

Bringing mid-Market to life — virtually

Digital arts district proposed for ballot by Warfield owner

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

DAVID Addington, owner of the Warfield Building and purveyor of fine sausages, plans to once again place on the ballot a measure designed to light up the night sky above Market Street from Fifth to Seventh with electronic billboards, jumbo TV screens and assorted other high-tech devices. The ballot measure would create a self-styled digital arts district (DAD) in the two-block corridor of mid-Market now most burdened with vacancies.

At the Market Street Association meeting March 22, Addington introduced Peter Hirshberg, chairman of the board of Gray Area Foundation

for the Arts, which will be “the creative partner” for the DAD. Hirshberg called Gray Area the emerging leader in tech art. He urged everyone: “Learn, adapt and change.”

“What software designers create often washes over into the general culture,” he said. “DAD will be a combination of digital art and architecture with noncommercial and general advertising evenly divided.” Hirshberg sees the district as less about billboards and more about digital art.

“It will be interactive with space for storytelling and social media and the presentation of urban data in real time,” he said.

The proposal would carve an exemption from Prop. G — the 2002 city ordinance prohibiting new outdoor advertising signs unrelated to a building’s commercial use. Addington tried to overturn Prop. G in 2009 when he put up \$455,000 to qualify and promote Prop. D, which would have blanketed the neighborhood with all kinds of advertising. The measure failed.

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“Who’s going to curate this digital art?”

Darryl Smith
LUGGAGE STORE GALLERY

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Most city contracts to pick up clients OKd

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FARMERS' MARKET GIVEAWAY

Ton of fresh food to the Tenderloin

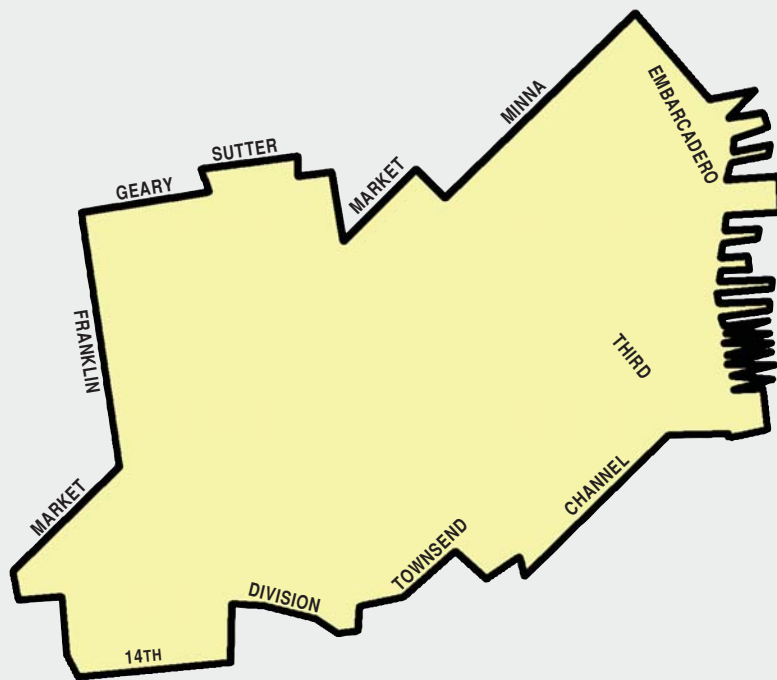
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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

DISTRICT 6



These are the boundaries of the redrawn Supervisorial District 6, reconfigured to accommodate the district’s population boom reflected in the 2010 U.S. census.

TAKING SHAPE

Boundaries are 99 and 24/100ths set into place

BY TOM CARTER

THE reconfiguration of the city’s 11 supervisorial districts goes to the Board of Supervisors for approval April 15 with bloated District 6 changed the most because it gained the most people. It is likely to keep its major features, but shrink south and west.

The latest map (March 22) from the city-wide Redistricting Task Force shears off Hayes Valley, drops part of Inner Mission south of 16th Street and shucks Mission Bay south of Channel Street, delivering the new UCSF Mission Bay campus to District 10.

Geary Street is District 6’s northern boundary with a handoff up to Post Street for a few blocks before dipping down Mason to Market, thus tossing tourist-choked Powell Street and the cable car turnaround to District 3.

“But this is a work in progress,” Jenny Lam, task force vice chair, said. “And it (the map) will absolutely be tweaked before we’re ready to go to the supervisors. We will meet four to six more times.”

Even so, as March drew to a close, the task force was 99 and 24/100ths of the way there.

The city is mandated to redraw district lines every 10 years after the U.S. census. District 6 will be pulling in its boundaries because the 2010 census showed its population shot up by 26,000, reflecting the high-end condo influx south of Market Street. The March 22 map attempts to include a population close to 73,200 — the new mean average for a supervisorial district. The latest map has it at 73,760, just 560 people, or 0.76%, over the limit but under the required 1%.

The population of each district after the 2000 census averaged 70,612.

The nine-member task force, which has been meeting since August, has held 15 community meetings since January, visiting each district at least once. With community input, the task force drew several citywide map versions, refining regularly. The first map was a tighter cropping, leaving District 6 with 70,904 people, 3.14% under. But, uh oh, it eliminated the Mission Street residence of district Supervisor Jane Kim. The latest map puts her back in.

“It’s tough,” Lam says about her first experience on a public task force. “There has been compelling testimony, and not just from District 6. It has been very helpful to learn about the neighborhoods. But once a change is made in one district, it’s a domino effect and changes all the others.”

“We’re always asking, ‘Where does it make sense?’”

Members of the public were invited to submit their own map versions for consideration online through redrawsf.org. That took some technical skill to do, so the

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COURTESY S.F. HISTORY CENTER, S.F. PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1943, mid-Market glowed with neon, giving the area a feeling of excitement.

GOOD NEWS for...

