

Sheriff's pilot puts more cops on the beat

Mirkarimi funds 6-month program enhancing TL safety

By JONATHAN NEWMAN

THE SFPD agreed to Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi's proposal last year that his deputies transport and book suspects arrested from two of the city's busiest district stations — Tenderloin and Mission. When prisoners required medical attention, sheriff's deputies would take them to S.F. General before booking.

Funding came from Mirkarimi's department budget.

This cost-efficient twist on community policing maximized its impact by adding to the time cops could spend on the beat instead of on the written reports and procedural matters arrests require.

Instead of an arresting officer accompanying the suspect to 850 Bryant for charging and booking, sheriff's deputies took the suspect there from district station custody and did the paperwork. Meanwhile, the cop who made the pinch stayed walking the beat.

The six-month experimental program — dubbed Station Transfer Units — operated from mid-July 2014 through the middle of this January. Anecdotal evidence

from the pilot points to hundreds of police man hours per station freed up each month, suggesting a permanent adoption of the program city-wide could be a boon to public safety. But neither Mirkarimi nor TL Capt. Jason Cherniss could cite the number of arrests, estimate the total time saved for officers to remain on the beat or say what the program cost.

The notion of Station Transfer Units is not new. In the aftermath of Loma Prieta, then-Sheriff Michael Hennessey developed an agreement with the SFPD that deputies would handle custody of arrestees from district station to booking. The agreement was quickly implemented and officers turned their full attention to the emergency needs from the quake while deputies expanded their traditional role of supervising and transporting prisoners.

STUs were first written into the Sheriff's Department budget in the late 1990s. Hennessey added 24 deputies, continued transporting and booking prisoners from district stations and assumed responsibility for tracking and serving outstanding arrest warrants.

Then, in 2002, law enforcement budgets tightened. Funding disappeared and the STU program dried up.

Capt. Cherniss estimates his officers typically spend up to two hours each time they transport and book prisoners at the Bryant Street jail and City Prison. When station transfer units were in play during last year's pilot, Cherniss said sheriff's deputies were making four to five transfers from Tenderloin Station each 24-hour shift. That's like adding a cop a day on the district beat.

SFPD protocol doubles that number. Cherniss noted that department policy requires two officers to be involved in each

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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CITIZENS PANEL IN DOLDRUMS

Vacant seats, city disrespect

PAGE 7



YELLOW BRICKS OUT OF THE BLUE

Safe Passage mural draws a complaint

PAGE 5



TALENT SHOW PAYOFF

\$240,000 raised at gala

PAGE 2

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA!

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PARK A FACTOR



Safe Passage corner captain Johnny Sheeley, left, and Michelle Goodlow, a YMCA staffer who assists in the Safe Passage program, help kids navigate the neighborhood's meanest streets.

Signs TL is safer

Passage budget is booming, presence sets tone on street

By TOM CARTER

PHOTOS BY PAUL DUNN

SAFE PASSAGE, the program to make the Tenderloin's grim sidewalks safe for schoolkids, got another infusion of cash when its April soiree raised \$10,000 from a growing number of supporters sensing Passage is a major influence on the long-sought turnaround in neighborhood safety.

The goal had been to raise \$5,000. "We got a late donation from Glide of about \$400 that put us a little bit over," said Dina Hilliard, executive director. A matching grant from Twitter doubled the money.

This will pay for 300 new vests for the growing stable of on-street monitors and more volunteers expected to join in, and for monthly stipends for corner captains, who stand on the sidewalks an hour and 15 minutes each weekday after school with walkie-talkies, watching over passing children and by their presence making the crowded corner look unavailable for drug dealing.

The fundraiser keeps financial momentum going until Safe Passage receives \$200,000 from the mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development. The money, original-

ly announced in late 2013, included the cost for repainting the fading 11-block sidewalk route with the oversize yellow bricks that the schoolkids follow. The delay was due to staff changes, the OEWD told Hilliard, and the money is to arrive this month, she said.

Meanwhile, a \$150,000 donation late last year from the Tenderloin Health Improvement Partnership, headed by St. Francis Foundation, jump-started the paint job in March.

Keeping the bricks looking fresh is artist John Elliot, who has gotten volunteers from the Department of Public Works, Square and Twitter.

