

Cops, residents stymied by the new sidewalk encampments

TL police summit fails to solve this growing problem

BY TOM CARTER

TENDERLOIN police are so stumped for a solution to sidewalk encampments in the Tenderloin and the petty crimes and drug traffic they spawn that they called a summit meeting on Sept. 21 to ask TL residents for suggestions on how to lick the problem.

The residents turned out in force, but there wasn't a hint of a solution.

"The purpose was to get service providers and others to help in that Golden Gate Avenue corridor," Tenderloin Police Capt. Kathryn Brown said afterward. "I wanted their suggestions. But everyone was so focused on the police.

"It got people thinking, though, and we were on the same page when we left. With time, people will come up with ideas. I'd prefer they have the meeting, though. If the police are there, they become the focus."

Moreover, the common conjecture is that the encampments will get

way worse before they subside. Escalating the problem, some residents venture, will be the Sept. 29 closing of the 24-hour McMillan Center at 49 Fell St., a drop-in center which handled shelter reservations, and the mayor's recent efforts to move squatters out of Golden Gate Park.

"I haven't seen it this bad in the six years I've been here."

Sister Karen Kielb
PRESENTATION SENIOR
COMMUNITY

Free holiday meals and food giveaways are expected to attract more people.

The encampment and blocked sidewalk problems have existed near Tenderloin Health, the drop-in and services center for street people at Golden Gate and Leavenworth. It saw 6,000 unduplicated residents in 2004 and 13,000 in 2005. It added its line security employees in September.

Crime is challenging to be the

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Encampments with rowdy crowds have sprung up on Ellis Street in the last three weeks.

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

EMPRESS HOTEL



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Open Mic night cued an outpouring of talent from the residents of the Empress Hotel.

Grassroots Revue

Tenants' talents in the spotlight in show at SRO

BY TOM CARTER

IT was fitting that Tina Knox sang the 1930s tune "San Francisco." When she was down and out, the city gave her a nice place to live in a cozy, made-over SRO that has support services for residents.

Knox was the first to perform before 30 residents at the Empress Hotel's first Open Mic night on Sept. 12 put on by the Eddy Street hotel's Tenant Council. The crowded Community Room off the lobby seethed with warm feelings and anticipation. Taquitos, mini bagels, guacamole and chips and drinks, compliments of the management, made the rounds. And if everyone didn't feel loved, they felt awfully appreciated.

Knox said Jeanette MacDonald made the song famous in a movie by the same name that ended with the 1906 earthquake.

"I love San Francisco," announced the big lady, then gave the song a hearty belt. It didn't matter that she mixed up some lyrics. Everybody felt the vibe, and they showered her with applause.

Randy Wilson, who handled introductions and helped organize the session, explained before Knox sang that the evening would show that "whatever we go through in life, we still have our talents" to display. And the show sprung it out from behind the doors.

The 90-room Empress is the SRO that Prince Charles visited last November. Renovated two years ago, it's the flagship of the Department of Health's Direct Access to Housing program for the homeless and destitute chronically ill. The residents, many dually diagnosed with addictions and mental problems, are surrounded with medical and support services.

The Prince of Wales spent more than an hour at the Empress, touring with his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Kent, and talking with residents. Impeccably mannered, the prince spoke individually with residents and inquired about addictions, kicking drug habits, sleeping outdoors and counseling.

The Empress was at the top of Prince Charles' list because he has a deep interest in finding solutions to homelessness. It also had a Brit connection.

About six years ago, a West Cork group of investors threw in with Empress owner Vijay Patel and the partnership plunked down \$2 million to renovate the neglected fleabagger. It had 58 rooms for tourists then and 30 for residential use. The Corkers wanted to attract Irish travelers like the Sheehan Hotel on Sutter did, and called it West Cork at one point. But after the job was done, the city ruled the tourist rooms had not been used in three years and that by law they, too, should become residential, agreeing with the point made by lawyer Randy Shaw who heads the Tenderloin Housing Clinic. The appeal was turned down and the West Cork group bowed out. The Extra's stories by Anne Marie Jordan in May and August of 2002 told the tale.

Now, the grassroots performers felt they were getting the royal treatment.

"Thanks for this," said baritone Rob

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GOOD NEWS for...

TENDERLOIN KIDS Once again they can test their courage in the haunted house at 118 Jones St. on Halloween, from dusk until 9 p.m. This year, Elaine Zamora will wait outside as the Queen of Hearts, perhaps cradling an ax primed to lop off heads. She will direct kids through the gruesome doorway into her former law office waiting room that will be transformed into a cemetery, down a cobwebby hallway laden with icky things hanging from the ceiling, and into the witch's lair. There, a larger than life-size witch will be stirring a bubbling cauldron. If kids make the roundtrip back to the door, the traditional Halloween payoff awaits them: candy. This is Zamora's fourth haunted house. Last year the spooky event drew 40 kids, several in strollers. She has seven costumes looking for volunteers and 15 masks that will fit even more. This year the NOM/TL Community Benefit District, which she manages, is the sponsor. "I just enjoy Halloween and getting dressed up," she says. "It brings something positive to the kids and the neighborhood. And it's part of taking back the streets." To volunteer, call 440-7570.



