

TL, SoMa liquor store owners hit by tough new law

Insiders predict
'hidden costs' will
put budget in red

BY TOM CARTER

The ordinance that is to deliver San Francisco's scruffy neighborhoods from troublesome liquor store scenes was passed by the Board of Supervisors on March 7 and is already raising concern from the store owners who become responsible for policing outside their stores. This makes them understandably nervous; the police, too.

"I worry about owners approaching a crowd," TL Capt. Kathryn Brown said in an interview. "With drug dealing, they're facing desperate behavior and retaliation."

Ten Mideastern owners have been killed over the years, according to Francisco Da Costa, a Bayview-Hunters Point environmental activist. "Where were the supervisors then?" he asked

in the City Hall hallway after protesting the ordinance during public comment. "What was needed was meaningful outreach, community meetings, before it was introduced. Now, there are 300 Mideastern owners in the city who are confused by it."

The ordinance's author, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, has the Tenderloin,

South of Market, Third Street and the Mission foremost in mind. But it remains to be seen if the \$240,000 budget from the imposed \$264 annual fee on each owner is adequate for enforcement. And the Arab American Grocers Association, which says it represents 425 of the city's 914 stores that are affected, says the ordinance is unfairly aimed at them. First-time violations can cause fines up to \$1,000.

"We met with her (Maxwell) three times and her representatives five times," said association board member and Union Street liquor store owner Shakib Kaileh after the supervisors' first reading on Feb. 28. "She has an attitude — take it or leave it."

Maxwell claims that the measure duplicates existing federal and state laws. The grocers say it is more punitive than the Alcoholic Beverage Control's guidelines when revoking a license. And they bitterly opposed a provision that doesn't allow a new store owner of a problem store to start with a clean slate. The total package is what politicians, liquor control activists and police call a hammer.

Maxwell says her goal is to clean up neighborhoods' disreputable corners by getting rid of drunks, dope dealers and prostitutes hanging out in front of the stores. The ordinance creates a liquor "use" status for off-sale stores called "deemed approved," jargon used to title the

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SALVATION ARMY GETS TEMPORARY HQ

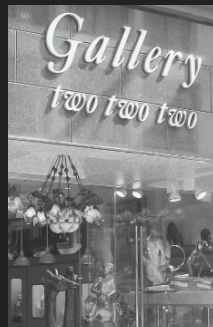
Near Main
Library during
renovation

PAGE 2

GRASSROOTS TRANSIT PLAN

Community,
county
partnership

PAGE 3



SUPES ADD 2 MORE LIQUOR LICENSES

Powell St.
gallery goes
on-sale, off-sale

PAGE 7



Owner Kareem Rantisi installed surveillance cameras and a 4-foot-square sign that states his rules.

CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Grand Liquors, Turk and Taylor, is among the TL stores police are summoned to regularly.

'It's too harsh'

Life on a corner:
Store owner tells
how rough it is

BY PHIL TRACY

Grand Liquors at Turk and Taylor streets is among the stores that Tenderloin police Capt. Kathryn Brown calls hot spots — where crowds frequently gather, drugs are dealt, sex is solicited and questionable characters loiter.

These stores in the Tenderloin and sim-

ilar liquor outlets in Bayview, the Mission and SoMa are the targets of a new law by Supervisor Sophie Maxwell.

Brown told a community meeting at the TL Police Station on Feb. 28 that the previous month she had six officers sidelined by injuries received from suspects resisting arrest. "Serious addicts are very violent," she said. "Speed-balling — heroin and methamphetamine — makes them go crazy."

Jack Rantisi, brother of the owner of Grand Liquors, a neighborhood hot spot for police, ruefully mulled the ordinance requirements one wet February afternoon inside the store. Near him, a woman paid for the store's last eight sticks of teriyaki jerky, a half pint of Ancient Age and another of Royal Gate vodka that she stuffed in her backpack.

"Bitches selling asses, dealers selling dope," he said, nodding toward a dozen people loitering outside, undaunted by the threat of rain or much of anything. "Why don't the police come to take care of it? We don't have the guns, they do. It's a bad situation."

Kareem Rantisi, his brother and owner of Grand Liquors, says he calls the cops sometimes five times a week, and that they no longer come running every time he calls. "They come in half an hour," he says. "Finally they come and the drug dealers they run away. They ask me where the drug dealers are. I tell them they run away."

"With drugs outside, we can sometimes handle it. But if I can't, it's police's job to handle it. Sometimes I argue with the drug dealers. I tell him to move on from my corner, but sometimes I have to call the police."

Maxwell's measure would — after a long and disputatious process — impose fines of

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

GOOD NEWS for...

YOUR WALLET If you're single, earned less than \$11,700 and file a tax return, you might be able to claim an Earned Income Tax Credit that could bring you a refund of \$399. Go to www.thebeehive.org for online help in English and Spanish. You start with a simple quiz; if you qualify, you'll be guided through the filing process. If you have one child, you can get up to \$2,662 and \$4,400 if you have two. You can file for the credit with or without your tax returns. You can even file for the credit for past years. The credit doesn't count as income for Medicaid, food stamps, SSI or federally assisted housing programs. If you have a green card, are a refugee or are legally authorized to work in the United States, you also might qualify. The Beehive Web site even warns about tax scams, especially refund anticipation loans. The site is operated by One Economy Corp., a Washington, D.C., nonprofit that also covers information about money, health, jobs, school, family and insurance.

LOCAL NONPROFITS In a neat bit of recycling, fines paid to city community courts by misdemeanor offenders are funneled into the Mayor's Community Support Fund, which then makes grants to improve public safety and the quality of life in neighborhoods where those courts operate. Nonprofits in Bayview-Hunters Point, Taraval/OMI, Mission, South of Market, Tenderloin, Excelsior, Western Addition, Polk Street, North Beach, Richmond, Sunset and Chinatown are eligible to apply for up to \$2,500 for a project, event or activity that enriches their neighborhood. Up to 25% of the money can be used to print promotional or educational materials. A spokesman for the fund, which makes grants three times a year, said he won't know the total available until late March. Past fund-supported projects include SoMa's Sixth Street Fair, Women's Day at the Rose Hotel, and weekly workshops for teens in beat-making, spinning, rap and hip hop at the Tenderloin's Vietnamese Youth Development Center. Next proposal deadline is 5 p.m., March 23. Info: Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, 554-6165.