BOEDEKER PARK Residents can revel in their vastly improved park for the rest of the year, before the wrecking ball levels it in 2013 for an 18-month renovation. Rec and Park recently reported that Boeddeker's quality had jumped 22% over last year to an A+ grade of 97%. Rec and Park staff and the City Services auditor evaluate San Francisco's 220 parks twice a year in 14 categories including quality of lawns, trees, athletic courts, play areas and restrooms. The mid-fiscal year report said the parks averaged 90.6%, up from 88.3% in 2010-11. The citywide average has increased each year since evaluations began in 2005-06. The Tenderloin's Sgt. Macauley Park was 96.8%, up 9.8%; Turk-Hyde Mini Park was 85%, up 1.5%; but Tenderloin Children's Recreation Center on Ellis Street dropped 5.9% to 90.2%. District 6's average of 91.6%, up 3%, was fourth best among the 11 supervisorial districts. One of its biggest and newest parks, Victoria Manalo Draves Park on Folsom Street, was 95.6%, down half a point.

172 EX-HOMELESS When they move into TNDC's Kelly Cullen Community at the old Central YMCA, they'll have a better chance than ever of avoiding the revolving door of hospitals, emergency rooms, detox and other crises that characterize their lives. TNDC has been granted \$425,000 to help integrate housing, primary health care and behavioral health services. First tenants will move in in December. A month later, the city's Housing and Urban Health Clinic will begin providing services. Kelly Cullen Community is one of four pilot programs nationwide — the others are in Los Angeles, Washtenaw County, Mich., and throughout Connecticut — that will test the effectiveness of linking supportive housing and on-site health care. The grant is renewable for a second year and restricted to paying for social workers to support tenants here. It comes from the feds' Corporation for National and Community Service through the Corporation for Supportive Housing. CNCS solicits matching private donations for projects that improve the lives of people in low-income U.S. communities.

YOUR INNER STAR Tune up your trumpet, practice your pantomime, rehearse your rap, fashion a flash mob — get ready for Talent in the TL, the free, July 14 event at Boeddeker Park that will showcase the many gifted people living and working in the Tenderloin. Sponsored by Friends of Boeddeker Park, the event is just getting organized and will be one of the final bashes before the park closes for 18 months of renovation. Now's the time to let outreach coordinator Joann Bubiak know that you'd like to participate as an artist or volunteer. Open for all kinds of performers as well as visual artists (art will be displayed along the sides of the park), the details about tech support, sound permits, stage size, curating (or not) will evolve as people respond with their interest in participating. Contact Joann at jubiak@aol.com or 225-8540.

If you have some good news, send it to tom@studycenter.org or marjorie@studycenter.org

TL Health handoff on schedule

City contracts in place to pick up services to 3,000 clients

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

THE Jan. 6 announcement that a severe budget shortfall was axing Tenderloin Health sent the city into a huddle looking for other providers to serve the nonprofit's 3,000 clients.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services Agency announced that they wouldn't abandon the HIV/AIDS sufferers who were getting medical, mental health, dental, housing, prevention, peer advocacy and case management services from the 26-year-old Tenderloin Health.

They've kept their word, though by the end of March, the city's ducks weren't completely lined up.

"All services at 187 Golden Gate will continue without interruption, and most case managers will remain the same," Tracey Packer, DPH's acting director of HIV prevention, told The Extra.

The goal, says Packer, who helped coordinate the Tenderloin Health transition, is to make the changeover as seamless as possible for clients.

Tenderloin Health — the organization, not the service site — will shut down April 6. During the next 30 days, two other nonprofits will pick up some of the slack.

DPH has transferred the contract for administering primary medical care and support services to Asian & Pacific

Islander Wellness Center, an HIV/AIDS provider since 1987 located at 730 Polk between Ellis and Eddy streets. It's a big organization with 40 staff and more than 2,000 clients.

Even before the transition, the Wellness Center was "an anchor health care institution in the Tenderloin and is excited now to take the lead" in serving the community's HIV clients, says Executive Director Lance Toma.

The center has hired eight Tenderloin Health staffers, who will cover case management, peer advocacy and mental health services at 187 Golden Gate. It doesn't plan to hire additional staff to accommodate its increased caseload, but will keep an ear to the ground for emerging needs. Clinicians from Tom Waddell Health Center, which is partners with APIWC, will provide primary medical care at the TLH site.

Tenderloin Health's housing services, so essential to HIV/AIDS clients, also will be uninterrupted, Packer says, but negotiations are ongoing for two of TLH's three programs. The Human Services Agency has turned over the management contract for 20 units of emergency housing at the Kinney Hotel, 410 Eddy St., to Lutheran Social Services. This venerable provider of supportive housing and money-management services was founded in 1883 to care for orphans.

Still undecided is a contract

for managing permanent supportive housing services for the chronically homeless at the 110-unit Aranda Residence, 64 Turk St. A second contract for 60 units of emergency and transitional housing for homeless, formerly incarcerated clients also is being negotiated.

A March 2 DPH press release said that even before TLH closed, many of its emergency housing program clients were getting help managing their money from Lutheran Social Services, including using the nonprofit to cash clients' checks for Social Security and SSI benefits.

HIV/AIDS prevention was a critical program of Tenderloin Health. Instead of transferring contracts to new providers, DPH says it will absorb those services, which included testing, education counseling and support groups, into existing contracts with other providers such as San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Dental services at the TL Health site also will continue, Packer said. They were a collaboration with Tom Waddell Health Center & Dental Services, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center and Positive Resource Center (a mid-Market HIV/AIDS benefits counseling and employment service) and were funded through the end of March with a \$358,597 grant from U.S. Health and Human Services. The grant was renewed, but now must be renegotiated. ■

Warfield owner pushes digital arts district

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Addington said the new plan to bring electronic signage to mid-Market is, in part, "an effort to address reasonable criticisms" voiced against his former measure.

"Voters in mid-Market approved Prop. D. It was the people in the Marina and Richmond and Sunset who were against it," he said.