TENDERLOIN Community School kids are "overjoyed" these days with the largess that rode into their school at 627 Turk St. on the shoulders of 49er football players last month, according to Principal Herb Packer. That would include a set of four basketball hoops for kindergartners, 4-square games (with 30 balls), art supplies, 20 classroom globes and three classroom rugs — \$10,000 worth of stuff, free through Donors Choice, which connects teachers' wish lists with philanthropy. "They just love the globes and, of course, rugs are a classroom luxury," Packer said. Some teachers had made requests a year ago to Donors Choice. But a few weeks ago, he said, the organization's Becky Johnson called to ask if the school wanted to be part of a media event with the Niners and a 49ers Foundation gift. If so, Johnson said, submit a list. "Our teachers had less than 48 hours to get it together," Packer said. "They (Donors Choice) wanted large things to show the players carrying them." The rugs worked great but the art supplies didn't come in big boxes. On Sept. 27, the Examiner ran a setup picture of offensive lineman Eric Heitmann carrying a rug at one end while two smiling first-graders held up the other end.

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

Cops can't solve sidewalk camps

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

top issue of District 6 candidates for supervisor.

Spurred by murders in the Western Addition in his District 5, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi introduced legislation in May that would increase police foot patrols in a part of his district. It fit in with the growing popularity of community policing, where police and concerned citizens stay in close contact, and many of Mirkarimi's board colleagues jumped to be included.

"The idea caught on like wildfire," District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly said Oct. 2 at the board's Select Committee on Ending Gun and Gang Violence to which the ordinance had been re-referred for changes. Daly amended the Tenderloin and Southern police districts into the one-year pilot program as did Supervisors Sophie Maxwell and Tom Ammiano for their districts. The measure calls for "at least" one beat officer to walk two of three daily police shifts.

PROBLEM IS GROWING

For months, Tenderloin residents have been telling Capt. Brown in public meetings and in private that they want more old-fashioned foot patrols. Calls from the public continue to rise, reflecting what some say are growing, rowdy street populations.

"There's always been a homeless problem in the Tenderloin, people sleeping in doorways and urination and defecation on the sidewalks," said Sister Karen Kielb, resident services coordinator at Presentation Senior Community, Mercy Housing's apartments at Taylor and Ellis. "But in the last two-three weeks there's been an influx of encampments (on Ellis Street). It's shopping carts and cardboard houses. I haven't seen it this bad in the six years I've been here.

"We had our vice presidents come here a week ago and they couldn't walk down that side of the street. It was so ugly and unsightly. We were embarrassed, though we had no fault in it. I e-mailed Capt. Brown. Sometimes I am calling Capt. Brown twice a day."

Kielb thinks the ranks will multiply with Glide's free Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and holiday food giveaways.

70% OF DRUG CRIME IN TL

Seventy percent of the city's drug-related crime occurs in the Tenderloin, according to Police Department figures. Presentation is in the hottest spot in town — police plot 176. Bound by Turk, Leavenworth, Ellis and Mason, it's the heart of the TL where a concentration of nonprofits serve the poor and homeless. It was responsible for 30% of the service calls in 2005, about twice as many as any of the six other TL plots. Moreover, calls from plot 176 have jumped 12% in each of the last two years.

The bottom line for 2005 was crime was up, arrests were down, according to the Tenderloin Station report to the Police Commission in March. Calls for overall service in the Tenderloin showed a 6.1% rise over the previous year and are continuing.

Brown called the "summit" meeting because of crime and nuisance offenses on Golden Gate Avenue. "Putting people in jail is

not the only solution," Brown said, "and we need long-term solutions and your suggestions."

Lt. Larry Minasian, day watch commander, said, "It's not a homeless problem." Often cops are called to handle situations that are basically medical, such as substance abuse, defecation and urination. The problem is dealers supplying addicts. TL police are called several times a day to Tenderloin Health, he said. People served there hang around and cause problems.

NO ANSWERS

"It would be great to come up with one or two ideas we can follow up," he said.

But there was none. The first hour was spent grilling the police about what happens to people who are arrested, because they are right back on the street.

"We've been trying to protect DeMarillac school for years," Minasian said. "We get calls in the morning and when the kids are out in the afternoon. There's a 1,000-foot rule. But there's a minimal number of cases going to court. So it doesn't serve us."

Drug peddling arrests within 1,000 feet of a school carry greater penalties. DeMarillac Middle School is located at 175 Golden Gate, in the same block with Tenderloin Health.

The police get calls from the YMCA on the northwest corner of Leavenworth and Golden Gate about blocked sidewalks, Minasian said, but seldom calls about St. Anthony's long meal lines along Golden Gate. They are well-policed by St. Anthony's, he said, even though drug dealers will "swoop down on long lines."

Another problem area is in the first block of Jones Street when people attend the Islamic Society mosque on Friday afternoons. They are inconvenienced by crowds blocking the sidewalk, he said.