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

ERRATA

- In the February 2006 issue, The Extra misstated the number of licenses the state Alcoholic Beverage Control department issued to various counties in its September 2005 liquor license lottery. Our numbers were for applicants, not new licensees. ABC will issue up to 25 new licenses to any county where population has increased since the last annual lottery.
- In February's MacCanDo story, the team received a grant from Children's Charity of Northern California. ■

Army finally on the move

Across from Main Library till Turk St. HQ renovated

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

This month, Salvation Army breaks camp from its 242 Turk site and moves into temporary quarters at 1 Grove St., upstairs and downstairs of the Burger King and across from the Main Library.

Salvation Army will be billeted there, Corps Lt. Roger McCort told the Collaborative in February, while its new, eight-story Community and Housing Center is being built. Demolition of the five-story building that the Army has occupied since 1989 begins in April or May, he said, and the center is scheduled for completion in June 2008.

The center will have a gym, pool, fitness equipment, dance studio, classrooms, climbing wall on the roof, meeting and banquet spaces, and five floors of housing — 113 studios, three of them for staff, 27 for aged-out foster youth and 83 for adults in recovery. Of those 83 units, 40 will be permanent housing and 43 transitional, up to 24 months.

But the project is running behind schedule. In a May 2003 update for the Collaborative, Salvation Army officials said they expected the center to open in 2005. And the budget has ballooned: Three years ago, it was \$35 million; a year ago, it was \$44 million. Today: \$58 million.

The lion's share of revenue for the project will come from a \$30 million endowment from the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, part of that foundation's \$1.5 billion gift in 2004 to Salvation Army for community centers nationwide.

Another big hunk of revenue will come from city-issued tax-exempt revenue bonds — not to exceed \$16 million, says the supes' resolution. Remaining support is from donations and low-income housing tax credits.

Center activities will continue to focus on youth and seniors, McCort said, though they serve all ages.

"With the new facilities, we can expand our senior nutrition program," he said, "and the after-school program that now serves 60 kids will be able to serve 200."

The center's activities are open to the community, McCort said, with a reduced-rate membership for its Tenderloin neighbors.

The Extra called McCort a few weeks after the Collaborative meeting to ask more about the move to 1 Grove. Actually, the location was not official yet, he said, but it's almost a done deal.

"We have 2,500 square feet above the Burger King and another 1,500 square feet in the basement," he said. "We'll be moving all our administrative functions there and a few activities, like after-school programs."

What can't follow the troops is the weekly food pantry, which will operate out of a space on Turk — "next door to us at the Hotdog Church," McCort said. (That's the Providence Christian Center at 220 Turk, aka the Hotdog Church. Its Web site is hotdogchurch.com, and it was named, says the site, for its most popular meal for the homeless and poor.)

Also farmed out will be Salvation Army's meal delivery program, moving to its service center at 520 Jessie, off Sixth Street.

The Joan Croc Institute gift is another "not official yet" element, McCort said. "I announced it at our Feb. 24 open house, but I've been told the grant won't be announced officially until April."

'JESUS DOESN'T PAY THE RENT'

Ten years ago, Entertainment Commissioner Terrance Alan bought the building at 220 Jones St. and turned it into the Chez Patee. Since then, he's had several public and ugly feuds with his next-door neighbor, San Francisco Rescue Mission, whose leaders say the strip club's mere presence harms the children attending its on-site Christian Academy.

"For 55 years this location has been adult entertainment, both as a straight and a gay strip club," Alan told the Collaborative in January. "When [club manager] Steve Moses died recently, it gave me the chance

to look at upgrades for the property. I searched and found Roberto Robledo to manage the new Club Patee, and I'd like to introduce you to him."

Robledo said the club has been refurbished with improvements that included panic buttons for all the ladies.

"There won't be any tasteless acts of solicitation, and we're trying to stop the graffiti," Robledo continued. Security, too, has been improved. "I'm the guy who's watching your buildings when you're asleep."

Referring to past squabbles and perhaps trying to deflect future ones, Robledo said, "I have nothing against any of my neighbors — I believe in Jesus Christ, but Jesus doesn't pay the rent. I'm just trying to earn a living."

Earl Rogers, a Rescue Mission chaplain, was ready: "You have to understand that we believe [the club] is a business that's fundamentally immoral. If you wash a pig and put a bow on it, it's still a pig. Two years ago, Steve Moses made some of the same statements you're making about things getting better, but then there were girls outside the club in inappropriate clothing as the kids walked by."

Jerry Jai, who was chairing the meeting in the Rev. Glenda Hope's absence, called a halt. "It's best to discuss this yourselves," he said. "We're going to move on now." ■



Architect's rendering of the Salvation Army's headquarters on Turk Street.

CENTRAL CITY
EXTRA
SAN FRANCISCO

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SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

First transit study rooted in community

3 neighborhood nonprofits ensure public input on public transportation

BY PHIL TRACY

A few dozen people gathered in the St. Boniface Church community room Feb. 28 to weigh in on the future of transit in the Tenderloin. They didn't get to ask a lot of questions or make speeches but their input was noted. Whether it changes things for the better remains to be seen, but it felt better than a stick in the eye.

Rachel Hiatt, a planner for the county Transportation Authority, said the meeting was midway through a one-year study by the Bay Area Metropolitan Commission, one of a bundle of neighborhood-based transportation plans throughout the region, including a sister study in the Outer Mission. This is San Francisco's first official transportation study to grow from the grassroots, Hiatt said.

"We want to come up with a set of projects that came from your input, which can be implemented in the next few years," Hiatt said. The people tell the experts, not the experts telling the people.

Whether the Tenderloin community will show more foresight than typical traffic planners is anybody's guess. But if they don't suggest a freeway through Golden Gate Park they'll come out ahead of Caltrans.

The project acquired a community outreach team — Tenderloin Housing Clinic, Asian Neighborhood Design and the Southeast Asian Community Center — "to ensure community input at every stage," according to Chris Mills of Tenderloin Housing Clinic.

Interface with the community began with questions, some surprising and wildly inappropriate, from five people Hiatt picked out.

A homeless man, Jonathan Ramey, asked if the plan could include additional free street toilets. Indeed it could, Hiatt stoutly replied.

A second questioner was incensed by bicycles on the sidewalks: "Why don't we simply fine them \$100 and take their bicycles away?"

"Why don't you mention to the stinking Police Department that they have turn signals on their cars and why don't they use them?" asked a third.

Next was an altogether reasonable question:

How will the community-based transportation plan fit into other citywide transportation plans? Hiatt danced around for lack of an answer.

Can express buses moving through the Tenderloin be turned into local service? asked the fifth person. No answer.

