cragg said.

Following the death of her husband, Donald Weir, in 1979, Ms. Hill became a professional housekeeper, working on assignment through Aunt Ann's Agency for 15 years. "She was up every day at 5:30 a.m. Coming or going, that's when you saw her. Always with makeup and smartly dressed," Weir said.

Ms. Hill moved to the Alexander in 1997. She said she wanted to be where the action is. Most days she walked to the Salvation Army, for years over to Harrison Street, more recently to the Army's new place on Turk Street for senior lunches, returning to the Alexander for a few hours of lobby sitting. "She was an official greeter and led by example," said resident Michael Nulty.

He noted that Ms. Hill was an early supporter of Alliance for a Better District 6 and a founding member of Central City Democrats in 2006. The Alliance honored her with a Civic Engagement Award in 2010.

Her friend, Darwin Golden, arrived late for the memorial all apologetic. "Wanda was always on me for being late all the time," he said. "For her, I'll try to be more punctual. I promise." ■

— Jonathan Newman



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Building	Size/Occupancy Limit	Max./Min. Income Limit	Rent
Hotel Isabel 1095 Mission Street (Homeless Project Based Section 8) Open Wait List until March 29, 2013	SRO – 1 person In the unit there is a sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed, community kitchen, 24-hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility	1 person \$34,600 a year No Minimum Income	30% OF INCOME Requires a Certificate of Homelessness
Bayanihan House (Non-Assisted Units) Located at 88 – 6th Street & Mission OPEN WAITING LIST	SRO – 1 Person, Couple Shared Bath Single 10 ½ x 12 – Double 12x12 In the unit there is a sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed, community kitchen, 24-hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility	1 person \$30,275/a year Couple \$34,580/a year Minimum income of \$866.40/month	Starting 1-2013 Move in Deposit \$545.00 Rent \$545.00 Utilities included

TDD: (415) 345-4470



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer reading programs, SF Public Library, June 1–Aug. 11. Kids, teens and adults sign up and keep an online tally of the number of hours spent reading books of their choice. Get prizes after reading 40 hours: books, museum passes and eligibility for raffle with really big prizes — museum membership and \$500 gift card for Chronicle Books. Info: sfpl.org, click Summer Reading.

ARTS EVENTS

Free movies at the Main Library, Thursdays, Koret Auditorium: For Love of the Game (June 6), Moneyball (June 13), De Lovely (June 20), Saved (June 27). Info: sfpl.org

“The Boot,” EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy St. 4 p.m., a solo work in progress about how to survive the breakup of a long relationship by Margery Kreitman. Donations at the door.

“Dark Play, or Stories for Boys,” Fridays and Saturdays, June 22–July 13, EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy St., 8 p.m. Bay Area Premier of Carlos Murillo’s romantic thriller. Tix: darkplay.eventbrite.com.

REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of each month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of month, 5–7 p.m., 1380 Howard St., room 537, 255-3695. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for

home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30–8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

SAFETY

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of each month, 6–7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x202.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Info: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 3rd Thursdays, 3 p.m., Police Station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126, to confirm times and location.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 4 p.m.. Call 292-4812 for location or check nom-tlcbd.org.

Safe Haven Project, 4th Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m., 519 Ellis St. (Senator Hotel). Contact: 563-3205, x115, or centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario, 701-5580.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.–noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Info: 928-6209.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of month, 842 Geary St., 5 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor’s Disability Council, 3rd Friday of month, 1–3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior & Disability Action (formerly Planning for Elders/Senior Action Network), general meeting, 2nd

Thursday of month, 9 a.m.–noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1010 Mission St., (Bayanihan Community Center). For info about SDA’s Survival School, University and computer class schedules: 546-1333, www.sdaction.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim, member, Land Use Committee, School District, Transportation Authority; chair, Transbay Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors; vice-chair Transportation Authority Plans & Programs Committee

Legislative aides: Sunny Angulo, Ivy Lee and Danny Yedegar

Jane Kim@sf.gov.org 554-7970

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I was an outcast. Harm reduction gave me the opportunity to see myself as I am — to learn my strengths and to build on them.”

—Roy Crew, Director, Office of Self Help