"People are getting everything they need to subsist in the neighborhood and there's no need for them to go elsewhere. But you are impacted," Minasian said. "We've got to come up with something. And we're counting on you to come up with something."

Brown's operations are undermanned. The department has 14 fewer officers than in 2005. She

has four officers on bicycles and four that work on homeless outreach. But it is "rare that we can staff a foot beat" during the day, she said. Taking cops out of cars "jeopardizes safety" because it lengthens response time to emergency calls. She said her ideal is "a foot beat on every block." But the funding isn't there.

The litany was a repeat of exchanges during the Sept. 12 Alliance for a Better District 6 meeting at the TL police station. The featured speakers were Lt. Charlie Orkes of SFPD Field Operations, Supervisor Mirkarimi and a representative from Daly's office.

"We need more foot beats," said Elaine Zamora, manager of the North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. "Can't we take them from car patrols?"

"No," Orkes said. "Car patrols are for pursuit and quick reaction. You can't expect an officer to run and cover six to eight blocks."

So much narcotics-related crime creates a catch-22, Brown said. It takes cops off the street.

"We send a patrol to Ellis and Jones and 10 minutes later they're right back in the station doing paperwork," Brown said.

'IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY'

"What can the Board of Supervisors do?" asked George Dias, a candidate for District 6.

"It's all about money," Brown said. "Money for more officers."

"What about policy changes?" he asked.

"No."

"Why don't police make arrests on quality-of-life issues?" he asked.

"Because of the city's hands-off, compassionate approach to the homeless problem," she said.

What can drive drug dealers away is an obsessive question that crops up at every community meeting involving the police. At the Sept. 21 summit meeting, Sharon Woo of the DA's office was the only one to offer some small encouragement.

She said last November bail was raised to \$25,000 for dealing to make it tougher for the mostly BART-commuting drug dealers to get out of jail "in three or four hours." She said the DA's office

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U.S. Representative: Nancy Pelosi and Tom Lantos
Governor: Phil Angelides
Lieutenant Governor: John Garamendi
Secretary of State: Debra Bowen
Controller: John Chiang
Treasurer: Bill Lockyer
Attorney General: Jerry Brown
Insurance Commissioner: Cruz Bustamante
Board of Equalization, District 1: Betty Yee
State Senate, 8th Senate District: Leland Yee
State Assembly, 12th Assembly District: No endorsement
State Assembly, 13th Assembly District: Mark Leno

SAN FRANCISCO CANDIDATES

Assessor-Recorder: Phil Ting
Public Defender: Jeff Adachi
Board of Education: Jane Kim, Kim Knox, Kim-Shree Maufas
Community College Board: John Rizzo, Bruce Wolfe
BART Director – District 8: Emily Drennen
District 2 Supervisor: No Endorsement
District 4 Supervisor: Jaynry Mak
District 6 Supervisor: (Ranked-choice voting)
1. **Chris Daly** 2. Robert Jordan 3. Davy Jones
District 8 Supervisor: Alix Rosenthal
District 10 Supervisor: (Ranked-choice voting)
1. Marie Harrison 2. Sophie Maxwell

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Yes A School Bond
Yes B Parental Leave
Yes C Setting Salaries
Yes D Privacy Protection
Yes E Parking Tax Surcharge
Yes F Paid Sick Days
Yes G Small Business Protection Act
Yes H Relocation Benefits — No Fault Evictions
Yes I Monthly Board Appearances by Mayor
Yes J Impeachment of Bush/Cheney
Yes K Housing — Seniors, People with Disabilities

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Yes 1A The Rebuild California Plan: Transportation Investment Fund
Yes 1B The Rebuild California Plan: Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006
Yes 1C The Rebuild California Plan: Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006
Yes 1D The Rebuild California Plan: Education Facilities: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006
Yes 1E The Rebuild California Plan: Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006
Yes 83 Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators, Punishment, Resident Restrictions and Monitoring
Yes 84 Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resources Protection. Park Improvements
No 85 Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy
Yes 86 Tax on Cigarettes. Tobacco Tax Act of 2006 for Hospital, Emergency Services, Tobacco Education
Yes 87 Alternative Energy. Research. Production, Incentives. Tax on California Oil
Yes 88 Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax
Yes 89 Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution and Expenditure Limits. Initiative Statute
No 90 Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property

TAC PAC FPPC #1241868 Tacpac_sf@yahoo.com

VOTE NOVEMBER 7

Board of Supervisors District 6 Candidate Forum October 10, 6 PM

League of Women Voters District 6 Candidate Forum in partnership with *Alliance for A Better District 6* will host a live panel discussion with Cheryl Jennings, KGO TV personality, as moderator. This event will also be aired on SFGTV, Access SF, and EATV on a later date.

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2006
Time: 6 PM to 7:30 PM
Place: S.F. Main Library, Koret Auditorium
Location: 100 Larkin Street, Lower Level
Contact: Virginia Grandi, 415-989-8683

The event is open to the public, and seating will be provided on a first-come first-serve basis. Audience questions are asked by the moderator. Question cards will be collected from the audience and vetted by a designated League member.