Tickets to the benefit cost \$25 and 141 were sold, with 85 showing up. Among notables were TNDC Executive Director Don Falk, Curry Senior Center CEO David Knego and tech liaisons Mo Tracy of Spotify, Adejire Bademosi of Twitter and Cristina Fink of Yammer. Spotify donated its spacious, glassy, fourth-floor corner room at the Warfield Building for the occasion. The crowd nursed wine and beer and munched hors d'oeuvres on a young sun-splashed evening above the changing street below.

They heard District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim, Tenderloin police Capt. Jason Cherniss and St. Francis Foundation President Kevin Causey emphasize how important Safe Passage is to the well-being of the neighborhood's estimated 3,500 kids.

Causey called the children's route "the spine of the Tenderloin." Starting at Golden Gate Avenue, it covers the midsection of what used to be called the Lower Eddy/Leaven-

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



FEDERICA ARMSTRONG

La'Shawndra Breston, a formerly homeless mother of five, singing "I Am Different," stole the show at Community Housing Partnership's gala.

Housing Partnership clients strut their stuff to tune of \$240,000

By MARK HEDIN

COMMUNITY HOUSING Partnership celebrated 25 years of moving homeless people into supportive housing with its "American Idol"-style "Night With the Stars" benefit event April 22 at the SFJazz Center.

Although the nonprofit has been hosting such events since 1999, Bridget Holian, director of fund development and communications, said this "was definitely our most successful event regarding how much we raised and in attendance."

The take? \$240,000 and counting.

The highlight was a talent show competition among seven finalists chosen at a December audition open to all 1,300 CHP clients. The audition drew 50 entrants. The seven contestants were paired with artistic mentors including Elizabeth Wyler, Christian Cagigal and Caroline Parsons, to hone their acts prior to the show.

"Some of these people are uber-talented," Holian said. "We're able to show these people in our buildings are so much more than formerly homeless. When you give them a chance to shine, they really do. It makes it all worthwhile."

Singer La'Shawndra Breston, a native San Franciscan and mother of five, stole

the show with her performance "I'm Different." Multi-instrumentalist Stanley Antill took second place with his "Mid-Metamorphosis" performed on fiddle, while family dance troupe Jada, Alliyah and Alisha, took third as "Swaggettz."

In recognition of the organization's silver anniversary, CHP bestowed Founders Awards to Paul Boden, Calvin Welch, Bob Wilson and Laura Ware, who were all present, and to the late Rene Cazanave, whose widow, Sylvie, accepted his award.

Judges included "Tales of the City" author Armistead Maupin, and the event was emceed by Dave Clark of KTVU, while muralist Todd Berman did on-the-spot sketches illustrating CHP's history.

Besides the corporate sponsorships that brought in the bulk of the support for this event — Zendesk led the way as the "Signature Sponsor" — the fundraiser also included a "live mobile pledging" drive that netted \$15,000 from attendees using their smartphones, with a matching gift from Digital Realty.

As things were winding down, Holian said, Supervisor Jane Kim jumped onstage to announce that Caroline Barlerin, Twitter's community liaison, had just kicked in another \$15,000.

"It was very exciting," Holian said. ■

GOOD NEWS

STOP AND LOOK Great, engaging, relevant art has graced Market Street for 23 years through the Arts Commission's Kiosk Poster Series. Exhibited on 36 bus shelters between Eighth Street and the Embarcadero, the high-quality posters, 4 feet wide by 5½, are displayed for three months. Each cycle includes six original posters by a Bay Area artist paid \$8,000 for the designs and camera-ready art; the Arts Commission prints and installs. The time for interested artists to apply for next year's commissions is now. The theme for all four cycles: Utopian Visions: The Changing Face of Market Street. Midnight May 11 is the deadline. Applications must include a resume, letter of interest stating a brief approach for the series, and 10 images of previous art work. If you make the first cut, the next step is a proposal that includes poster design images. Arts Commission announces winners in mid-August. Apply at sfgov.slideroom.com. More info: Zoë Taleporos, zoe.taleporos@sfgov.org or (415) 252-3215.