Dee Dee Workman, Addington's campaign manager on Prop. D, is rejoining him in his new ballot venture. She told the audience that she used to be director of San Francisco Beautiful, the nonprofit that championed Prop. G. She said now it's time to revive mid-Market's "historical theater district roots" and its once-vibrant nightlife.

Ten years ago Workman described Prop. G as a way "to limit more billboards and thereby protect the beauty and uniqueness of our city." Now, she says, "Prop. G doesn't serve mid-Market."

Addington is uncertain when the measure might be submitted to the ballot, citing the process of vetting legislative language by the city attorney and the need to gather a petition with 9,702 valid signatures of registered voters.

He said he's commissioned a 200-page report from the architectural firm Page and Turnbull that will include detailed renderings of the proposed signage. "We've developed a building-by-building blueprint, so the voters can see what goes where," Addington said.

The old buildings would have to be retrofitted to accommodate electronic billboards, giant viewing screens and colorful signs burning at full capacity.

He estimated it would cost property owners \$8 million to \$25 million to retrofit what he counted as 57 buildings in the proposed district. Actually, there are 45 buildings in Addington's two-block district, and 57 from Fifth to Eighth streets.

Addington figured the district would generate \$8 million a year in advertising, half of which would go to a private foundation yet to be formed but already charged with distributing district proceeds to "arts and community groups." The remaining \$4 million, he said, would be divided among participating building owners who would be required to plow one-half of their take back into their building.

By this reckoning, then, the 45 property owners on the two blocks would each wind up with \$89,000 for themselves. That is, after spending from \$178,000 to \$534,000 to make their buildings digital-ready.

Addington said he consulted with SPUR, a proponent in 2002 of Prop. G, about forming his foundation, as well as with Jim Lazarus, senior vice president of the Chamber of Commerce. Addington believes digital art signage will attract enough people to mid-Market to erase the blight.

"Everybody thought Redevelopment was going to do the job," he said. "That's not going to happen. Then, that CitiPlace would do it. That's unlikely."

For some, Addington's plan raised more questions than answers.

Darryl Smith, co-founder and director of the Luggage Store Gallery at 1000 Market St., asked: "Who's going to curate this digital art, and why does it have to be pushed 24/7?" He said he has been projecting visual art from the back of his gallery onto an adjacent building for years. But not continuously.

He said people can also be attracted by the interplay of art and open green environments. His examples were the gardens at Yerba Buena and the Tenderloin National Forest on Cohen Alley.

Smith asked whether all mid-Market property owners support the proposed ballot measure. He got no answer.

Ellen Richard, executive director of A.C.T., said she's disappointed that the digital district would end at Seventh Street, as that excludes her new space at 1119 Market.

Addington replied that his informal consultations with city planners suggested the Planning Commission would rule out digital art signage on Market Street west of Seventh, particularly across from U.N. Plaza and in the sightlines of City Hall. ■

CORRECTION

THE byline for the Tenderloin Stars feature on Page One of the March issue omitted the byline of The Extra's community reporter, Tom Carter.

Hope fades for HopeNet

S.F.'s tough distance-from-a-school law may be pot club's undoing

BY TOM CARTER

THE feds are tightening the noose around another medical pot dispensary, 10-year-old HopeNet, which is flailing against U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag's campaign to wreck the area's medical marijuana infrastructure.

And this time she can use the city's own rule on a dispensary's distance from a school, much stricter than the state's regulation.

The state Health Code requires pot dispensaries to be at least 600 feet from any K-12 school, public or private, significantly closer than the distance between HopeNet and Presidio Knolls School, a Mandarin-immersion preschool at 250 10th St., a block away.

But in 2005, when then-Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi spearheaded the revisions of the city's 2002 pot dispensary regulations, in an amendment seconded by Chris Daly, they made the distance a dispensary could be from a school much stricter than the state. San Francisco's Planning Code Article 7, Section 790.141 stretches the prohibitive mark from parcel to parcel to 1,000 feet.

The Extra consulted Google Maps, which calculated the sidewalk footage between HopeNet and the school at 1,056 feet; Google Search came up with 950 feet. The owner's son took a measurement and came up with more than 1,300 feet. In any case, a questionable call as cause for the U.S. attorney to close a thriving, decade-old small business.

Five dispensaries in the city have closed since November, the Examiner recently reported, after Haag wrote to their landlords, threatening to prosecute and seize their buildings if they continue renting to pot clubs.

The Department of Public Health, which oversees the dispensaries, says 25 — two of them delivery operations — were operating as of March 21. There were 31 in 2007.

The last to fold under Haag's threat was Sanctuary on O'Farrell Street, an unassuming storefront with fewer than 1,000 patients, the majority with HIV/AIDS or cancer. It was the last dispensary in the Tenderloin and had no complaints in its eight years. It was targeted, Haag's letter to sanctuary's landlord said, because it's immediately behind Tenderloin Children's Playground.

Another dozen city dispensaries' landlords have received letters from Haag. HopeNet's landlord's letter, dated Feb. 21, stated that the dispensary at 223 Ninth St. is in violation of federal law, and, moreover, subject to "enhanced penalties" because it is "within a prohibitive distance of a school, Presidio Knolls School."

Cathy Smith, who started the cooperative in 2002 with her grower husband, Steven Smith, organized some blowback. March 13, she faxed 650 signed protests to Haag's office. The next day, 175

personal letters were sent, asking Haag to lay off.

Smith had asked the Department of Public Health, which oversees marijuana dispensaries, for a letter assessing HopeNet's compliance with San Francisco law. March 23, the letter arrived. It said HopeNet is "in compliance" with city Health Code requirements, operates "in a manner consistent with public health and safety," and had "no outstanding public complaints." It was signed by Rajiv Bhatia, DPH's environmental health director. Smith says that next she'll appeal to Sen. Barbara Boxer, who promoted Haag's appointment as U.S. attorney in 2010, Smith said.

But federal law trumps state and local law. A Board of Supervisors resolution in October opposed Haag's crackdown, but it's questionable what effect, if any, that could have.

District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim voted for that resolution.