Hiatt moved on to the next part of the program, a variation of Pin the Tail on the Donkey, but without blindfolds. People formed groups of four or five around six stations, each with a poster on an easel. They were to answer the questions on the posters by adhering a half-inch dot next to their answer — in effect, a vote.

In ranking transit needs, people most favored reducing fares and crowding on Muni buses. Two groups voted for buses and bike lanes over car lanes, more room in Muni shelters.

Bonnie Nelson of Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, the technical team working on the plan, noted that more parking as a transit need failed to collect a single vote. "Overwhelming," she said.

At one station, the question was whether there should be more short-term parking spaces for shoppers or all-day parking for commuters. Nearly all the 20 dots were right in the middle of the graph.

"Everyone says, 'There should be a mix. We don't really have a priority for those spaces, it should be a mix.'" Nelson said. "It's always interesting when the consensus is right down the middle."

A man in the audience balked. "Excuse me. I think you're missing something. What we're saying is — we don't care about parking, we like public transit." And how — a project report shows 82% of Tenderloin households do not have a car.

Asked to prioritize seven projects from earlier studies, people split on expanding the availability of lifeline pass for low-income people and making intersections safer with more curb bulbs and ramps.

Two write-in ideas checked by multiple responders were more pedestrian countdown signals and compelling BART to reopen the Civic Center station restrooms.

Hiatt said a \$2.7 million Lifeline Grant is to be awarded to San Francisco this spring. (The Lifeline Grant is a Metropolitan Transportation Commission program to help counties provide transit services to

low-income people.)

Hiatt is intent on applying for a piece of the MTC pie for the Tenderloin, she said.

"I think this area has several factors that make it extremely attractive to funding agencies looking to impact community transit needs," she said.

At meeting's end, Nelson summarized: "It looks like the most important things are reducing the cost of transit for low-income people, reducing crowding on the Muni and reducing the speed of cars going through the Tenderloin. Improving the reliability of transit and improving pedestrian safety are also important to you.

"Least important was increasing the parking availability. Really, what you're most interested in is better, cheaper, more reliable transit, and a better place to walk. Those are the priorities."

Community involvement in the Tenderloin transit study will continue through the summer. Neighbor walking tours and public workshops are planned for late spring. People can contact the Tenderloin-Little Saigon Neighborhood Transportation Plan through the County Transportation Authority Web site www.sfcta.org. To get on a mailing list for upcoming events, e-mail tenderloin@sfcta.org or write to Hiatt at S.F. County Transportation Authority, 100 Van Ness Ave. 26th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102. ■



PHOTO BY PHILIP NGUYEN

Rachel Hiatt at the transit forum at St. Boniface.

Tenderloin benefit district deposits \$484,000

Sidewalks being cleaned, sweepers getting trained, feds at U.N. Plaza coming aboard

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

A short, intense two years after a handful of property owners and owner reps began talking about forming a community benefit district in the Tenderloin, money has started flowing into the organization's coffers.

At the March 2 interim board meeting of the new

nonprofit that oversees the benefit district, General Manager Elaine Zamora announced that the city — which collects the special assessment with property tax bills — has deposited \$484,000 into the benefit district's bank account.

That's about half the \$927,000 revenues anticipated for all of 2006. As with payment of all property taxes, laggards get late penalties; scofflaws face liens. The first tax installment was due Dec. 10, and it looks like most have paid, said Zamora, a key mover in the CBD formation who is taking a leave from her private law practice to manage the district's first year of operation.

"It's a little ahead of what we expected to have by this time, and we've already started writing checks against it," she said.

The Tenderloin/North of Market Community Benefit District became official in August when a majority of owners approved the self-tax.

Every property in the 29-square-block area gets taxed, with assessments based on the lot's square footage and its frontage's linear footage. The Hilton's 2006 tab is almost \$60,000, while a condo owner at 631 O'Farrell pays \$25. The city owes about \$46,000 for its properties in the district.

Only one federal government building, 50 U.N. Plaza, falls within the district, but the feds can't be assessed by a local jurisdiction, Zamora said.

"From the start, federal officials supported our efforts," she explained in an e-mail to The Extra. "We needed to be creative. The building's property managers said if we could provide a basis for the service, they could pay a fee. Now, we're drawing up a fee-for-service contract to justify services as close as possible to the \$22,238 assessment."

The district's services so far have been cleaning sidewalks, gutters and graffiti, handled through a \$674,000 annual contract with Clean City Coalition. The 15-year-old nonprofit trains low-income and homeless to do street sweeping and other improvement activities.

Sixteen people in the TL have been trained and hired to sweep sidewalks with a broom twice a day and remove litter from gutters several days a week, said Gia Grant, Clean City executive director. They work up to 20 hours a week, earn \$8.82 to \$11.02 an hour and get job placement help. The benefit district pays only the wages.

Other workers operate three sidewalk steamers and two Tenant mechanical sidewalk sweepers, which Clean City acquired from the now-defunct TSIP, a program sponsored by the North of Market Neighborhood Improvement Corp.

While the cleaning goes forward, the benefit district wrestles with policy and process as it gains its organizational legs. Should the general manager be a voting board member? (The six "ayes" had it, though there were three no's and five abstentions.)

Zamora is an independent contractor, but should she be an employee? ("At some point we need to decide if we want to preserve the idea of the manager as independent contractor," said board member and Hastings CFO David Seward. "We need to revisit this when we're no longer an interim board." Zamora said the time is now: The city is pressing all the benefit districts on this question.)

What's to be done about the many groups that are queuing up to interest the board in their projects? ("There's always a parade when people find out there's money," said Geoffrey Grier, board member and Recovery Theatre director.) The group decided Zamora will deflect requests that don't fit the district's mission, and those that do fit will get three minutes each during the public comment period at board meetings. ■

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Maxwell's legal hammer may wind up with a red-ink budget

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

measure's title, the Deemed Approved Ordinance. It sets standards for owners to follow and comes with an administrative process all its own. If owners don't comply, they can land in hearings and have conditions imposed on their business. They can be fined and possibly lose their "status" to sell at that location, an action imposed with the second violation. The ABC doesn't revoke a license until the third strike.

OWNERS' ALLY: SUPERVISOR MA

The measure passed on its final reading 8-1, averting for the second week an amendment by Supervisor Fiona Ma that Maxwell said would gut it. Supervisors Gerardo Sandoval and Jake McGoldrick were absent, and Sean Elsbernd voted no.