MORE COLOR ON THE STREET

For the third time in as many years, Academy of Art University students have painted the town red — and blue and green, too. Their latest Tenderloin murals, 13 panels on the vast façade of the 1960s-era PG&E substation at Eddy and Larkin streets, were unveiled April 10. Led by Academy instructor Carol Nunnally, the students donated 1,200 hours to research



S.F. ARTS COMMISSION

Robert Minervini's poster is on view on Market Street through May.

and paint images tracing more than 100 years of the TL's chromatic history up to the present: a building burning during the 1906 earthquake and fire, Blackhawk Jazz Club, Hyde Street Film Exchanges, Wally Heider's Recording Studio, Newman's Gym, Leroy Looper in front of the Cadillac Hotel, 1960s gay activists of Vanguard, Cecil Williams and Glide, Aunt Charlie's, neon signage, Tenderloin National Forest, Little Saigon, and a "We are the Tenderloin" image showing the neighborhood's diversity. Randy Shaw's Uptown Tenderloin administered the project gratis, and PG&E paid for the paint. The students' first TL project, in 2012, was on the Polk Street side of the adult O'Farrell Theatre, the repainting of a much-faded 1977 underwater fantasy mural of schools of fish, a pod of whales and more. And in 2013, students painted a depiction of the Breakers Cafe, an early 1900s supper club, on the Mason Street side of the Bristol Hotel. The 13x30-foot mural was based on a postcard of the cafe at Mason and Eddy that features patrons imbibing and listening to Gypsy violinist Rigo Jancsi and his band. ■

— Marjorie Beggs



MARJORIE BEGGS

Academy of Art University student paintings adorn PG&E substation.

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

NEWS IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE
SAN FRANCISCO

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Sheriff's pilot shows how to keep more cops on beat

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

transporting and booking.

"Once in a while I might allow one officer to do it, depending on the prisoner: no history of violence, no prior escape attempts. But it's pretty rare — 99% of the time it's two officers," Cherniss said.

And that two-hour per arrest estimate can randomly spiral out of the police officer's control, Cherniss explained. "The Sheriff's Department controls the booking. If there's a lockdown or a shift change, you wait. If the jail nurse thinks a suspect needs a medical evaluation before entering the jail population, you wait."

He noted the problems peculiar to S.F. General as well. "If you have to take a guy to S.F. General, you wait. There's no special queue for police officers with people in custody. There could be three or four gunshot cases ahead of you on some Friday night. The hospital evaluates the need. So, you handcuff the guy to the gurney and wait your turn. Could be two hours, could be five." With STUs it's a deputy cooling his heels while the arresting officer is back working his beat.

Cherniss is an STU fan. "I think it's great when the sheriff's deputies handle the job. Look, the community wants us on the street, not doing booking and custody," he said. "Laterals (police officers from other jurisdictions such as Oakland accepting temporary assignments with SFPD) can't understand why we're still transporting and booking. It's a broken system."

At a time when the SFPD is understaffed, Cherniss sees the pilot program as a plus. "Right now we have about 1,700 officers departmentwide. For a city of 840,000 that's too low. We need a minimum of 2,000. Under the concept of community policing, officers need to be

seen to be effective. In some of the outer districts, policing can be different. In the Tenderloin it's boots on the ground. My officers love STU. I'm pretty sure the sheriff's deputies like it, too. It gets them out and involved," he said.

Police Commissioner Victor Hwang, a former assistant district attorney, supported the pilot program and would like to see it become a permanent part of community policing. "I like it. With the expanded district, Tenderloin Station will be responsible for Westfield Mall and other places, and I suspect that it will process more petty thefts and shoplifting. With deputies handling those arrests officers stay on the street," Hwang said.

Hwang cautioned that the matter has not come before the commission yet, and if it does he would need to hear how effective the pilot has been in dealing with violent offenders.

"Also, I know there are times when an arresting officer can develop further evidence from the offender during transport and booking. I wonder if that goes away with the deputies doing the job," he noted.

The STU program can have city-wide impact. In the controller's latest biennial City Survey, San Franciscans' feelings of safety at night had diminished from 2011. In District 6, less than half the residents reported they felt safe walking alone at night, which the controller attributed to a citywide uptick in aggravated assaults.

More officers on the street could address this safety concern, Cherniss said. "Sometimes on our day watch we're down to seven officers. The more time they can be on the street, the better."

Mirkarimi emailed that his department "has been collecting stats and urging the supervisor (referring to Jane Kim) to hold a public hearing which



MARK HEDIN

Four Tenderloin officers collar a suspect on Leavenworth Street, who, they believe, stole a cell phone. From left, Officers Conway, Ha, unidentified officer and Faulkner. Reported thefts of personal electronics average more than one a day in the TL.

would necessitate a thorough evaluation of a reform that hasn't been getting much attention except for Beyond-Chron and the Examiner." He argued the need for a "substantive change in how community policing is conducted in San Francisco, in particular in neighborhoods that have been chronically challenged with public safety issues."