Outreach partners: Central City SRO Collaborative, Lower Polk Neighbors, North Mission Neighborhood Alliance

CENTRAL CITY DEMOCRATS ENDORSEMENTS

District 6 Supervisor
(RANKED-CHOICE VOTING)

1. **Chris Daly**
2. Robert Jordan
3. Davy Jones

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'What I will do for District 6'

Supervisorial candidates tell you their plans — if elected — in 200 words or less

ROB BLACK

As supervisor of District 6, I will work to make our community safe, with more police officers on the beat, cameras in high-crime areas, and better police training to fight the rising tide of crime in our city. Every San Franciscan has a right to feel safe in our city, and we deserve a representative who will make safe streets a top priority.



I will work with Mayor Newsom to improve Care Not Cash to provide compassionate and supportive opportunities for homeless men, women and children to permanently exit life on the streets.

I will expand home ownership and rental opportunities for working-class San Franciscans, so that we can

keep our most valuable resource — our families — in San Francisco.

I will move forward with the Market Street Redevelopment Plan to bring tenant protections, artist work space, and \$100 million in affordable housing to our grand boulevard. I will ensure that District 6 remains a center of activity for the arts, developing more art studios, theater events and workshops for youth.

Most importantly, I pledge to work collegially and effectively with the city's government, to improve our quality of life, and to bring the spirit of cooperation back to City Hall.

CHRIS DALY

BEFORE my service on the Board of Supervisors, children in the South of Market went to school in World War II era bungalows with leaky roofs. Reckless development ravaged our neighborhoods, leaving behind a devastating trail of eviction and displacement. Homelessness was declared

intractable. Pay-to-play politics dominated City Hall. You sent me to City Hall to stand up for our communities against the special interests. We closed the live/work loft loophole and started community-based planning efforts. We passed the strongest pro-renter legislation in a decade and slowed evictions of the most vulnerable. Fighting alongside the residents of Trinity Plaza, we preserved 360 rent controlled units and won protections for long-term Trinity residents. Real progress has been made on expanding the continuum of care for homeless people. Last year we finalized an agreement for development in Rincon Hill that will bring \$120 million in community benefits, including affordable housing, to our neighborhoods. A new Bessie Carmichael Elementary School has been built for our children.

I have appreciated working with you over the last six years, and I look forward to continuing our work together to make this a better place for all of us.

GEORGE DIAS

My priorities are housing, crime and transit. I'm a 12-year Tenderloin resident and a San Francisco success story. When I moved here in 1994 it was to a residential hotel. Now I'm a condo owner, and I want others to have that same opportunity.



While others have been in politics all their lives, I'm a citizen candidate who knows the struggle working people face. I'm not a big fancy lawyer, but I did earn my bachelor's degree and I'm qualified to represent our district.

During our District 6 campaign, we started a discussion about community policing and

made news citywide. Now we face the challenge to expand, improve and properly fund Muni, and speed up the snail's pace efforts on the central subway and Transbay Terminal rebuild. New ideas are needed for the proposed statewide high-speed rail connecting San Francisco to Los Angeles.

This year we have ranked-choice voting. If you're voting for an ideologically pure candidate as your number one, please consider me, a practical liberal, as your second choice.

MATT DRAKE

I HAVE an unusual background for a candidate. I worked in the private sector as a patent attorney and for technology companies, in San Francisco and in Silicon Valley. Now I want to work for you.

As a longtime resident of District 6, I am passionate about changing the atmosphere at City Hall and improving our city. I believe:

We should do more to bring jobs to San Francisco. Without jobs, we cannot hope to overcome our other problems.

Our streets should be clean and safe. Every street should be safe for every person at any time. Our streets are not toilets!

We should build a power plant under the Golden Gate to take advantage of tidal energy.

We must also work together. It is easy to argue, but we will never solve our problems by argument. We all must work together—including your supervisor, the mayor, the courts, the district attorney, the police. For the last six years, they have all pointed the finger elsewhere and avoided responsibility. We can do better. I will work with everyone to solve our problems.

My campaign Website is www.mattdrake2006.com. I would appreciate your vote in November.



WILLIAM DUGOVIC

I LIVE in the center of the Tenderloin. I see every day what you see. I will learn your needs and priorities and correct all of the mistakes Daly has made in the district.

He was negligent of poor people, and negligent of crime. I will help the poor people and remove restrictions from the police to help stop those who break the law.

Politicians and special interest groups treat the police like criminals right now. Police have to be equal partners in the fight against crime. Give them an opportunity to do their best job.

Second, I will work with all the supervisors on transportation. It's time we made the leap from the 21st century to the 25th century.

There are lots of models to try, especially electric cars. Now it's very hard to get into the city and hard to get out. If we can find a solution to our transportation problem it will mean that big businesses will come as well as small businesses.

This wave of prosperity will bring new art forms, and people won't have to worry about health care. We'll have universal health care.

MANUEL JIMENEZ

Manuel Jimenez lives in SoMa. He is an attorney who currently works for the State Bar of California. Manuel graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and Fordham University School of Law where he was a Stein Scholar in the Stein Center for



Ethics and Public Interest Law. He is presently pursuing an MPA at San Francisco State University.