The Arab grocers opposed it all the way. The grocers had gotten Ma to support an amendment that made an owner responsible for litter, proper lighting and graffiti outside their stores but not drug dealing, gun sales, drinking, drunkenness, gambling, prostitution, selling or receiving stolen property, disturbing the peace and harassing passers-by. Maxwell



Grand Liquors owner Kareem Rantisi has been in business on the corner of Turk and Taylor for 20 years.

had earlier cut loitering from the list at the request of Supervisor Chris Daly.

The first-reading debate, sometimes impassioned, ran for a half hour before Ma's amendment was voted down 7-4. Daly was among the four in favor. Ma surprised the board by bringing it back for Maxwell's final reading March 7. "You're watering it down," Maxwell said. "Why would you do that?" Ma's measure failed again, 6-3. Daly, Ma and Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi voted yes.

'A POX ON THE PROPERTY'

Mirkarimi had led another debate the week before. He questioned the "unintended consequences" of a violation that stays with the store when it is sold. Deputy City Attorney Mary Ellen Hines, called on to comment, said it was to "protect against the ability to wipe the slate clean" for a new owner who might be lax.

"It is to assure it is sold to somebody truly new who will clean house," Hines said.

"It's a pox on the property, and it affects the value when selling it," Mirkarimi said. "It's a little bit backwards. After bad actors put a pox on it we're not encouraging the sale of that building."

Supervisor Bevan Duffy said if there is "pernicious" fallout, it can be corrected in 18 months when the board gets a progress report, a provision first suggested by Rescue Mission Pastor Earl Rogers at the February Tenderloin Futures Collaborative meeting when a Maxwell aide explained the ordinance. "There are some very bad apples," Duffy said, growing impatient, "and it's time to turn this situation around."

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR . . . OR ELSE

Maxwell says the ordinance is really an exercise in neighborliness.

"We're trying to educate all of the liquor store owners on how to be good neighbors," she said at a sidewalk press conference in front of the Empire Grocery at Eddy and Leavenworth on Feb. 2. It was the day after the Budget and Finance Committee approved her measure. The Youth Leadership Institute, a lobbying and youth training group that worked with Maxwell on the ordinance, had several youths speak in favor, as did the store owner, Muhammad Alhaj.

Maxwell said if the owners don't become good neighbors, "then we have a little stick, and that stick is local control." Alhaj believes it will be easy to comply. He said, "If you don't sell to the guys hanging around outside, they'll go away."

Within six months, education materials designed by the Department of Public Health will be mailed to the 914 owners of off-sale licenses, 62 in the Tenderloin. The materials will explain the standards, violations, processes and sources to contact, including Arabic, according to Virginia Smyly, DPH deputy director of Community Programs.

DPH's \$111,000 budget for the job will pay for a half-time employee. Police will play a part in educating store owners, too, she says. But that's not in the budget.

"It will take us more than 20 hours a week to make this work," Smyly said. "We'll end up hiring a full-time employee." And the other time demands on departments, their overhead and computers aren't taken into account. "There are hidden costs that departments will have to accommodate," she said.

OAKLAND'S EXPERIENCE

That may be an understatement. Oakland has had a similar ordinance since 1993 and its

experience suggests San Francisco's \$240,000 from fees will fall far short of covering costs, though the ordinance calls the program self-supporting.

"Yours is way underfunded," says Jacob Graef, a planner who serves on Oakland's seven-member Alcoholic Beverage Action Team that oversees the ordinance administration and enforcement. "It's ridiculous. We have half the stores you do and almost three times your budget."

Three years ago, Oakland charged its 400 licensed liquor stores, bars and groceries \$600 a year to cover deemed approved ordinance costs. That \$240,000 budget wasn't enough, Graef says, and the city repeatedly dipped into the General Fund. In 2003, Oakland hiked the fee to \$1,500 and that \$600,000 budget isn't enough.

"Even now we're understaffed," says Sgt. Bob Crawford, who chairs the alcohol action team.

San Francisco's ordinance anticipates that \$60,000 will cover the city attorney's time for reviewing complaints and another \$28,000 for preparing for two hearings the first year.

By contrast, a third of Oakland's budget, about \$200,000, goes to the city attorney, an amount that's further enhanced by grants, Graef says. The city attorney's office gets help from the Neighborhood Law Corps, created in 2002 to respond to community complaints.

Building cases and verifying complaints is what takes the time, Graef says.

"We have 40 cases we're working on now, and I expect 100 by April," he told The Extra.

HOW CITY ESTIMATED THE COSTS

The San Francisco city attorney's office estimated 30 complaints a year and that it would take 20 hours to review them; at \$100 an hour, that would cost \$60,000.

"I looked at it from the enforcement aspect," said Deputy City Attorney Hines. "I spent almost two years intermittently working on this and I figured not many hearings per year." At the supervisors' first hearing of the ordinance, Hines estimated there were "five to 10" problem liquor stores citywide. Tenderloin police Capt. Brown estimates that many are in her jurisdiction.

Once verified, some Oakland cases will be sent to ABC, Graef says, about 10% will go to hearings and others will settle with the city attorney. Settlements have included owner agreements such as closing earlier and not selling fortified wine and 40-ounce beers.

After a slow start, Oakland, with a bigger budget and more aggression, has improved compared with several years ago when complaining witnesses were too intimidated by threats to go to City Hall hearings, says Joan Kiley, director of the Alcohol Policy Network in Berkeley, who lobbied for the ordinance. "Some were retaliated against," she said in an interview. "And the field to cover was too big for the police — it took too much time. Building a case was overwhelming."

"But the upside is it's changing. And there are some dedicated people on ABAT that help educate store owners — if they are willing to learn how to run a responsible business. Some have cleaned up and painted. And neighborhoods have been grateful."

Graef says 63 stores have closed since 1999. The majority shut their business for longer than 90 days, automatically losing their use status under the ordinance and did not try to get it back. (San Francisco has the same revocation clause.) Most of the rest quit because of the fee, ABC trouble and selling to minors violations, Graef says.

A spokesman for the Neighborhood Law Corps said it completed 16 cases in 18 months. Five stores went out of business, and the others accepted restrictions.

"It doesn't seem like a lot but it is compared to what Oakland had done in the past," says Law Corps Executive Director Alex Nguyen. "I'm happy with the results but frustrated at how difficult it has been. It's bureaucracy. And it takes political will, so people understand it's a priority."

HOW THE LAW WORKS

San Francisco's off-sale stores will start off with a "deemed approved" status. To keep it, a store owner can't allow illegal activities inside, of course, but outside as well on the sidewalk within the property line to the curb, or loud noise, or litter and graffiti, and their windows and glass

doors can't be more than one-third covered.