When the pilot program kicked off last July, Mirkarimi told the Examiner: "This is a two-front win because the Sheriff's Department alleviates the SFPD so they can turn their attention back to the community, and we provide an equivalent service at less cost to the taxpayer."

Police Chief Greg Suhr was quoted in the same story: "We are looking forward to the start of the pilot program, and although we are starting small, with only two stations, we are looking forward to having the program expand to all 10 district stations." Now, SFPD public information officer Albie

Esparza said, "The department remains supportive of the program as far as the transporting of custodies is concerned. It can be particularly helpful when alleviating the officers from the hospital watch. It's up to the Sheriff's Department to promote it."

Mirkarimi will need new funding to expand the program permanently. According to aide Ivy Lee, Kim endorses STUs. "She has been supportive of the program ever since former Sheriff Hennessey instituted it," Lee said in an email. "She has heard from the community that having the Sheriff's Department handle custodial transfers has freed up police officers' time and capacity to be able to be in the community rather than handling routine physical custodial transfers."

Lee says Kim would like to see it funded, but figures it's the sheriff's job to sell it to the supes. "It's the department head's role to advocate for the funding needed," she wrote. ■

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The commitment is approximately 5 hours/month. There is a \$500 annual stipend for participation as well as training and leadership opportunities. Applications are open until May 15th. Desired qualifications include: direct experience with after-school, summer, and youth-focused programs in San Francisco; a passion for youth-inclusion in decision-making; and connection to the diverse experiences of youth in San Francisco. For more information, please visit the SF Youth Commission webpage: www.sfgov.org/yc"

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Boeddeker makeover hastens feelings of safety in the hood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Kate Robinson, Safe Passage program director, meets with volunteers at Boeddeker Park before they head out to their posts on Tenderloin street corners.

worth section, the slums of the TL and the target of the Tenderloin's \$1 million improvement project, a five-year effort 15 years ago that was funded by the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund.

Safe Passage has become the focal point for safe Tenderloin streets. It has grown from a low-five-figure budget and lots of volunteers to about \$400,000 a year, paid staff and lots more volunteers.

All that in the last year, a reversal of fortune rivaling a fat contract for a forgotten movie star. Safe Passage has even become a bit of a growth industry in the TL, compensating more than a dozen residents part time as block captains.

The program began in 2008 after neighborhood parents met to voice concerns about their children walking the high-crime streets to and from school and after-school programs.

Along with TL Boys and Girls Club volunteers, they began escorting the kids. In time, the club, TL Community Benefit District and La Voz Latina became solid partners and sponsored the first painting of the route — "the yellow brick road" — on Martin Luther King Day, 2012.

MAJOR TURNING POINT

The pending \$200,000 OEWD grant, written largely by then-TL CBD Executive Director Hilliard and Kate Robinson of Chinatown Community Development Center, was viewed as a major turning point for the organization. After the city announced it, Hilliard left the CBD and became Safe Passage executive director in October. The next month, Robinson, a longtime volunteer, became program director. Soon, the Health Improvement Project came up with \$150,000.

"We operated from 2008-14 on very minimal funds," Robinson writes on Safe Passage's Website. "We received a few small grants in those seven years, but we operated mostly off of volunteer contributions and time, until the TL HIP process gave us this opportunity to grow. All of the organizations who made up the [original] Safe Passage committee are now board members."

Volunteers for the streets meet weekdays at 2:15 p.m. in the Boeddeker Park Community building for assignments. They don the yellow vests with reflective orange and gray stripes, common among street workers, and pick up the walkie-talkies that they use to report street conditions to each other and warn of erratic behaviors. Varying their days, they are on their corners by 2:45 p.m. and stay till 4 p.m.

Up to eight three-day-a-week corner captains typically work problem spots and get a \$235 monthly stipend; a half dozen five-day-a-week corner captains earn \$390.

For the fundraiser's display table,

Hilliard prepared photos to demonstrate what a difference a corner captain can make. One color photo shot in November at the worrisome southeast corner of Turk and Leavenworth streets, notorious for dope dealing, shows a motley adult crowd of 20 or so milling about while five little schoolkids in white shirts with backpacks and umbrellas try to maneuver through them.