He has served on the Treasure Island Citizens Advisory Board and the Childhood Nutrition and Physical Activity Task Force.

An avid surfer, he worked as a bicycle messenger during a stint of self-imposed unemployment. Manuel also served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (1988-1994).

DAVY JONES

My name is Davy Jones, former state senate candidate, affordable housing coordinator and recognized LGBTQ activist for tenants' rights/HIV/AIDS funding programs. In 2005, I was honored by SF Board of Supervisors and Project Open Hands' Senior lunch program for my life-time dedication to improving the quality of life for District Six residents.

Recently, I have won key endorsements from the San Francisco Tenants' Rights Association, the District Six Gays, SF Senior Citizen Alliance to persuade voters to support my grassroots 'Clean Hands' candidacy. Due to my concern about Men's health, I founded a

non-profit agency to fight prostate cancer. Visit www.prostatecancerresource.org

Like my fellow tenants, I am concerned about high rate of crime, tenant evictions, pedestrian safety, housing for HIV/AIDS infected persons and funding for healthcare service providers.

As the next gay tenant supervisor, I pledge for the first 100 days in office to (1) Support the Select Committee to Ending Gun and Gang Violence; propose "No loitering Zones" in high crime areas; fund programs like Safe Block and Safety network (2) Free Muni monthly pass to residents on SSI/GA (3) Housing subsidies for individuals infected with HIV/AIDS

(4) Stop Ellis Act evictions (5) Ordinance to protect seniors on multiple prescriptions from serious adverse effects (6) City loan program for first time homebuyers call the "silent loan" program (7) City to fund stem cell research for cancer/HIV.

After, six years of high crime, tenant Ellis Act evictions, high pedestrians deaths, it is time to have a Supervisor who cares for welfare of residents on a day-to-day basis. I ask for your support, your friendship, advice to become the next LGBTQ tenant Supervisor.

"You gotta to give them hope" Harvey Milk. Vote Davy Jones! HE'S ONE OF US! www.votedavyjones.com

ROBERT JORDAN

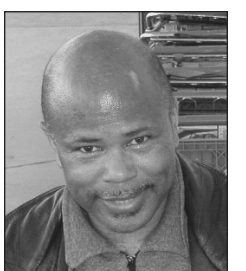
My name is Robert Jordan, and I am seeking the S.F. Supe job because, I would be able not only to fund the district with money, but I am also very creative like Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi. Sometimes even though a job is the Mayor's, he alone cannot do it by himself, and he needs some assistance.

I feel that it is high time to attempt to slow down some of the drug dealings and shootings that are taking place, and I have a plan to tackle that problem. It will not be done all of a sudden, but neither will it happen for the next four years without something being done.

I feel that in four years time that I and others could solve the problem with ease.

This would certainly increase the quality of life, and allow children to come outside and play, and the elderly not to be afraid to come out for walks during the evening time. I have been threatened by a couple of drug dealers, one calling himself Caine, however I am in this race to the end.

Do we really need four more years of Chris Daly not showing up when it comes to violence, and not wanting surveillance cameras installed? ■



Drake

For Supervisor

Looking for a Change?

San Francisco has failed the Tenderloin!

I believe that:

- EVERY street should be safe for EVERY person at ANY time.
- Our streets are not toilets!
- Our streets should not be used to buy, sell, or use drugs.

Residents of District 6 deserve the same clean and safe streets as residents of Pacific Heights!

www.mattdrake2006.com
Paid for by Friends of Matt Drake, FPPC # 1281837



**Fighting each other won't help him.
Working together will.**

For nearly six years, San Francisco has endured Chris Daly's divisive politics with little to show but hot air. This November, voters in District 6 can make a huge difference at the polls.



Rob Black will work with us.

With a strong background in labor, human rights, diplomacy, law and the arts, **Rob Black** has practical ideas on improving our quality of life, and he'll listen to our ideas, too.

Mayor Gavin Newsom endorses Rob Black for Supervisor in District 6.

For more information and to contribute and/or volunteer, visit robblack2006.com or call 415-255-3078.

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"Ideas not ideology"

**ELECT
GEORGE DIAS
SUPERVISOR**



George is a 12 year Tenderloin resident and San Francisco success story.

When he moved here in 1994 it was to an SRO; now he's a condo owner.

District 6 is a tale of two cities, and George knows both.

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SRO residents' talents on display

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rucker, who said he came from Milwaukee 25 years ago. "It gets us out of our rooms." In front of a 6-by-6-foot mandala wall hanging used this evening to cover a window, and while the ceiling fan spun above him, he sang the Johnny Mathis classic "Misty."

Master of ceremonies Dwight Saunders stepped in with high energy and tossed out some barbs that elicited guffaws and groans. After a lesbian carpenter joke — with a tongue-in-groove punch line — he confessed, "Okay, maybe I'm not funny, I'm lewd. And if you don't like an act, boo 'em off the stage. Okay, maybe that's going too far."