Under the ordinance, the police, Planning, DPH or the Department of Building Inspection can move quicker than the city attorney and the ABC, Maxwell says. Any of these agencies can request an administrative hearing on use violations. It's a straight shot.

The last time the city attorney filed a successful suit for a business not controlling its customers and hangers-on was in 2002 against the El Dorado Market and Liquor Store at 124 Jones St., Deputy City Attorney Neli Palma says. The El Dorado was a haven for drug peddlers and sold cheap alcohol to falling-down drunks, according to Palma, who has worked with TL code violations for five years. Faced with a suit, the owner sold his store and license — out of district.

Palma acts after receiving "many" public nuisance complaints and police reports and goes to the targeted owner asking for "voluntary corrective measures" such as lighting and cameras. "It has been fairly successful," she says. "But this ordinance is an additional hammer and would put them under restrictions."

In some cases, what has enabled other cities' deemed approved ordinances to work as well as they have, experts say, is direct communication with store owners. It's an approach San Francisco decided it couldn't afford.

DPH wanted to visit each off-sale store owner as part of the "use" education but it was too costly, DPH's Smyly told The Extra. "The compromise," she said, "was to have mass meetings with the owners in their neighborhood every other year. But every grocer paying the fee is entitled to a face-to-face. That will be tough. We can't visit each one."

Starting each March, Oakland's alcohol action team inspects all 450 stores and talks with the owners.

In Vallejo, one office inspects the city's 185 liquor outlets and is aided by a volunteer, seven-member Alcohol Advisory Board. The 1998 use ordinance created the board to deal with alcohol problems quicker than the ABC could. Sgt. Rick Florendo, who chairs it, says outreach has been so successful the city hasn't had a hearing in seven years.

"It's been our experience that meeting with



PHOTOS BY JOHN NULTY

Mayor honors liquor store owner

Abed Eid, owner of G & H Liquor and Grocery at Jones and Turk for 23 years, receives a mayor's office Certificate of Honor from Nicholas Thornton (center). Congratulating Eid at the Feb. 28 TL police community meeting for his "excellent efforts" at being a good neighbor is Capt. Kathryn Brown. Eid says he has "zero tolerance" for nuisances outside his store and that his basic creed is honesty — plus making sure "my clients are safe." That day he saw an elderly customer, Bob Oeffinger, being hassled by a young man across the street. Eid left the store with his brother and ran over and told the guy to mind his own business. "He has helped me a lot in the past," Oeffinger said. "I bought him dinner."

the owner — with a hammer in our pocket — is usually sufficient to solve the problem," says Michael Sparks, board member and director of the nonprofit Vallejo Alcohol Policy Coalition.

When fee nonpayment comes up, San Francisco could look at Oakland's approach. After pressure from the Arab grocers, Maxwell revised the ordinance to waive the \$264 annual fee if a store has a clean slate for three years. But if it fails to ever pay the fee, the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector must notify DPH, which "may request that the city attorney pursue collection." In Oakland, if a business doesn't pay, it doesn't get inspected: no inspection, no use permit. ■

Daly's new bill: License violations must be revealed

Owners of problem liquor stores must inform interested buyers in writing of any violation of off-sale license use standards by their stores in the last three years under an ordinance passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors on March 7.

The measure introduced by Supervisor Chris Daly is a companion to Supervisor Sophie Maxwell's under which a violation stays with the property when changing hands, and a second violation can revoke the off-sale use and stop sales.

Daly said his measure was in response to a coalition of store owners in committee hearings.

"The owners wanted the strikes to be cleared, but I couldn't support that," Daly told The Extra. "But I am trying to be responsive to them. To me, this is fair. It's a bad situation of never being told there's a mark against (a property) and it can affect the value."

Daly said the ordinance is similar to one he authored requiring landlords of two units or more to disclose any tenant evictions to prospective buyers, which was vetoed by the mayor. Daly is submitting the issue to the voters on the June ballot.

The mayor must decide whether to approve the disclosure measure or veto it.

Daly's bill closes a research gap. State law requires escrow for an off-sale liquor license sale and a search for liens but not for violations. More than half of California's license sales are handled by brokers, according to Jon C. Majia, head broker at American Liquor License Exchange in Southern California. The brokers do a thorough search, Majia says, but not necessarily those who who do it themselves.

"If the applicant thinks there may be community opposition, we'll spend a lot of time talking to police, zoning staff, homeowners groups, so the applicants know the problems," Majia says.

— TOM CARTER

View from a tough corner: Store owner speaks out

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

up to \$1,000 for liquor store owners who fail to take steps to curtail illegal behavior.

Kareem Rantisi is not exactly opposed to the law. "I love San Francisco to be the best," he proclaims.

Raised in San Francisco, Rantisi is a long-time Tenderloin businessman. "I've been on this corner 20 years." He says his business is 30% liquor, beer and wine, and 70% deli, frozen food, a small amount of tomatoes, lettuce, lemons and limes, and juice, milk and bread.

Describing his efforts to keep his patch clean, he says: "Every day. Every day. I sweep outside. Sometimes we clean up with water."

"I hope our police, our station, our captain help us chase bad people because I don't want to put myself in bad position or I'll get killed, because [the business] is not worth it."

"If they [police] have the power, I will help," he offers. But neither does he wish to place himself in the line of fire. "I would rather [the police] do it most of the time," he states frankly.

Capt. Brown says she has "six to 10" TL stores that police visit an average of seven times a month for a range of what would be violations of the use standards. "Most common is fighting," she says. "Second is drug dealing."

Three stores she mentioned are Ellis Produce at Ellis and Jones, Barah's Market at Turk and Leavenworth, two doors from

Hospitality House, and Grand Liquors at Turk and Taylor. In answering calls from Grand Liquors, the police made seven trips to the store in January, she said.

"But I have no idea how the ordinance will affect our work load," she said. "To be blunt, most owners in the Tenderloin are very responsible and respond very well to suggestions I have. But we are putting another responsibility on them."

The steps Rantisi takes to keep his corner clear include a 4-foot-square sign at eye level that forbids any illegal behavior. Yet deviant personalities rarely are big readers.

As a more practical gesture, Rantisi also installed a bell outside, actually an air horn. "I push the bell to move [the crowd] out of my corner. That's all I can do to them."

The new law requires each liquor store owner to have a clear view of the outside of his or her store, so no more than a third of the windows and doors can be covered with signs. Rantisi has two functioning security cameras on each side of his store and a monitor behind the counter.

