

ARTHUR JACKSON: Experienced city official



Arthur Jackson, except for Chris Daly, has the most experience as a hard-working city official among the field of eight contenders.

Jackson is a member of the Health Commission, has been its budget committee chairman and its president; and was president of the city Commission on Aging and Adult Services.

He knows the public health system, from the outside in. Born in Chicago, he is a dapper 55-year-old, has crystal-clear eyes, and says he's healthier than he has been in years. For 10 years he took medication to regulate an ailing kidney, suffered through dialysis for 6 1/2 years when the meds stopped working, and then in 2000 underwent a kidney transplant.

During the last 10 years, (except for two when he was so sick it was "scary," he said) Jackson, a Quaker, has sat on either of the two commissions.

Mayor Frank Jordan first appointed him to the Health Commission in 1992, and during 1993-95 Jackson was its president. During the early '90s, while the AIDs crisis was exploding, he also served as budget committee chairman. Jackson's term ended in 1996. Mayor Willie Brown appointed him to the Commission on Aging and Adult Services in 1999, and in 2000 he became its president. Then, in 2001, Brown put him back on the Health Commission, where he is today.

"I think I've been a good health commissioner because I've had 20 surgeries so I really know the system," said Jackson.

"We need someone who has knowledge of and background in how to do community service and civil service and come to the table with other people. ... It's not a place at this particular time for trainees," he said.

District 6 is a hub of the city, Jackson says, yet there hasn't been enough attention to its economic vitality. There isn't enough emphasis on supporting businesses; for instance, the payroll tax is too high, he says, which does nothing to encourage businesses to stay in the city.

"There's lots of people in this district who don't have jobs," Jackson said. He's the co-chair of the welfare-to-work program, SF Works. "A paycheck empowers a community," he said.

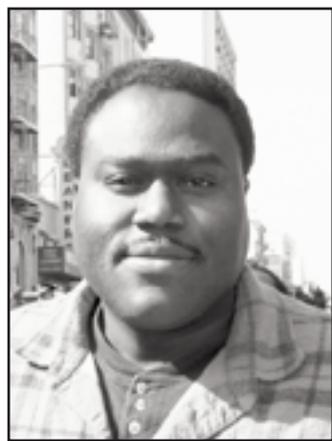
Jackson wants to see more services for seniors, and one of his priorities is to develop more congregate meal sites, giving seniors a place to meet others. He is the board president of the board of directors at the Senior Center at O'Farrell and Turk and the center at Aquatic Park.

He said he will go out and talk to people ("shake 25,000 hands") and find out what his constituents want. "You've got to really address the issues of everybody in your district," he said.

On the other hand, he noted, if you walk down the street and ask people where they can find services, most people wouldn't know, so he would allocate money for marketing, education and prevention. "We need to take every opportunity to help people find what they're looking for," he said.

He applauds what TNDC, developer Art Evans and Mark Trotz of public housing have achieved. But, he said, "We could do more. Everyone deserves a place to live. Everyone."

GARRETT JENKINS: Full-time activist



Garrett Jenkins, 38, says he lives at ground zero - at the Dalt Hotel on Turk near Mason. That means he's also been working in and around ground zero for years.

To highlight his community work, Jenkins has been the president of the North of Market Planning Coalition Board of Directors and now is NOMPC's executive director. He was on the Lower Eddy/Leavenworth Task Force, sits on the board of San Francisco Tomorrow, volunteered with Adopt-A-Block, and is chairman of the San Francisco Neighborhood Alliance. Jenkins also ran for supervisor in 2000.

On weekends he works for Caritas Management, an in-house management firm for the nonprofit Mission Housing Development. This is his only paid position. Weekdays he's an unpaid community activist. He is semi-retired, he said, getting dis-

ability payments from the Navy supplemented by his work with Caritas. But, since 1998, he's been a full-time community activist.

"It's difficult at first, but you get used to it," he says of the lower pay and the long hours, but he's driven: "Whatever needs to be done, I try to help out."

Besides running for supervisor in 2000, Jenkins has run for two other positions, winning one: Municipal Utility District Ward 5. In the process, he says, he's garnered more recognition and citywide support.

He wants District 6 to become more inclusive. He'll listen to all sides, he says, and work with people with varying points of view. He praises Daly for bringing attention to people who often are ignored, but Jenkins says that more groups should be included in District 6's purview. "I would open the door and bring more underrepresented communities into the political process," Jenkins says.