Saunders was joking. The idea was to get people to come together, to be fearless and emote, show a talent, read a poem, tell a joke, anything. And they

had coalesced nicely, thanks in part to the efforts of Randy Wilson, the tenant representative. Before the show, Wilson knocked on the tenants' doors to encourage each to participate.

Saunders reminded that not all the art was at the microphone. He referred to art work on a wall that was "very saleable." Hanging up for the show were impressively controlled oil, chalk, color pencil and watercolor drawings and ceramic clay art from six hotel artists.

EMPEROR NORTON II

"I'm not a novice," said Norton Kolomeyer, a capricious elderly man and a medical doctor who also calls himself Emperor Norton II. The reference is to the 19th century businessman Joshua Norton who roamed the city proclaiming himself Emperor I of

North America and Protector of Mexico.

"I used to attend lots of poetry sessions in North Beach," Dr. Kolomeyer went on. "They were really tough, not a good audience like you. They were poets. And the only thing they had in common was poetry. You'd make them feel inferior."

He started talking about the history of poetry, poets as heroes, what it took to write the stuff — "an open, vacant mind" — before somebody yelled at him to can it and get on with the poetry. So he recited four he wrote.

The things residents revealed in art form, or free form, varied from descriptions of bleak existences and weaknesses, to hope and joy and love. About half sang.

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Got questions about permits and inspections?



Get the answers at

"Meet the DBI Pros" Summit
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By Friday, October 6, 2006



A pressing police problem

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

charges "almost all" of those arrested but there are "intervention" options for first-time felons, such as services and job training.

"Incarceration is not a priority in prosecuting drug dealing," she said.

On the other hand, the threat of state prison for a second offense is a tool in the fight against drugs, she said, and the DA's stay-away orders are "leverage" in the system, but "it's a revolving door in a lot of respects."

"I don't want you to think that we don't do anything," Woo said. "The price of doing business in San Francisco has gone up in the last 2½ years. Arrests on the street send a message. And San Francisco is turning the corner and is sending people to jail for parole violations."

But serious quality-of-life issues, plus drug dealing, remain a daily disaster for part of the neighborhood. As soon as police cleared away messy encampments on Golden Gate Avenue in September, more appeared on Ellis between Jones and Taylor, in the block where Glide offers food and services.

RATS IN BOEDDEKER PARK

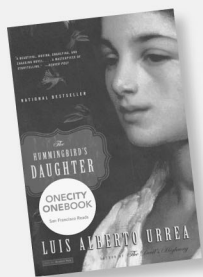
"I'm not anti-homeless but we seem to have the worst of the worst," said Kielb in an interview last month that included Presentation resident Dan Stein. "The police act very quickly, but then the problem is right back. There's no place for them to go. And the situation is no one's fault, not Glide's, the mayor's or the police. And I have no idea for a solution."

Stein said the squatters on the sidewalk at Boeddeker Park's closed north gate throw food into the park and climb over the fence at night to sleep there. Weeds have grown up. The park doesn't get the gardening attention it got 18 months ago, he said. The result, he said, is rats. Presentation residents using the patio that abuts the park fence have spotted rats coming from the park to the patio fountain for water. Presentation has two traps set at the fence.

Stein was part of the collaboration with St. Anthony's and Glide to put on ice cream socials for seniors at the park in 2004. But they were discontinued last year.

"We served hamburgers and it was overrun by street people, not the seniors it was intended for," Stein said. "We lost control. The last thing we had in the park was the arts festival a year ago. People are afraid to go in there now."

Labor Day weekend narcotics police used Presentation's roof as a lookout. They radioed patrol cars and several arrests were made on Ellis Street. ■



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EVERYONE GETS IN THE ACT

The day desk clerk, Aaron Jones, a former Oakland schoolteacher, at the urging of property manager Roberta Goodman, said he wrote a poem about the Tenderloin. It was a dark account of its hard streets, despair and perils. Joe Shelton, a Vietnam veteran, strode up with his guitar and gave a James Taylor-like rendition of "Carry Me," a song about being transported back to love and family, beauty and serenity. He followed it with the 1960s hit "Get Together," and people hummed, sang and clapped as the familiar lyrics filled the room: "C'mon people, now smile on your brother, ev'ry-body get together, try to love one another right now."

From a front row seat, lanky Roni "Macaroni" Armbuster struggled to stand on legs that never got right after an accident years ago. He pushed his walker forward a few feet, turned and sat on the seat to tell a couple of stories. With his wispy, full gray beard, black and white plaid cap and drawling country baritone, he was the epitome of an apple barrel raconteur. He knew just the right volume for the punch line in the story from his youth about God assigning longevity to the sex lives of his creatures.

Sonja Porter didn't have a song or poem. But the crowd called her up to do something, anything. The thin, diminutive black woman stood beaming in front of the crowd, held up her hands and wiggled her fingers and said, "I do love you all. I do love you all. Spread the love."

Irving Saraf was hunched behind his camera on a ramp next to the goodies table and caught all of it on film. He and partner Allie Light have been recording life at the Empress for a year. They did the behind-the-scenes documentary, "In the Shadow of the Stars," about the devoted, paid singers in the San Francisco Opera Chorus that won an Oscar in 1991. Roberta Goodman is a partner in the Empress project and has a 12-minute clip of residents telling their life stories that she shows to potential financial backers. Most tales are poignant and some are riveting.