He is most fearful of outsiders. "If I do not understand that crowd, I will call the police right away."

Like everyone else, Rantisi blames outsiders. "The Tenderloin people, they are good, they understand. The most problem coming to the Tenderloin are from Oakland, San Pablo, wherever."

Asked if he or his employees have been personally threatened, he says: "I get threat-

ened from drug dealers. They try to trouble me, they try to fight with me. And I try to get rid of them in a nice way, because I have no power to do what you have to do [use force]."

As a member of the Arab American Grocers Association, Rantisi harbors an underlying uneasiness toward city officials. "They squeeze us more than enough, our supervisors, our mayor," he says, adding a healthy dose of defensiveness. "The owners of the liquor stores, they are good, they are honest, they do the job right. They do not play games. But the people coming out of the area, they hang on each corner. It doesn't matter, liquor, grocery, deli or whatever. They hang on each corner. They love the corner."

"Poison covered with sugar," is how Arab American Grocers President Kamel Karagah characterizes Maxwell's legislative hammer.

The 425-store association had tried to pull some of the teeth out of the legislation by limiting parts that could lead to fines if nuisance activities such as drug dealing, drinking and drunkenness persisted outside the business. Supervisor Fiona Ma carried the amendment at hearings before the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 28 and March 7. It failed 7-4 and 6-3, respectively.

One of the sorest points for owners is how Maxwell's legislation would change the conditions of the liquor license. Shakib Kailah, board member of the Arab American Grocers, told The Extra: "The ABC gives you three strikes before you lose your license. But this, you lose after two."



Grand Liquors carries more than booze and beer — here are dry goods and kitchen items.

**CURTIS JONES – Vietnam veteran
LUCIANO MORENO – Flower vendor**

The friends of a Vietnam POW and a Mission Street flower vendor remembered both in memorials Feb. 17 at the Camelot Hotel. They came to the hotel within two months of each other and died two days apart.

Luciano Moreno was born in El Salvador and died of cancer on Feb. 8 at age 45. Curtis Jones, the POW, died of AIDS on Feb. 6. He was 55. Both were in failing health when they moved into the Camelot last fall; they went to the hospital and didn't come back.

Mr. Moreno was cheerful and energetic. He loved tacos and mole, especially during Cinco de Mayo festivities, one friend said. Mr. Moreno's social worker, Lauren Wichterman, said as a strolling flower vendor he worked the Mission and S.F. General Hospital. He lived in an apartment building basement and was fighting cancer before moving to the Camelot, she said. Chemotherapy treatments debilitated him, she said, and he confronted his mortality.

"When he got sick he talked to me about dying; he was afraid of it," said Wichterman. "It touched me deeply." But Mr. Moreno came to realize "how much love was around him," she said, and it was a comfort when he went into the hospital. He died six days later.

Just as the service was concluding, Sandra Green arrived. She wore a bright red dress and carried a sheaf of drawings. She said she was Mr. Jones' common-law wife of six years. They had met when she was homeless. She was distraught.

Green said Mr. Jones had suffered as an Army POW. His thumbs were broken "20 times," and his shoulders were fractured when he was "stuffed into a barrel," she said. Lingering pain dogged him after the war. He screamed at night, she said, and turned to smoking crack.

They separated after he was diagnosed with HIV because he didn't want to give her AIDS, she said. He wouldn't take his medicine and then stopped eating, she said. She lived at the Columbia Hotel five blocks away yet didn't know that his worsening condition had landed him in the VA Hospital until three days before he died.

When she went to see him, she said, he told her how much he loved her.

As mourners left, it was cold and drizzling outside. Green dabbed her eyes and opened the sheaf. There were scores of her chalk drawings on 8 by 11 paper of Mr. Jones, the love of her life, in the nude. "Most are x-rated," she said.

"I bought this dress for him but he never saw me wear it. I didn't know where he was. Now, they won't let me in his room. But if I could just have something of his, anything, his pillow, anything with his smell on it."



Luciano Moreno

— TOM CARTER

**RONNIE EAGLES
Voice for the homeless**

Even without teeth, Ronnie Eagles, a former Coalition on Homelessness staffer, could belt out speeches to pierce the heart and inspire the homeless to believe that a better day was possible.

Stretching his pencil-thin, 5-foot-4 frame to full stature, he delivered his inventive punch line — "We want solutions, not persecutions!" — at rallies and press conferences, and zinged it as well at Police Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings.

"Yes, for a while he even did it without his front teeth — the uppers," fellow coalition work Mara Raider said with a faint smile following a memorial for Mr. Eagles on Dec. 20 at the Senator Hotel.

Mr. Eagles, a resident since 1993, died unexpectedly of natural causes in his fifth floor room on Dec. 9. He was 44. For many years he had worked for the Community Housing Partnership maintenance crew servicing the Senator, Iroquois and San Cristina SROs. But he also was a cheerful volunteer.

Several among the 13 mourners spoke of his infectious personality and his skill at cooking soul food. Just two weeks before he died, he appeared healthy as he helped serve Thanksgiving dinner at the hotel "with joy in his heart," according to Manager Isabella Marshall.

"He was well-known and loved," she told the gathering. Likely more of his hotel friends would have attended but Mr. Eagles' family in Oakland, where he was raised, had held a service there the Friday before.

A man stood up and said Mr. Eagles "had passion and was inspiring. He taught me a lot about overcoming things to effect change."

Tenant Services Manager Rae Suber sang "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" in "15 keys," she said. "And he would've told me that. But that song makes me think of Ronnie."

Mr. Eagles was a Street Sheet vendor when he discovered the coalition's civil rights project and plunged into it in the mid-90s, according to his co-worker Raider. He came to the Turk Street office daily, became paid staff and soon showed his skill as a public speaker who moved people.

"He was very experienced and passionate and invaluable for me," Raider said. "He trained dozens of people to document civil rights violations."

After 1999, Mr. Eagles' participation dropped off, Raider guesses because of burnout. He infrequently came in to volunteer.

"But the way he talked — 'We need to be down there!' — it got me and others going," Raider said.

"Yes," another mourner added, "he was all about the do."



Ronnie Eagles

— TOM CARTER

**JOHN TAYLOR
AA volunteer**

When paramedics carried John Taylor on a gurney into the Senator Hotel on May 21, 2003, shortly after 7 p.m., he was screaming and crying in pain. The shocked manager told them he couldn't be left like that.

