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TNDC tenants elect council

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Good health and a love of staying busy have served her well, she says, though she's never served on any kind of community council.

"We have so many Chinese in the TNDC buildings, and many speak very little English," Moy says. "I can help them understand and also tell people what they're worried about."

Seiler has lived at the Civic Center Residence for eight years and liked the idea of the resident council as soon as it surfaced: "I was already one of two tenant reps on TNDC's Board of

Directors, and the community organizers thought I might have more input through the new association." He agreed to participate in forming the new group and got especially involved on the committee that drafted its 10 guiding principles.

Empowering residents through self-governance, using the community's diversity to strengthen it, advocating for public and personal safety, and closing the divide between staff and residents are some of the principles.

"I wanted those principles to have teeth, to have something residents could aspire to," Seiler says. "I think they do, but it took four excruciatingly hard months to reach consensus. It's not easy to get people who are used to the way things are to change — it's work and you shouldn't expect someone else to get it done."

Seiler will remain on the TNDC board, he says, hoping that the two roles will reinforce his effectiveness on both.

TNDC Executive Director Don Falk is all for the new association, seeing nothing but benefits for everyone involved. "One of TNDC's values is equity, and our staff take that very seriously," Falk says. "Encouraging tenant associations and fostering resident leadership are key — they ensure that we're making a real impact on the people we serve."

The swearing-in ceremony will take place at City Hall, June 12 at 5:30 p.m. in room 278. Kim aide Sunny Angulo says it's a first for the supervisor. All other swearing-ins have been for individuals rather than groups.

Bradford says about the swearing in: "It gives us real legitimacy." ■



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