The photo is juxtaposed with a shot she took there this February at the same time of day. It shows two corner captains standing in yellow vests holding walkie-talkies. No one is within 30 feet of them.

"Sometimes dealers will only go 20 feet away," Hilliard said before the evening event. "I see it as a turf war. And some days are better than others. But we're a daily presence now, and it's an end to a time when we couldn't get enough people (volunteers)."

Robinson explains on the Website that Safe Passage monitors avoid "negative street elements."

"It is not our goal to intervene," she writes. "We are a safety presence, and with us here people can focus on us and feel safer on the streets. There is something about seeing the yellow vest, seeing people waving with their walkie-talkies ... we know it has a positive impact."

Because a dope dealer recently got hold of a yellow vest, likely stolen, and was wearing it while selling, Safe Passage has ordered blue replacement vests from Hong Kong, "and not easy to duplicate," Robinson jokes, sensing no one would go to the trouble a second time.

Safe Passage, along with Boeddeker Park, have become the centers for neighborhood safety transformation in the last six months.

Hilliard calls St. Francis Foundation's Causey the "mastermind" behind the safety-first idea for the neighborhood to successfully deal with "decades-old issues." The TL HIP is committing \$1 million this year: \$150,000 to Passage, \$250,000 for Boeddeker Park staffing and programs, \$100,000 to Tenderloin Economic Development Project, \$139,000 to Green Mobile Health Education Kitchen Project — Tenderloinwide classes in eating well — and the rest to be determined.

'WE'D COVER IT'

Before speaking at the fundraiser, Causey told The Extra his group planned for a year before committing the first \$500,000 to the neighborhood and even offered Capt. Cherniss overtime pay if that was needed for Boeddeker Park safety, "and that could be plainclothes officers shooting baskets with youngsters — we'd cover it." But it wasn't needed.

Causey said he had "no quantitative



Preparing for school to let out in the afternoon, Safe Passage corner captain Miryam Aspajo beads out to Tenderloin street corners followed by Kate Robinson, program director, and fellow volunteers Morena Perez and Johnny Sbeeley.

evidence" that the park is safer since opening Dec. 10, but he's certain there's less drug dealing.

The idea was to start in a small geographic area and gradually spread out into the neighborhood, he said. "We're making (Boeddeker) an enlightened place. We have a real shot at making a fundamental change.

"There are a lot of groups around that individually couldn't make the needed changes alone, but by giving them the

resources to do it together, we'll make a big difference."

St. Francis Memorial Hospital has been heavily involved in the neighborhood "for many, many years," Causey told the Safe Passage group. A steady stream of indigent patients to their nearby doorstep costs "millions and millions" of dollars. (St. Francis Hospital gave away almost \$10 million on charity cases in 2011-12, according to the Public Health Department's most recent Charity Care

At Turk and Leavenworth streets, corner captain Yelice Urbina takes up her post at 2:45 p.m., watching over passing children on their way home from school.

Report.) The way to reduce that is to help create a safe and healthy Tenderloin, he said.

"There are 33,000 people in the Tenderloin and 3,500 kids, and they deserve a better life," Causey said. "It will never be a Noe Valley, but nobody wants that. People want to feel safe walking up Leavenworth."

Cherniss later said that the old fortress-like Boeddeker was "an invitation" to drug dealers, but since the makeover it's more open and with so much activity that "it's awkward for criminals" to exploit it. He had no figures to show diminished arrests in and around the park, and wouldn't say what hours two of his officers work there, but he is convinced that drug dealers have shied away and possibly gone "to Turk Street to show an uptick" there.

"It's the hub of positive community togetherness," he said of the park. "It's not necessarily police, it's community. It's ripe for that now. We're all getting more connected and sharing information."

Hilliard, who started in the TL as a Christian Academy grade school teacher, said Boeddeker is "the model" of safety now and will have the biggest impact on the neighborhood.

"I haven't seen anything like it in my 16 years in the Tenderloin," she said. ■



Bushra Al'absi, a teacher at Cross Cultural Family Center — a private preschool and K-4 afterschool program at 259 Turk St. that opened in 1994 — shepherds students through the streets as volunteer Johnny Sbeeley monitors their passage.

Safe Passage dinged — maintenance 'botched'

SRO owner complains about yellow bricks as 'bad graffiti'

By TOM CARTER

The repainting of the TL's Safe Passage yellow brick route picked up a nick when one of its long-time supporters called it a "botched" job done without permission and asked Supervisor Jane Kim's office to find out from the Department of Public Works why it happened and how it can be rectified.