"But we don't have any jurisdiction locally," Kim says. "It's not just the loss of dispensaries, but the loss of jobs, too. It's sad to see. They (the feds) choose what they want to enforce."

In a California Watch story March 15, Haag told the reporter her prime concerns.

"When a dispensary comes to my attention that is close to a school, a park or playground or to children," she said, "that's a line I've decided to draw, and those are the dispensaries that I'm looking at."

HopeNet has operated peacefully and without major incident and, Smith says, it has 8,000 registered patients. "We're growing all the time. It's an older group and style, working middle-class, lots of them with ties."

She's had two complaints, she says, both over the smell of marijuana on the street. She installed a \$10,000 fan that blows smoke 8 feet above the roof.

In the narrow room adjacent to the dispensary, HopeNet hosts Wednesday lunches for veterans and for women on Thursdays. About 15 people show up for each, Smith says. Some Saturdays, HopeNet volunteers make 300 peanut butter sandwiches to distribute in SoMa and in the Tenderloin, Smith



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

HopeNet co-owner Cathy Smith hosts a lunch for military veterans every Wednesday. This lunch was served March 14.

says. And they give free medicinal smokes and edibles to vets at Laguna Honda Hospital. Also, Smith says, Bridgette Flores, who formerly worked at Hospitality House, offers health and safety, origami and life skills classes and dispenses hygiene supplies.

Haag's enhanced penalties are on Smith's mind this March day at the dispensary. Presidio Knolls, with 99 children, intends to add K-2 in the fall, according to its website. The neighborhood newcomer moved into 250 Tenth St. and held its grand opening in June.

The prohibited distance is not spelled out in Haag's letter and The Extra's repeated efforts to talk to Haag or an aide by phone and fax were unsuccessful. ■

Want to make a difference? Join us!

The North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District works to make the Tenderloin a cleaner and safer neighborhood for all.

Get involved with us:

- Join our Board Meetings (all meetings are open to the public),
- Join our Board of Directors (property owners, business owners, and residents), or
- Join our Committees (Public Rights of Way, District Identity & Streetscape Improvement, or Community Advisory Board)

For more information contact Dina Hilliard [415-292-4812](tel:415-292-4812) or dinanomtlcbd@att.net

All meeting and committee information is available on our website: nom-tlcbd.org



north of market
tenderloin
community
benefit district



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Farmers' market gives away a ton of food

Al Hullana, farmer and member of Heart of the City's board of directors, (left), passes over his weekly donation of cabbages and root vegetables to Nella Manuel, lead donation program volunteer, who also coordinates TNDC's Tenderloin People's Garden.

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

AT 4:30 on a damp Wednesday afternoon, farmer Al Hullana slid a red plastic bin of cabbages and root vegetables across the table to TNDC volunteer Nella Manuel. She grinned broadly at the bounty. He nodded happily, if a little wearily.

It was the end of a long day at the Heart of the City Farmers Market for Hullana, who's been trucking in produce from his 70-acre organic farm in Merced to sell every week since the market opened three

decades ago.

In November, Hullana joined more than 20 other farmers who, when they're done selling at the end of Wednesday market days, set aside perishables for a free giveaway to the central city's poorest residents. Their donations, weekly tipping the scales at 100 to 300 pounds, now have totaled more than 2,000 pounds.

Manuel and other volunteers from the Tenderloin Filipino-American Community Association and Tenderloin Chinese Rights Association pick up the produce and deliver it to the Barangay Tenderloin Community Center, 476 Eddy St., where it's weighed and

set out for distribution the next morning. Early spring produce such as oranges, apples, broccoli, cauliflower, onions and cabbage have filled the bins in recent weeks.

The program has about 200 regulars with up to 40 people lining up at 10 a.m. each Thursday, says Lorenzo Listana, TNDC community organizer.

"The residents pick out what they want," he says. "Depending on donations, we limit them to 5 to 10 pounds. And if there's any leftover produce, we bring it to the Crescent Manor apartments." Crescent Manor is Section 8 housing for seniors and the disabled.

The donation program is a win-win for everyone, says Kate Creps, farmers' market operations manager. It promotes the Healthy Heart of the City nutrition and education campaign and TNDC's Food Justice program, both launched to add healthy foods to the tables of residents who live in the Tenderloin's "food desert" with no full-service grocery store and few sources of truly fresh produce.

Not having to truck back unsold perishables isn't what motivates farmers' giving — they have to haul home tables, tents and boxes, full or empty, anyway, Creps says. Yet many set aside produce to donate that they might have sold.

"They want to help because they've spent so much time among these people and feel like part of this community," she says. "It's their way to give back to a neighborhood that's supported their small farms since the market started in 1981." Heart of the City is a rarity, she adds, a nonprofit run by its farmers and operated to keep direct marketing costs low so savings can be passed on to shoppers.

The donation program is expected to continue indefinitely, "as long as farmers are willing to donate and there are Tenderloin residents who need food," says Listana. ■



PHOTO BY MARJORIE BEGGS

Struggle to keep Filipino community intact

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

response was not overwhelming. Six to eight maps were submitted, Lam says, including one from realtors and a map from the Bay Guardian.

The District 6 meeting was held in SoMa's Bayanihan Center Jan. 21 with an outpouring of residents who basically wanted their neighborhoods' "communities of interest" kept intact. Those in attendance knew what and who is important to their neighborhood, and they didn't want them gerrymandered out. The downside to splitting a community of interest between dis-

tricts, task force written material acknowledges, is that it could "frustrate efforts to obtain government support" by diluting political clout.

The loudest voice at the TODCO-owned Bayanihan (Tagalog for communal unity working to achieve a goal) was from Filipinos. More than a dozen spoke fervently about the need to keep the community together.

Filipinos settled South of the Slot in the 1920s, drawn by low-cost housing.

Now arts and veterans and other groups are active here. An example of the changing population is the enrollment at Bessie

Carmichael Elementary on Seventh Street, which has fallen from 85% Filipino 15 years ago to 50% today.