"I didn't want him unattended," recalled the hotel's Isabella Marshall. "I thought he wouldn't make it through the night. But he told me he'd be okay and that he didn't want to go back to the hospital."

Mr. Taylor got help that night and with round-the-clock caregivers recovered in a month from an excruciating foot amputation brought on by diabetes. Although never pain-free, Mr. Taylor soon ventured into the world from his seventh floor room driving the motorized wheelchair he was given. Friends say the 5-foot-8, 230-pound man helped as a volunteer at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and became a congenial tenant who never complained, despite his suffering.

But Mr. Taylor's medical complications twice sent him to St. Francis hospital over three days in December. The last time, the 19th, he died there. He was 50.

On Dec. 29, 11 of his friends attended his memorial at the Senator.

"He kept his door open all the time with his wheelchair," said one man. "Even in pain he was willing to try to help people if they needed it."

"I knew him 30 years," said Angel Ichord. "I got clean first and then he followed. But he helped people out even when he was on drugs. I'm sorry he's gone but I'm glad he doesn't have to suffer anymore."

Ichord said she first met Mr. Taylor in the New Orleans French Quarter in the mid-1970s when he was Tina, a cocktail waitress in a drag bar. They met up frequently afterward in cities and towns across the nation as they followed "the same circuit."

"He was clean four years and then diabetes took his foot two years ago," Ichord said. "But he refused to get depressed. I'll miss him."

— TOM CARTER

**MARLA COOMES
Full of life, spark**

Marla Coomes had flash. You could see it in the pictures assembled for her Jan. 23 memorial at the Camelot Hotel, and the mourners confirmed it.

"She was always full of spunk, full of life, with lots of spark," said Shannon Hugon, the hotel's support services manager. "Happy, she was very happy; unhappy, she was very unhappy."

"She definitely was one who blew hot and cold," said John Miller, Ms. Coomes' Camelot neighbor and friend. "Once, she invited me over, offered me a cigarette and told me the doctor said she had six months to live. I told her, 'Take care of yourself and prove the doctors wrong.'"

"She went from being able to explain her condition to me calmly, then breaking down in tears. At the door, she said, 'I love you, too. Now goddamn it, stay away from me.' And blam — she slammed the door on me."

Hotel staff recalled that Ms. Coomes was "joyful, her own woman," when she arrived at the Camelot 18 months ago after living on the streets, and she was delighted to finally have housing. She made many friends, inside and out, even though her health was deteriorating.

Ms. Coomes was in and out of St. Francis Hospital for several months, and died there Jan. 12, said Hugon, of "medical complications." She was 59.


Miller said Ms. Coomes talked to him about her sister and father in Pennsylvania, her days as a club dancer in San Francisco, and her husband, a veteran, who died of a heart attack three years ago. But he knew few details.



PHOTO COURTESY LYON-MARTIN WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Marla Coomes

— MARJORIE BEGGS



TENDERLOIN AIDS RESOURCE CENTER
Outreach and Community Events March 2006

HIV Services Forum
Topic: Speed and HIV
Speaker: Kevin Mosley and Kathleen Ritchie
Date/Time: Wednesday, March 15, 5:30 - 6:30 pm


Health Promotion Forum
Topic: Safe Syringe Disposal
Speaker: Jennifer Awa
Date/Time: Wednesday, March 22, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Location for Forums: TARC, 191 Golden Gate Ave.;
light meal will be provided

Client Advisory Panel CAP
Come talk with Alexander Fields, Consumer Board Representative; Tracy Brown, TARC's Executive Director and program managers about plans for TARC.
Also provide input on new services and how we can improve.
Date/Time: Wednesday, March 8, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm;
Wednesday, March 29, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Volunteer for TARC
Orientation: Sunday, March 12, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (lunch provided);
Sunday, March 26, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (lunch provided)
183 Golden Gate Ave.
You must pre-register for volunteer trainings. Stop in or call David at (415) 934-1792.

**For the current groups' schedule or more information,
call 415.432.7476 or go to www.tarc.org**



TENDERLOIN AIDS RESOURCE CENTER
health promotion • social services • HIV housing
For more information visit www.tarc.org

222 Powell gets 2 liquor licenses

Board of Supervisors OKs on-sale, off-sale permits for eclectic gallery

BY TOM CARTER

Sam Sirhed is getting two liquor licenses — on-sale and off-sale — for his upscale Gallery Market at 222 Powell St. Exactly what he applied for. And how he got them illustrates how liquor licenses are added, even in neighborhoods that already far exceed state-mandated license limits.

His applications sailed through the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 14, got signed by the mayor and were sent to the state Alcoholic Beverage Control department to issue the licenses. The ABC bows to local control — the Board of Supervisors — in granting liquor licenses. It doesn't matter how many licenses already exist in a given area — if local government recommends approval, the ABC must issue the license. The supes voted unanimously for them.

One of Sirhed's licenses is new, the on-sale; the off-sale is a transfer from Noe Valley. They are coming into an area that is even more oversubscribed than police reported in January when, in opposing Sirhed's applications, they mistakenly used license data and crime stats that applied to the Tenderloin census tract across the street.

Sirhed later agreed to a number of conditions the police set, including making sure his off-sale liquor doesn't appeal to brown bag drinkers, a questionable concern based on "Market" as part of the business name. Sirhed's eclectic art gallery is a block from Union Square. He wants to attract shoppers and tourists with premium wine tastings and tempt them with gourmet foods, wines, and spirits to buy and take home.

Objections from activists and police stopped the applications at the supervisors City Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting on Jan. 21. They said the store is in a high-crime area that is oversaturated with liquor licenses. Police showed three to four times more licenses operating in Census Tract 123 than allowed.

But Sirhed's marble-floored gallery, in a building he says he spent \$6.5 million renovating, is actually in Census Tract 117, which starts just across the street from the TL tract the police used in their negative recommendation. Triangular-shaped tract 117's southern boundary is Market Street; north is Bush Street, which runs diagonally east to Market. Few people live in these blocks, but there are a good many businesses and apparently quite a few sell liquor.

ABC figures show six on-sale licenses authorized and 79 existing; three off-sale are allowed but 21 exist. Overall, that's 11 times more than authorized.

Both tracts are high-crime areas, meaning the number of police calls there are at least 20% higher than the city average.

Vice police and Sirhed worked out their differences and agreed on 11 conditions to take back to the supervisors. Among them were restrictions on noise, loitering and advertising and one that prohibits Sirhed from selling single jumbo-size beers or hard liquor smaller than a fifth, but allowing 50-ml "miniature collectibles."