ENCORES GALORE

The hour of talent was such a success that a second round of performing began. Ron Rucker came back to sing "She's a one-man woman (and that's all she is)." Tina Knox belted "Mr. Telephone Man" this time. And Joe Shelton, having heard some improvised harmony when he played, came back to try to capitalize on it. But people weren't familiar with his song and the effort petered out.

"It's great to be a part of this community," said Saunders before the raffle drawing. "There are all those people outside, but we're inside having fun. I couldn't be more proud. I witnessed a miracle. Not



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Vietnam vet Joe Shelton stirred the crowd with nostalgic 1960s tunes, and had everybody humming.

long ago I couldn't get four of you in one room."

It seemed that half the residents in the room were raffle winners. The prizes ranged from \$25 Safeway and Giants souvenir certificates to lottery tickets and a CD by singer Beyonce.

Afterward, Saunders, the hotel's tenant representative before Wilson, explained his remark about the change in tenant attitude.

"It's leadership basically," he said. "It's the same people in other SROs, but here they respond."

Saunders is on the staff of the Central City SRO Collaborative. He said he and Randy Wilson had learned about life after addiction because they got straightened out with "spiritual transformations" through the support of the Rescue Mission's Clint Ladine and Pastor Earl Rogers.

RESCUE MISSION'S ROLE

"Ninety percent of the residents here have had substance abuse problems and most are dually

diagnosed," he said. "And the Mission has had a significant role in helping develop the male residents here. Randy brought that development back here to the Empress to help create programs and services."

As a result, he said, tenant meetings now average 25%-40% turnout, way higher than most SROs. "I know this from what I see and hear about other SROs at the collaborative."

"Before this evening, Randy went door to door encouraging people, and if he didn't they wouldn't have come. That's commitment."

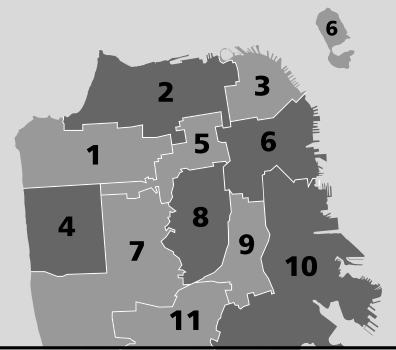
Management also plays a part, he said. So many residents at other SROs experience harassment, internal problems and communication difficulties. But Goodman, he said, is "extraordinary" and has integrity and the Empress is "fortunate to have her, although we disagree sometimes."

After this success, Goodman said, there will be another Open Mic night, but no date was set. ■

Get Informed About Ranked-Choice Voting!

For the November 7, 2006 Election, San Francisco voters will use ranked-choice voting to elect the Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender.

San Francisco voters who live in Supervisorial Districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 will also use ranked-choice voting to elect their Member of the Board of Supervisors.

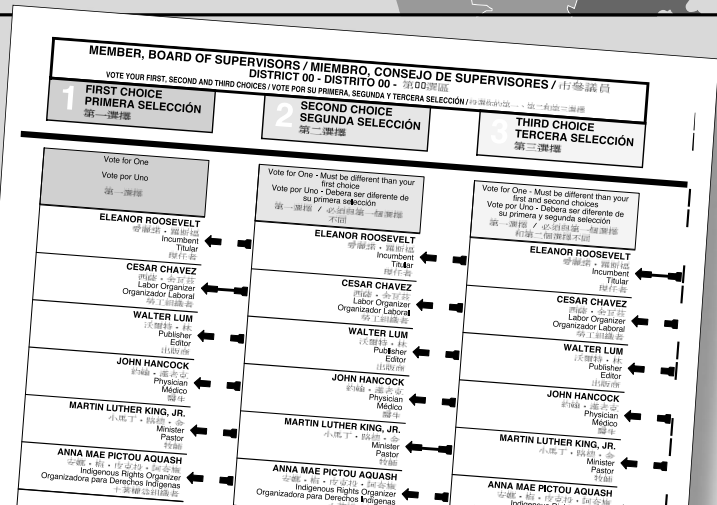


With ranked-choice voting, the names of all the candidates are listed in three side-by-side columns on the ballot. This allows you to rank up to three candidates for the same office.

If there are fewer than three candidates, or to rank fewer than three candidates, you may leave any remaining columns blank.

Learn More About Ranked-Choice Voting!

For more information on ranked-choice voting, or to find out what district you live in, contact the San Francisco Department of Elections at (415) 554-4375 or visit www.sfgov.org/election.org.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

TNDC Pool Toss — 14th annual event sponsored by Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp. to raise money for TNDC's After-School Program and other support services for TNDC families. See Giants' exec Jack Bair, Supervisor Daly and others soaked in the pool at the Phoenix Hotel, Eddy and Larkin, starting at 6 p.m. Also on hand, but maybe not all wet: Author Ben Fong-Torres, actor Peter Coyote and ex-Mayor Willie Brown.