Weyland Jones, American Filipino Commission chair, suggested that a historic district be created to recognize the participation and contribution of Filipinos. Currently, a major public resource, SoMa's largest park is named after Victoria Manalo Draves, the Filipina record-breaking diving champion of the 1940s who won two Olympic gold medals.

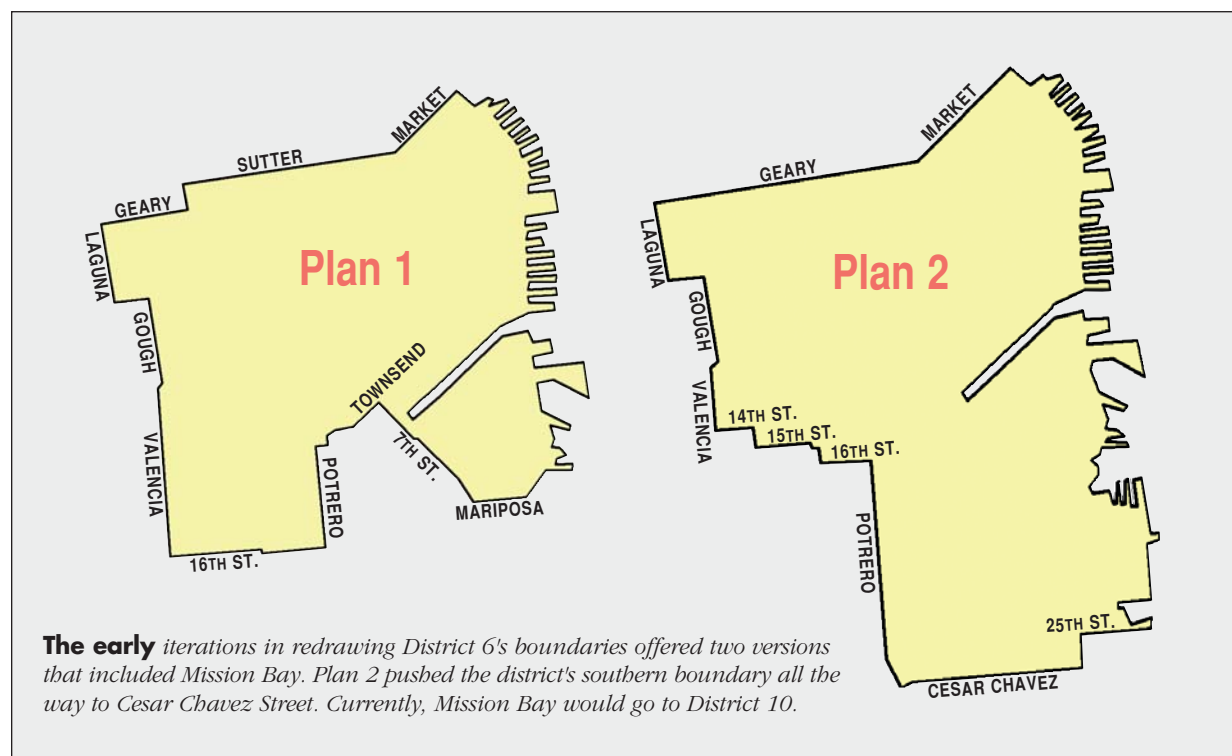
What is now west SoMa has traditionally been the jumping-off place for Filipino immigrants who would settle there when they arrived, and stay till they could afford to move to the suburbs, often to Daly City and southward and the East Bay.

Several speakers, concerned about the northern boundary where dozens of residential hotels are on O'Farrell and Geary Street, wanted the SROs left inside District 6 because they are bound by common tenant issues. The March 22 map seems to leave these alone, but shoves a handful of SROs in the Inner Mission into District 9.

Corrine Woods of Mission Bay Citizens Advisory Committee pleaded against a dividing line east on 16th Street that would split the UCSF Mission Bay campus in half. Mission Bay has things in common with Rincon Hill and South Beach and should stay in District 6, she said. But in the current iteration, the area goes, intact, to District 10.

Chris Bowman, a former task force member, suggested a raft of moves, ending with sending Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island to District 3. But that didn't happen.

"We thought there were too many programs that are part of District 6 operating there like the housing and job training," says Lam. "There's also the direct link with the bridge." ■



Growing up in S.F. in the 1940s

West SoMa activist recalls life in the city as it used to be

Leland (Lee) Meyerzove, longtime SoMa resident, journalist and activist, was a radio programmer and host of the weekly radio broadcast of Board of Supervisors meetings on KPOO. In the mid-1960s, he was friends with the last of the Beat poets and at S.F. State edited "Transfer," the campus literary magazine. In the later 1960s, Meyerzove headed up the San Francisco Economic Opportunity Council's Anti-Poverty Program. A regular at Canon Kip, a SoMa community resource, he was honored in 1998 by nonprofit housing developer TODCO, which named its new 24-unit building for people with disabilities and their families at 980 Howard St. the Leland Apartments. Meyerzove was on the board of directors of the Legal Aid Association of California in 2004 and 2005. He died in October 2006.

Following are excerpts from an interview with Meyerzove conducted by Oral History staffers Isabel Maldonado and Lenny Limjoco that was broadcast live on KPOO in 1978.

You're a native San Franciscan?

I was born in San Francisco in 1934 — the year of the big longshoremen's strike. My mother was having labor pains while the laborers were having their march. At the time, my parents were living where San Jose Avenue and Mission Street meet. I'm a first-generation American.

My mother came to San Francisco because her father was here — he'd come from Eastern Europe before World War I on a "black" passport, which meant that he had no homeland because he wouldn't go back to Poland to fight the Bolsheviks after the war was over. He'd had enough of war. When my grandfather was 13, someone had marched into his school in St. Petersburg and he was drafted into the Tsar's army. He'd gotten into that school, though he was a Jew, because he had a relative without children who rose to some minor rank.