Safety on the streets is a pressing issue to Jenkins. "There are still too many people in San Francisco that fear venturing outside the safety of their homes," he wrote in an e-mail interview. He wants more police on the streets; he'd like a police substation at Market and Sixth. "When the dealers see a uniform they walk away," Jenkins elaborated in a phone interview. Jenkins says he supports the community courts and they need more staff.

With 85% of businesses in San Francisco being small, he said, they need more incentives to stay and grow. "I'm always behind lessening taxes on small businesses in San Francisco, especially everyday neighborhood services," Jenkins says.

Cleaning up the streets is also a priority to Jenkins. But he wants more collaboration among the different cleaners. He suggests paying neighborhood people a stipend, say \$50 a month, to maintain their own blocks.

Jenkins says that if more people had a stake in their living spaces as owners the Tenderloin would change. "In 2000, I campaigned with the promise of developing community housing and land trusts. Since then, a city task force has been created, and now that the idea of land trusts is acceptable. I will begin to advocate for the conversion of nonprofit housing into land trusts for the residents who want to participate," Jenkins wrote in an e-mail.

"I will continue to support community efforts to revitalize the neighborhood through economic development and construction of more housing."

MICHAEL SWEET: A "big picture" lawyer



Michael Sweet, 32, is a lawyer at a firm that deals with civil litigation for businesses, yet he says his critics are incorrectly "trying to brand me as 'big business.'" He has a progressive bent, he says. For instance, he says, he worked for Jerry Brown's presidential campaign in 1991-92 and the progressive Proposition 217 in 1996 that aimed to direct more tax revenues to schools and community services.

Born in San Francisco and raised in the Bay Area, he also has been vice chairman of the Rincon Point South Beach citizens advisory board and Brannan Street Wharf Citizens Advisory Board to the Redevelopment Agency, is a member of Alliance for a Better District 6, and participated with the SoMa Leadership Council.

Sweet's experience as a lawyer and community activist, he says, helps him wield the "skill set to do the job well, and bring all parties to the table."

Although he isn't "big business," he says the district does need a dose of economic activity to revive the streets. If the boarded-up storefronts were transformed into thriving businesses there would be more foot traffic, he says, more little delis and cafes to serve the increased work force, and more mom and pop neighborhood-serving businesses would sprout. Therefore, he is against an increase in the business tax, because that sends a negative message to businesses.

Projects that he would launch in the district would include improved street cleaning, and address quality of life issues for everyone, including residents in the SROs, shelters, apartments, condos, and single-family homes. He would emphasize accountability for the resources set aside by the city for the homeless to ensure those resources actually reach them.

He says the district gets the second smallest piece of the parks budget, and he would try to change that. He also wants Bessie Carmichael Elementary in SoMa to be rebuilt. "District 6 is poised to become the heart of the City," says Sweet, "and we need to leverage the opportunities like the Third Street rail, Mission Bay, the work of TNDC, ECS, and the Transbay Terminal."

He says that we "need a supervisor with a vision for the big picture," who can see District 6 as "the gem of the city, but for everyone."

Sweet says he plans to continue lawyering if elected supervisor, but he and his wife have a baby on the way, so he would cut back on his hours at the firm. ■

Letters to the Editor

Right on, Ed!

In the August *Central City Extra*, Ed Bowers says in his interview with Bob Labriola, "I don't believe that drugs should be illegal just because some bullies in office say they should be. If people want to get high, let them choose their poison and self-medicate for free."

I just want to say, Right On, Ed! The War on Drugs has been a cruel, costly failure.

Starchild
Candidate for supervisor,
District 8

Correcting a misconception

In your latest edition, in the article re: Tenderloin secession by Ed Bowers, there is an error that many folks make, and I think you should correct it. In the fourth paragraph from the end, Bowers says, "Most of my friends, especially the whores and skilled ex-cons... have felony arrest records longer than my arm and cannot vote for anyone."

This is a common misconception believed by many, when the truth of the matter is that once a person's parole or probation is completed, they may start to vote again. It seems that parole and probation officers do not tell this to their clients, which is unjust.

Terrie Frye



Central City Extra is published monthly by San Francisco Study Center Inc., a private nonprofit serving the community since 1972. The Extra is published through grants from the S.F. Hotel Tax Fund and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. The contents are copyrighted by the San Francisco Study Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 602, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: 626-1650 Fax: 626-7276 E mail: centralcityextra@studycenter.org
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Central City Extra is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association