Kathy Looper, who owns the Cadillac Hotel and has supported Safe Passage as a TL Community Benefit District board member, asked in an email to Kim and her assistant why the sidewalk on the Leavenworth side of the hotel was repainted with the super large yellow bricks "without my permission or without any community process for comment. I support Safe Passage but don't appreciate what is rapidly becoming bad graffiti on a public sidewalk."

Looper and her late husband, Leroy — lifelong champions of good works — bought the Cadillac in 1977, turning it into the TL's first supportive housing in an SRO. The hotel will house the soon-to-open ground-floor Tenderloin Museum.

The original "yellow brick road" went down on an 11-block route for schoolchildren in 2012. Its repainting didn't begin until a month ago and isn't finished. Looper included a picture of her referenced sidewalk section showing the badly faded bricks next to a bunch of tighter-spaced, bright yellow bricks.

Looper asked in her email if there shouldn't have been hearings for the job she called "botched, badly maintained and painted," contributing to

the neighborhood's "trashy" label.

Safe Passage Executive Director Dina Hilliard said someone had sent the email to her and she was surprised that Looper didn't contact her about her grievances.

"We have a permit to do this," Hilliard said, "and we want neighborhood consensus on this. We want the property owners to be happy with it. It's meant to be attractive and vibrant for schoolkids. But I agree it doesn't look fantastic in some places."

Hilliard admitted "a lapse in maintenance" that was drawn out when Safe Passage changed fiscal sponsors from the TL CBD to Community Initiatives. Hilliard had been the CBD executive director for several years before leaving it for the Passage job. It was only then that Passage came into bucks big enough to repaint.

Hilliard told The Extra she would talk to Looper, who was firm that she was complaining solely as a property owner, not a CBD board member. Apparently, though, they haven't gotten along for a while.

"Dina and I don't have a talking relationship at all," Looper wrote in an email to The Extra.

Hilliard later sent her an email after hearing from Kim's office that Looper "had concerns" about "the maintenance of the Safe Passage mural" (Safe Passage's term for the bricks). Hilliard offered in an email to her to answer any questions sent to her "in a timely manner."

At the CBD's Public Rights of Way Committee meeting April 9, maintaining the bricks came up, though it wasn't on the agenda. Looper is a member but was absent.

"There was talk about the quality of maintenance, and there were a lot of questions," says Susie McKinnon, CBD interim director. "It was essentially about the condition of the sidewalk murals. There were questions but no answers," McKinnon said it was her task to get those answers from Hilliard and report back to the committee.

Hilliard told The Extra that mainte-



MARK HEDIN

Safe Passage's old bricks, repainted, foster a "trashy" look," complains Kathy Looper, Cadillac Hotel owner.

nance is ongoing. "We budget \$500 for 20 hours a month of repainting by the artist, or if he supervises any volunteers. It goes on block by block." And, like the painting of the Golden Gate Bridge, it is constant.

Looper, responding to Hilliard in an email, said she wasn't sure Hilliard could answer the questions, which were "larger than the Safe Passage bricks," and centered on "How did this happen?" They included her rights as a property owner, what right someone has to paint sidewalks in front of a business and, though it's referred to as public art, is it?

Looper concluded to her: "You should religiously have maintained it to the highest standard." ■

Marjorie Beggs contributed to this report.

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Jesse Cottonham Human Performance Senior Specialist

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Nevermind tweets — at CAC you can almost hear the crickets chirp

Citizen's Advisory Committee seats kept vacant, city ignores sunshine laws

By MARK HEDIN

IF THERE WERE ANY doubts about the extent to which City Hall has turned its back on the Tenderloin, look no further than the neglected state of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Central Market & Tenderloin Area, the group of volunteers cynically put in place as community watchdogs fighting for a fair shake under the terms of the Twitter tax break.

Of its 11 seats, one has been vacant since 2013. City Hall knows about that one. But, equipped with the knowledge that Vice Chair Robert Marquez had resigned back in February, and thus did not attend the most recent CAC meeting, in mid-March, The Extra called the clerk of the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee, which vets applicants to the panel.

Alisa Somera took the call. She said she was unaware of a vacancy in the seat Marquez occupied for four years as a representative of the neighborhood's community-based organizations. She referred us to Tim Ho in the city administrator's office, which holds the actual power in negotiations with companies claiming the Twitter tax break. Their \$1 million-plus payrolls require them to sign community benefit agreements pledging givebacks to their new neighborhood.