2006 San Francisco Neighborhood Business Awards, Thur., Oct. 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m., 111 Minna Gallery. Event sponsored by Urban Solutions and The Examiner. Tickets \$20. Information: 346-0199

Board of Education candidate forum, Thur., Oct. 12, 6-8 p.m., Tenderloin Community School, 627 Turk St. Meet board candidates. Translation and child care available. Hosted by Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, S.F. PTA, Parents for Public Schools, San Francisco Organizing Project, Chinese for Affirmative Action Center for Asian American Advocacy and Edgewood Center.

Candidate forum and debate for District 6 supervisor, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 6 p.m., Koret Auditorium, Main Library. Cheryl Jennings of KGO TV will moderate the event, which will be aired live on cable-access TV channels 26, 27 and 29. Candidates Rob Black, Chris Daly, George Dias, Matthew Drake, Viliam Dugovic, Manuel Jimenez, Davy Jones and Robert Jordan will answer questions from the audience. Sponsors: League of Women Voters and the Alliance for a Better District 6.

Chinese Art Exhibit, the Luggage Store, 1007 Market St. through Oct. 14. "The Amber Room" features four Chinese artists, two from Beijing and two from Los Angeles, who created works in response to the original gold and mosaic masterpiece that disappeared from Catherine Palace in St. Petersburg in 1941.

Citywide wireless network community forum, Tues., Oct. 17, 6-8 p.m. Eugene Friend-SoMa Recreation Center, 270 6th St. One of 11 informational forums in various neighborhoods hosted by Earthlink and Google to introduce free and paid computer network service. Information: Megan Quinn at Google, (650) 253-4944; Jerry Grasso at Earthlink, (404) 748-7208.

Dinosaurs: Ancient fossils, new discoveries at the California Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard St. Walk among dinosaur, reptile and bird models and see a 700-square-foot diorama that

duplicates life from 130 million years ago. Watch a mechanical model of a T. rex skeleton walk in place. The exhibit goes to Feb. 4. A "fossil special" is \$2 margaritas between 5-6 p.m. The Academy is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. www.calacademy.org.

Karkhana, Asian Art Museum, through Nov. 5, exhibition of 12 miniatures created collaboratively by six contemporary Pakistani artists who live around the world. Karkhana is an Urdu term for workshops in which various artists produced traditional court paintings. Information www.asianart.org/Karkhana.htm.

Moon Festival, Sat. Oct. 14, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Tenderloin Children's Playground, 570 Ellis St. The 27th festival will have free food, interactive recreations and lantern-making in the morning for the evening lantern walk. It is sponsored by the Vietnamese Youth Development Center. Contact: Maria Su, 771-2600, ext. 102.

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. 201 Turk Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training, facilitate communication.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., CBHS, 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.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Contact: Aaron Wagner, 703-0188 x304.

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., City Hall, room 278. CBHS 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. Call 905-6264. Family member group, open to consumers and the public.

SAFETY

Crime and Safety Committee, meets bimonthly on the Wednesday after the first Monday, SOMPAC, 1035 Folsom, 6 p.m. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

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. Civic education.

Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, organized by Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP, to work or for information, contact Betty Traynor at the Neighborhood Parks Council, 931-1126.

Community Leadership Alliance, a chartered Democratic organization. Monthly informational forums in room 034, City Hall, with guest presenters and speakers, sharing news of upcoming events, proposals, resources. For day and time, contact: David Villa-Lobos, 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: 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: 554-9532.

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 10th streets.

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. For location contact Elaine Zemora, district manager, 440-7570 x21.

SoMa Leadership Council, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., The Arc, 1500 Howard St. at 11th. Emphasizes good planning and good government to maintain a diverse, vibrant, complete neighborhood. Contact: Jim Meko, 624-4309 or jim.meko@comcast.net.

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

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police Station community room, 301 Eddy. Contact Paul Bains at 358-3981 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, 965 Mission #700: Pedestrian safety, third Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Senior Housing Action, third Wednesday, 1:30; Information: 546-1333 and www.senioractionnetwork.org.

SUPERVISORS' COMMITTEES

Budget and Finance 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.



TENDERLOIN HEALTH Outreach and Community Events October 2006

HIV Services Forum

Topic: Understanding HIV Drug Resistance

Speaker: Bill Stewart

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 18, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Health Promotion Forum

Topic: Hepatitis C/HIV

Speaker: Pauli Gray

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 25, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Location for Forums: Tenderloin Health, 191 Golden Gate Ave.
light meal will be provided

Client Advisory Panel

Come talk with Tenderloin Health's Executive Director and program managers about plans for Tenderloin Health. Also provide input on new services and how we can improve.

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 11, 11:30 am - 1 pm;
Wednesday, October 25, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health

Orientation: Sunday, October 15, 1:30 pm - 6:30 pm
220 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor
lunch provided

You must pre-register for volunteer trainings.
Stop in/call Emilie (415) 934-1792.

For current groups' schedule or for more information
call: 415.431.7476 or go to www.tenderloinhealth.org

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