My father came to San Francisco as a visitor. He had been in the army in Palestine in 1916 and got malaria there. Later, when he was living in Los Angeles, a doctor told him the weather there was bad for him, so he came to San Francisco but also to visit a friend from Europe who was in silent films here. People thought San Francisco was going to be in competition with Hollywood. My mother and father met when he went to a theater to meet a date with another woman, but met my mother instead.

My mother settled South of Market and here's an interesting story: When I became chairman of the city's anti-poverty program, I went to look at some office space on Howard between Sixth and Seventh streets. When I walked in, the lady looked at me and asked if my last name was Drawere [sic]. I said no, but that was my grandfather's name. With my beard, she said, I looked just like him when he first came over from Europe with my uncle. She'd met them 40 years before when they were rooming at her mother's and father's place, which they'd left to her and that she was now managing.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up on McAllister and Divisadero. My first impressions — I was 6 or 7 — were playing at Fremont grammar school and watching my father go off to the Kaiser shipyards during World War II. We lived there until 1944, then moved to Hayes Valley, at Laguna and Fell. What happened was the landlords on McAllister wanted to take our five-room apartment and turn it into two



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Leland Meyerzove, for whom TODCO named its Leland Apartments, was a stalwart of community Radio KPOO. He is pictured in KPOO's Natoma Street studio in 1978.

apartments and have us share the kitchen — there were a lot of people coming into San Francisco because of the war industry.

There actually was a court battle about the eviction: The owners, to get us out, accused me of urinating out the window. I'm serious — I had to go to court and testify that I knew my way to the bathroom. We won the case, but we moved anyway. A year

later, I remember the day all the bells and sirens went off. It wasn't noon, so we knew the war was over.

What was the city like in the 1940s?

Out in the Sunset there was mostly sand dunes, and Richmond was just starting to get built up. There was a graveyard and church [near Masonic and Turk streets] where we used to play at night, and that helped us get over our feelings about ghosts. The city was small then. Hunters Point was a place you went for picnics and to go fishing. Sutro Forest was the first place I slept outside overnight. You could walk everywhere, from one place to another.

Were there ethnic divisions in the neighborhoods?

At my [elementary] school I had black, Chicano, Native American, Irish and Italian friends. My father spoke nine languages — he was especially fluent in Italian — and he worked for Italian grocers. I grew up thinking I was almost Italian, but I came from a strictly kosher house. Still, my mother used to go around and visit Chinese restaurants and Spanish restaurants in North Beach and learn how to cook different styles. The whole city was very ethnic and multicultural — and many people didn't consider themselves "white." They were Italians or Sicilians or Greeks.

When it was time for me to go to junior high, in 1948, we lived in Hayes Valley and it was essentially a Jewish and black neighborhood. There were de facto segregation lines set up — certain people knew that the neighborhoods were going to change — but

I quickly found that education in San Francisco was based on class lines. When I went to Presidio Junior High in the lower eighth grade I was doing algebra. When I was moved over to Everett Junior High I was only learning how to add fractions. They felt that those of us living in working-class neighborhoods didn't need anything else because we weren't going anywhere anyway.

Did you keep your friends when you moved?

Yes, I was going to Hebrew School, which is now the Center for the Blind on Buchanan and Grove, and a lot of us used to play basketball at what had been Notre Dame Church. The city bought the church, took out all the pews and turned it into a basketball court. My closest friend Henry Espinoza was taking Confirmation classes at Sacred Heart nearby so we played in the old neighborhood, which we knew really well, even though we lived blocks and blocks away.

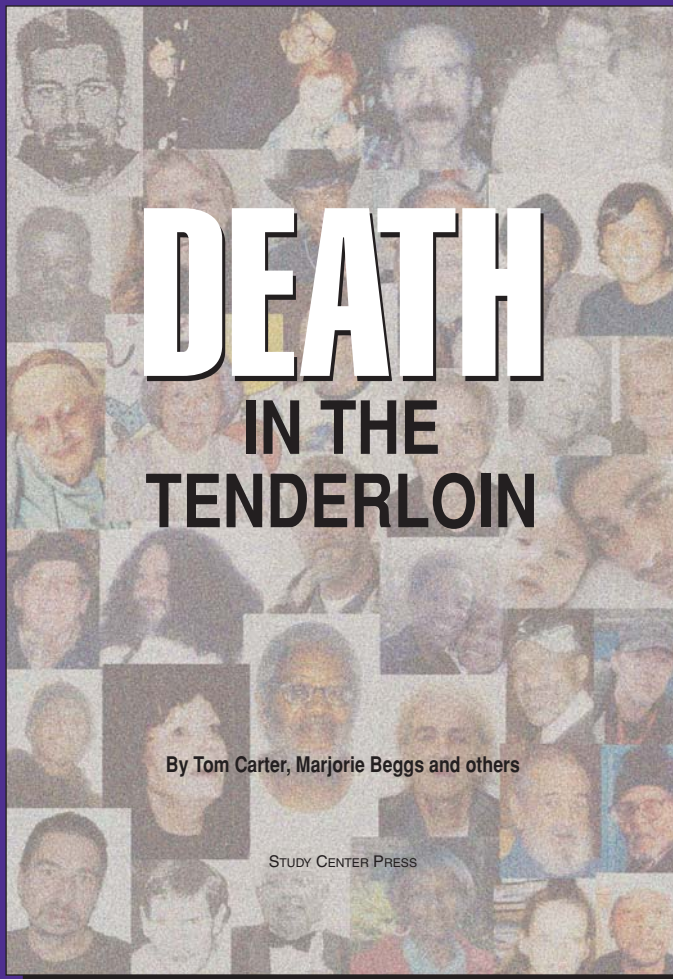
San Francisco was a very, very small city. We were used to taking streetcars and we felt quite independent and didn't feel far apart unless someone moved to the outskirts of the city. For me, the most disastrous was when my friend Eddie moved from McAllister and Divis out to the Excelsior. I remember that going out to see him was just as bad as going out to the country.