But Ho has not worked for the city for at least three months, said Michael

Pawluk, who answered Ho's line and said he works there as media coordinator. Ho, he believes, is working on Mayor Lee's re-election campaign and no longer on the city payroll.

The Extra is thus confident in reporting that there will be no new faces on the committee at its May 7 meeting. Somera did say that the terms of five seats — those of Eva Perring, Steven Suzuki, John Bogacki, Brad Paul and Antoinette Stadlman — expire Aug. 2.

As for the committee's ongoing work, the CAO apparently has adopted a more hands-off approach than early on. Just when the CBA process was getting rolling, about a year into the process, the administrator abruptly sacked four panel members, thus denying the committee a quorum and the ability to act. These days the city no longer posts CAC minutes or agendas, despite city and state laws requiring that it do so.

On May 1, 2013, Bill Barnes, then the city administrator's liaison to the CAC and the six tax break companies, informed four CAC members that they had been deemed resigned from the panel because of "unexcused absences." The loss of those four seats, combined with three vacancies at the time, meant the panel no longer had enough members — six — to officially meet, and thus whatever CBA activity, or lack thereof, that occurred that year was largely off the radar.

Barnes is currently on leave from the city and working Mayor Lee's re-election campaign.

Of those purged, two, Paul and Suzuki, were reappointed in time for the August meeting that year along with several newcomers. But, in the meantime, the first CBAs of five of the companies — Twitter, Yammer, Zoosk, One King's Lane and 21Tech — proceeded with no community input or review.

The state's Ralph M. Brown Act on public records and the city's Sunshine Ordinance both apply to the CAC, as stated in its bylaws. Under the terms of those regulations, meeting agendas are to be posted 72 hours in advance, draft minutes available within 10 days of the meeting, and approved minutes within 48 hours of approval — which usually occurs at the following meeting. But, as of April 27, the only minutes or agendas posted for any of the CAC meetings this year is the agenda for Feb. 5.

Violation of the Sunshine Ordinance or Brown Act is considered willful misconduct and grounds for termination. City Administrator Naomi Kelly did not return The Extra's request for comment on this story, just as she had declined every request from the Extra to discuss the CAC or the five CBAs she signed in 2014 despite the CAC's near-unanimous rejection of them all.

Perhaps, given what original CAC

member Nella Manuel said when she resigned last fall: The CAC "doesn't do anything," it doesn't matter if the city posts its documents or not. Nonetheless, the CAC will meet May 7 at 5:45 p.m. in Room 416 at City Hall — we think. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mark Hedin has been covering the Twitter tax break's effects on the central city since Supervisor Kim's ordinance established the Citizen's Advisory Committee. The stated rationale was to give the community input into the benefits that the largest tech companies were required to return to the neighborhood. But Kim fashioned a committee without teeth, denying its members a seat at the negotiating table or veto power over deals the city administrator crafts with the companies. Serving as window dressing leaves the dedicated committee members selected for their proven commitment to the community feeling powerless. They are cynically used by the city administrator so the city can say the hood has a voice in the process. No wonder the CAC members are resigning in frustration.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District

The Tenderloin Community Benefit District invites qualified community members to apply for a Board of Director's seat!

Serving on the Board of Directors is a rewarding volunteer opportunity. Members help navigate and oversee the organization's mission and goals to initiate and implement improvement projects and services for the district and community.

To qualify, applicants must be a Tenderloin property or business owner representative, or resident (within district boundaries).

To learn more about board membership, contact our office at: info@nom-tlcbd.org or call: 415-292-4812

Application deadline:
May 15th, 2015, 6 PM

The Tenderloin Community Benefit District (TLCBD) exists to facilitate the transformation of the Tenderloin into a cleaner, safer, more vibrant neighborhood.

nom-tlcbd.org



HOUSING APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE KNOX AND BAYANIHAN HOUSE



The Knox



Bayanihan House

Please go to 241 6th Street, San Francisco, CA for applications

The TODCO Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing Waiting List is open for the Knox and the Bayanihan House. If your name is currently on any TODCO Housing Waiting List and you would like information on your current status, please call the TODCO Marketing Office at 415-957-0227 on Fridays' only.