On Feb. 6, the license applications again came before the City Operations Committee. With activists dropping their protests in view of the conditions to be imposed, and the Census Tract 123 figures still in the equa-



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

This gallery on Powell Street will have wine tastings and spirits to go.

tion, the three-member committee of Supervisors Fiona Ma, Jake McGoldrick and Bevan Dufty sent the matter to the full board, which approved on an 11-0 vote.

The Gallery Market is within the jurisdiction of the Tenderloin police. Officer Mike Torres, who reviews permits for the station, had objected to the licenses at the first supes' hearing. Torres said he saw "no benefit" to adding more licenses when "the whole idea is to have less."

So, obviously, oversaturation and high crime are not enough to kill a license application, said Vice Crimes Inspector Richard McNaughton, but they do allow the police to add conditions that can mitigate the neighbors' objections. ■

Tenderchamps

Hospitality House honors 2 activists, seniors group

Central City Hospitality House, during its bowling fundraiser on March 2, named children's advocate Midge Wilson, peace activist Father Louis Vitale and the activist group, Senior Action Network, as its 2006 "Tenderchamps."

The 39-year-old Tenderloin drop-in center gives the awards each year to individuals and organizations that have significantly affected the lives of poor people and the homeless. These "Champs" certainly fill that bill.

Wilson helped create the Bay Area Women's and Children's Center at 318 Leavenworth in 1981 and has been its executive director ever since. She spearheaded the creation in 1994 of a Civic Center playground, the Tenderloin Children's Playground at 570 Ellis in 1995 and a second Civic Center playground in 1998. Wilson and BAWCC also led the 10-year crusade to build the K-7 Tenderloin Community School at 627 Turk, which opened in 1998.

Father Vitale, 73, was a pastor at St. Boniface for 13 years before he left last year to work full time for peace and justice. A proponent of nonviolent resistance, the energetic Franciscan friar regularly demonstrates against nuclear proliferation. In January, he and 30 others were convicted of trespass charges stemming from a November 2005 demonstration, an annual protest at the controversial School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Ga. He is currently serving a six-month term.

Senior Action Network is a 155-member advocacy group representing more than 30,000 seniors. Launched in 1990, it conducts educational programs about Medi-Cal and Medicare, does outreach on traffic and pedestrian safety, demonstrates for seniors' causes, helps homeless seniors find housing, and also offers a Senior University designed to empower seniors and train community organizers. ■

— TOM CARTER

Attend a workshop and give us your feedback on our plan to fix it.

Thursday, March 23rd 6:00pm-8:30pm Sunset Recreation Center 28th Avenue & Lawton Street	Saturday, March 25th 10:00am-12:30pm Southeast Community Facility 1800 Oakdale Avenue Alex Pitcher Conference Room	Tuesday, March 28th 6:00pm-8:30pm Bill Graham Civic Auditorium 99 Grove Street
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Get info, give input at sfsewers.org

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION: YOUR WATER, WASTEWATER AND MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tenant Leadership Skills Workshop March 7, 14 and 21, 447 Turk, 4-6 p.m. Central City SRO Collaborative free training for residential hotel tenants: Learn about your rights, neighborhood organizing, public speaking and more. Workshop includes light dinner. Registration: 775-7110.

Candidate Forum, March 15, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy, TL Police Community Room. Candidates for Democratic Central Committee and other offices. Sponsored by Alliance for a Better District Six, Tenant Associations Coalition, Tenant Associations Coalition PAC, North of Market Planning Coalition, Central City SRO Collaborative and Tenants Rights Association.

Police Commission Meeting, March 29, 6 p.m., 201 Turk St. Community Room. Tenderloin Capt. Kathryn Brown also gives a state of the district report. Information: 345-7300.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE

HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 4th Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Alecia Hopper, 421-2926 x302.

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CMHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30, CMHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. Contact: 255-3428. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Contact: 421-2926 x306.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. 870 Market, Suite 928. Contact: 421-2926 x306.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., CMHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. CMHS advisory committee, open to the public. Contact: 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, 5th Fl. Contact 905-6264. Family member group, open to consumers and the public.

SAFETY

North of Market NERT, bimonthly meeting. Contact Lt. Erica Arteseros, S.F. Fire Department, 970-2022. Disaster preparedness training by the Fire Department.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, contact Lisa Block, 538-8100 ext. 202 Lblock@iisf.org.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com. Districtwide association, civic education.

Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by the Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, contact Betty Traynor at the Neighborhood Parks Council, 621-3260.

Community Leadership Alliance, a chartered democratic organization. Quarterly informational forums with guest presenters and speakers, sharing news of upcoming events, proposals, resources. Meetings are first Thursday in Jan, April, July, Oct. Contact David Villa-Lobos, 921-4192 or admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 5-6:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact: 552-4866.

Mid-Market Project Area Committee, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. Contact Carolyn Diamond, 362-2500. Market Street redevelopment on Fifth to Tenth street.

North of Market Planning Coalition, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact: 820-1412. TL 2000, neighborhood planning.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District, 1st Thursday of the month, noon, 111 Jones conference room. Interim board meeting. Contact Elaine Zamora, district manager, 440-7570.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 6th & 7th. Contact: SOM-PAC office, 487-2166.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police community room, 301 Eddy. Contact Jerry Jai at 358-3956 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses sharing information and taking on neighborhood development issues.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

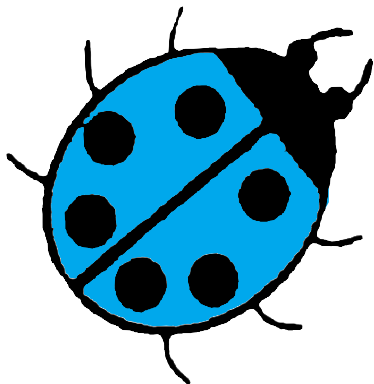
Mayor's Disability Council, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, Rm. 400. Contact: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior Action Network, general meeting, second Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Mary's Cathedral. Monthly committee meetings, 975 Mission #700. Fundraising, first Thursday, 2 p.m.; Pedestrian Safety, second Friday, 10 a.m.; Sr. Housing Action, third Wednesday, 1:30; Health, last Thursday, 1:30. Information: 546-1333.

SUPERVISORS' COMMITTEES

Budget Committee Daly, Dufty, Peskin, Thursday, 1 p.m.
City Services Committee McGoldrick, Dufty, Ma, first and third Monday, 1 p.m.

Land Use Committee Maxwell, Sandoval, McGoldrick, Wednesday, 1 p.m.



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