Later on, going to high school, it was harder to maintain contact with friends. When I was going to Lowell High School, we had to walk through miles of sand dunes to get out to the soccer field at San Francisco State. People just don't understand that not long ago, you could walk all over many neighborhoods, but when the city began expanding into the real western areas, the Richmond and Sunset, we became lost. ■

This is the third of a series of excerpts, edited by Marjorie Beggs, from the Neighborhood Oral History Project interviews that Study Center conducted in 1977-78 under a federal CETA contract.

Neighborhood
ORAL
HISTORY PROJECT

COMING SOON



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A central city extra from Study Center Press

City and County of San Francisco April, 2012 Monthly

Notice of Funds Availability Training and Coordination of Family Serving Agencies

First 5 San Francisco announces the Availability of Funds for Training and Coordination of Family Serving Agencies. Approximately \$188,000 is available for the period of 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013 and renewable up to two years. Funding supports training and coordination of agencies serving San Francisco families. Final awards and renewals are subject to availability of funds, grant terms, and rights.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on or about 03/30/2012. The RFP may be downloaded from www.first5sf.org or picked up in person 9 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, at First 5 San Francisco, 1390 Market St, Ste 318, San Francisco. A non-mandatory bidder's conference will take place on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 10 a.m. at 1390 Market St., San Francisco, Suite 318. Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, 4/30/2012. Guidelines are noted in the RFQ.

For more information, contact Derik Aoki at derik@first5sf.org or 415-557-9912.

Notice of Funds Availability RFQ - Financial and Expanded Audit Services

First 5 San Francisco announces the Availability of Funds for Financial and Expanded Audit Services. Approximately \$30,000 is available for the period of 08/01/2012 to 12/30/2013 and renewable up to two years. Funding supports financial audit review, financial reporting and expanded audit services. Final awards and renewals are subject to availability of funds, grant terms, and rights.

The Request for Proposal will be released on or about 03/30/2012. The RFQ may be downloaded from www.first5sf.org or picked up in person 9 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, at First 5 San Francisco, 1390 Market St, Ste 318, San Francisco. A non-mandatory bidder's conference will take place on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at 1390 Market St., San Francisco, Suite 318. Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 05/15/2012. Guidelines are noted in the RFQ.

For more information, contact Derik Aoki at derik@first5sf.org or 415-557-9912.

Notice of Funds Availability of Draft 2012-2013 Action Plan and Draft Substantial Amendment to 2011-2012 Action Plan Including Preliminary Funding Recommendations

The Draft 2012-2013 Action Plan and the Draft Substantial Amendment to the 2011-2012 Action Plan, which include preliminary funding recommendations for the CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA programs, will be available for public review and comment through April 17, 2012. For more information, please call 701-5500 or visit www.sfgov.org/moh.

San Francisco Redistricting Task Force (RDTF)

The RDTF must present a final plan outlining the new supervisorial district lines to the Board of Supervisors before April 15, 2012. The San Francisco RDTF has been holding meetings in each of the supervisorial districts to maximize public participation in the redistricting process. . The April 2012 meeting schedule is below.

Wednesday – April 4	6pm	Room TBD, City Hall
Thursday – April 5	6pm	Room TBD, City Hall
Monday – April 9	6pm	Room TBD, City Hall
Wednesday – April 11	6pm	Room TBD, City Hall
Saturday – April 14	10am	Room TBD, City Hall

Information meeting changes and updates on the TBD locations will be available at sfgov.org/rdtf

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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'I'm living on my own in this wonderful place, the Aarti Hotel'

TNDC, Larkin Street partner in new residence for troubled young adults

BY BRIAN RINKER

THE 40-unit Aarti Hotel, next door to the Tenderloin National Forest, celebrated its grand reopening March 26 as newly renovated transitional housing and supportive services for mentally ill youth.

As the sky darkened and a brisk chill cut through the crowd at the event, Meredith Hardesty took the stage. The 22-year-old Aarti resident shared her story of a life wrought with "difficulties and challenges." Nervous, she stuttered and stumbled in her speech, then paused. Some in the crowd tried to calm her. "Take your time," they said. Hardesty continued and delivered her message that ended with a promise of hope.

"Now I'm living on my own, in this wonderful place called the Aarti Hotel," she said, adding that she had volunteered to tell her story, but was so anxious the night before the celebration she slept barely two hours.

The Aarti Hotel is owned by Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp., and Larkin Street Youth Services provides counselors, case managers and other support staff that serve the formerly homeless residents, ages 18 to 24.

A score of people packed the meandering trails of the landscaped oasis nestled on Ellis Street at Larkin, while musical performers, community leaders and supporters took the stage, all in support of the new residences.

Other speakers included Don Falk, TNDC executive director, and

District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim. A ribbon-cutting and tours of the hotel followed.

"It's a good marriage," Falk said of the partnership. TNDC acquired the building at 501 Ellis St. in 1981. Falk said once subsidies dried up for the previous tenants — adults with mental disabilities — they moved out and the building was vacant until now.

"The Aarti Hotel gives young people a home they can respect," said Kathie Lowry, Larkin Street's chief development officer.

For Amanda Maynard, a 23-year-old hotel resident, the hotel is more than a home. It's a place to learn independence and gain self-esteem.

"Staying here teaches us to pay our bills, and they tell us what to look for when grocery shopping," says Maynard. "They even have cooking classes."

Since she was 8 years old, when Maynard became orphaned, she's bounced from family to family and then, when of age, she floated from couch to couch. She got connected with Larkin Street through the HARTS program at City College of San Francisco. While attending City College, Maynard struggled to make classes; being homeless, jobless and suffering from severe mental health problems made life challenging.

Larkin Street, a social service organization for homeless youth ages 12 to 24, took Maynard in. With two shelters, one near the Panhandle for underage youth and another for young adults on Ellis Street down the road from the Aarti, and other transi-



PHOTO BY BRIAN RINKER

Twenty-three-year-old Amanda Maynard (second from left), a resident of the newly renovated Aarti Hotel, stands with others in the adjacent Tenderloin National Forest next door. "They even have cooking classes," she says.

tional homes scattered throughout the city, Larkin Street serves 3,100 out of the city's 5,700 homeless youth, says Lowry.