Building	Size & Amenities	Max/Min Household Income Limits	Rent as of Feb. 1, 2015
The Knox SRO located at 241- 6th St. & Tehama is accepting applications and has an OPEN WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person or Couple Room size: 10 ½ x 18 (Semi-Private) bathroom 7 x 7 Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed Building amenities: small gym, library, private lounge, roof top garden, community kitchen, laundry facility, 24 hour staff & surveillance	1 person \$34,600/year 2 person \$39,520/year Minimum income of \$1,374/month	Move-in deposit \$687 Monthly rent \$687 plus utilities
Hotel Isabel located at 1095 Mission CLOSED WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person Shared bathroom Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2- burner stove, closet and single bed	1 person \$34,600/year No minimum income Closed	30% OF INCOME Requires a Certificate of Homelessness
Bayanihan House (Non-assisted units) located at 88 – 6th St. & Mission. OPEN WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person or Couple Room single: 10½ x 12, shared bathroom Double occupancy: 12x12, shared bathroom Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed Building amenities: community kitchen, 24 hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility	1 person \$30,275/year Couple \$34,580/year Minimum income of \$889.40/month	As of Jan. 1, 2015 Move-in deposit \$590 Monthly rent \$590 Utilities included

TDD: (415) 345-4470



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Healthier Living Workshops: Take Control of Your Health, a program of the Central YMCA. Fridays through May 29, 9-11:30 a.m., Boeddeker Park, 246 Eddy St. RSVP Gloria Garcia, (415) 292-2316 or ggarcia@ymcasf.org.

Asian Heritage Street Celebration, May 16, 11 a.m. 6 p.m., Civic Center Plaza. 11th annual free celebration produced by AsianWeek Foundation includes arts and crafts, live entertainment, specialty foods, children's activities. Info: asianfairsf.com

Market Street updates, meeting to summarize coming changes, May 18, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., noon-1:30 p.m. Hosted by Market Street Association, includes presenters from Muni, Better Market Street Project, BART, PG&E and ACT. RSVP: carolyn@marketstreetassociation.org.

Daldas Grocery, 200 Eddy St., May 21, 3-5 p.m. Community event to celebrate grand reopening, TL Healthy Corner Store Coalition. Specials, discounts, tastings, raffle. Info: healthyTL.org

ARTS EVENTS

Hospitality House 30th annual art auction, May 8, 6 p.m., White Walls Gallery, 886 Geary St. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks and auction of artwork created by local neighborhood artists and those represented by professional galleries. For information on tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and to view the featured artwork: hospitalityhouse.org/30th-annual-art-auction or (415) 749-2184.

Family Comics Day, May 10, 2-4 p.m. Main Library, Rooms A & B. Create comics with guest artists from California College of the Arts. Part of SF Comic Fest, May 3-10, workshops, talks, Cartoon Art Museum, 655 Mission St. Info: sfcomicsfest.com.

Soundvoice Celebration, May 17, noon-3 p.m., Center for New Music, 55 Taylor St., San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and TL residents from Hospitality House present a score based on six collaborative sessions, led by CMP artists, that explores sound, music and storytelling. Info: sfcmp.org/soundvoice.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

HOUSING

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Client Council, 3rd Tuesday of month, 3-5 p.m., 1380 Howard, Room 515. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 255-3695. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

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.

Hoarding and Cluttering Support Groups, weekly meetings at various times, conducted by Mental Health Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 928. Info: 421-2926 or mentalhealthsf.org/group-search.

Legal clinic, 4th Thursday of month, 507 Polk St., 10 a.m.-noon. Legal help for people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities who need help with an SSA work review, sponsored by People with Disabilities Foundation. Sliding-scale fee. By appointment only: 931-3070. Info: pwdf.org.

Mental Health Board, 3rd Wednesday of month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday of month, 3-4 p.m., Kelly Cullen Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium. Public meetings to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica.healthyretail@gmail.com, 581-2483.

SAFETY

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



Larry Clark's 1998 pastel is available at Hospitality House's annual art auction.

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 IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of 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, meets 2nd Tuesday of month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Info: 882-3088, central-market.org.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 3rd Thursday of month, 3:30 p.m., park Clubhouse, 246 Eddy. Info: Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

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.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 5 p.m., 55 Taylor St. Info: 292-4812.

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 month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Info: 820-1412.

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 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.

Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday of month, 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 April Veneracion. JaneKim@sfgov.org, 554-7970.

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