Residents participate in employment and educational programs designed to teach independence.

Of those who participate in all the

programs, 75%-80% will move on to be self-sustaining. Those who don't or age out at 24 will move on to other adult social service organizations.

Later that evening, Maynard had her first job interview in over two years, at an AMC movie theater. ■

HELP MUNI IMPROVE TRANSIT TRAVEL TIME



Please attend a series of workshops to evaluate options that will reduce travel time on eight of the city's busiest routes and lines shown above. Please visit www.sfmta.com or contact 311 for further information and language assistance. Workshops will have Chinese and Spanish interpreters. For other language needs, including American Sign Language, please notify staff at 415.701.4453 or TTY 415.701.4730 72 hours prior to the meeting.

WORKSHOP DATES AND LOCATIONS

Las fechas y ubicaciones de los talleres / 研討會日期和地點 / Семинар даты и места / Hội thảo Thời gian và địa điểm / Gawaan Petsa at Lokasyon

Workshop Topic	Day/Date	Time	Location
28 19th Avenue and N Judah proposals	Sat., March 31	10 a.m. – 12 noon	Jefferson Elementary School 1725 Irving at 18th Ave.
30 Stockton and 8X Bayshore Express proposals	Sat., April 7	10 a.m. – 12 noon	Gordon J. Lau Elementary School 950 Clay at Powell
1 Church and 14 Mission (South of Cesar Chavez) proposals	Tues., April 10	6 – 8 p.m.	Fairmount Elementary School 65 Chenery at Randall
14 Mission (Inner Mission) and 22 Fillmore (16th Street) proposals	Wed., April 11	6 – 8 p.m.	Women's Building 3543 - 18th St. at Valencia
8X Bayshore Express, 1 Church, 14 Mission (Outer Mission) proposals	Thurs., April 19	6 – 8 p.m.	City College of SF, MUB 140 50 Phelan at Ocean
8X Bayshore Express proposals	Sat., April 21	10 a.m. – 12 noon	Vistacion Valley Community Center 50 Raymond Ave. at Bayshore Blvd.
28 19th Avenue proposals	Tues., April 24	6 – 8 p.m.	Lakeside Presbyterian Church 19th at Eucalyptus
5 Fulton and 22 Fillmore (16th Street) proposals	Sat., April 28	10 a.m. – 12 noon	Ella Hill Hutch, McAllister and Webster 1050 McAllister St. at Webster
14 Mission (Downtown) and 30 Stockton proposals	Tues., May 1	6 – 8 p.m.	Bayanihan Center 1010 Mission at 6th St.
All corridor proposals	Sat., May 5	10 a.m. – 12 noon	SFMTA, 2nd Floor One South Van Ness Ave at Market St.

For Muni route, schedule, fare and accessible services information anytime: Visit www.sfmta.com or contact 311

311: 中文 / Español / Français / 日本語 / 한국어 / русский / tiếng Việt / ภาษาไทย / Tagalog



SFMTA

Municipal Transportation Agency

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hearing on the city's affordable housing policies and programs, April 9, 1 p.m., City Hall, room 263. Called by Supervisors Kim, Olague and Campos, the hearing focuses on the need for middle-income housing plus the continuing challenge of creating affordable housing for low and very low-income San Franciscans. Residents' stories and real-life experiences encouraged. TNDC community organizers will help anyone who wants to testify at the hearing to draft and practice their comments. Info: Hatty Lee, TNDC community outreach coordinator, 358-3920.

Central City Democrats' 6th anniversary annual meeting, celebration and June 5 election endorsement meeting, April 23, 6 p.m., 201 Turk St. Community Room. Presentation of the Steve Conley Champion Award, James Leo Dunn Memorial Award and other recognition awards plus guest speakers David Campos (Dist. 9) and Christina Olague (Dist. 5), board elections, door prizes and refreshments. Info: 339-8683.

Healthy Kids Day, April 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 387 Golden Gate Ave., features healthy snacks, health screenings, games sponsored by Shih Yu-Lang Central YMCA. Free community event for parents and kids kickstarts the Y's summer recreation and educational programs that encourage physical activity and learning when school's out. Info: 885-0460 or ymca.org/central.

Visit sfkids.org for lists of programs and activities outside the classroom, after school and during vacation time; click on top right of sfkids.org for a listing of educational, game and general information Websites just for kids. For a free copy of the Summer Resource Guide, contact aaron@childrenscouncil.org.

ART EVENT

Tenderloin, world premiere of The Cutting Ball Theater's play based on sketches of the TL's diverse community, April 27, 8 p.m., EXIT on Taylor, 277 Taylor St. Directed by Annie Elias and written by Annie Elias with Tristan Cunningham, Siobhan Doherty, Rebecca Frank, Michael Kelly, Leigh Shaw, David Sinaiko and David Westley Skillman. Runs through May 27. Info: cuttingball.com/season/11-12/tenderloin

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister. Call: 421-2926 x304.

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the 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 the 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.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market St., Suite 928. 421-2926 x306.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the 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.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough St., 5th Fl. Call: 905-6264. Family member group, open to the public.

SAFETY

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. www.sfgov.org/sffdnert, or Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

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

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the 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, 1st Wednesday of the 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 the month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the 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.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario 749-2519.

South of Market Project Area Committee Housing Subcommittee, 1st Wednesday of the month, bimonthly 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee 1st Wednesday after the 1st Monday bimonthly, 1035 Folsom, 6 p.m. 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

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. Information: 928-6209.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the 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 the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior Action Network, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Action Committee, 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Call for health program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim
Chair of Rules Committee, member of Budget & Finance Committee and Transportation Authority.
Legislative Aides: April Veneracion Ang, Sunny Angulo and Matthias Mormino.
Jane.Kim@sfgov.org, 554-7970

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