

BURKE STRUNSKY
Quality of Life Court



Burke Strunsky says he's no politician, but early in life, "I found my calling in public service." For the past 2 1/2 years, he has negotiated with the grittier side of life as an assistant district attorney in San Francisco. He has prosecuted misdemeanors and general felonies, which includes drug and gun violence cases, but is not assigned domestic violence and sex cases, he says.

Strunsky, a San Francisco native, says that about half of his cases have been in District 6. "That's a telling statistic, it's reflective of how District 6 is doing."

And that's why Strunsky, 30, with little political experience under his belt, chose to throw his hat into the fray. "I think the key word is change, this district really needs a change — that's why I'm in this race."

This district, more than any other, he says, needs a supervisor who "becomes a leader." He adds: "I don't think Chris Daly's doing a good job."

Strunsky's been stumping in the streets and says folks are eager to talk. From the owners of Tenderloin mom-and-pop stores to homeowners in South Beach, people are telling him that Daly has not created coalitions or fostered inclusiveness. Strunsky says he can do better.

The problem is reflected in the number of initiatives on the ballot, he says. "The voters are being asked to do the job of the Board of Supervisors," by having to make decisions that a less divided board could have made. "Initiatives should be the exception and not the rule."

The biggest concern he's heard from disgruntled residents: the homeless problem. "Where is our \$200 million going every year that Daly is spending?" asks Strunsky, referring to a controller's report in May that the city is spending \$104 million a year on homeless

services. He wants to centralize the tracking of funds to service providers, and advocates more competitive bidding. "People in the nonprofits are dedicated to what they do," he says. "The question is, Are they doing it in the most efficient way possible?"

Crime and street safety are also concerns. "That's what I do; I spend at least 65 hours a week dealing with that." He supports "increased spending for the Police Department and the district attorney's office," his campaign literature says. "Drug dealing happens out in the open every day on street corners, especially at 16th and Mission," he says, and that has to stop.

Strunsky has an idea for handling quality of life crimes that sounds remarkably like the Community Courts that operate in six neighborhoods to deal with misdemeanors. The major difference seems to be his reliance on the criminal justice system to provide expertise.

Quality of life crimes now are tried in Superior Court, he says, but he suggests that the city establish a Superior Quality of Life Court, similar to domestic violence and drug courts. "Let the people who deal with quality of life issues deal with that," says Strunsky. Law enforcement, lawyers and judges would specialize in those issues and have the expertise and connections to refer problem cases into programs rather than jails, he says.

Strunsky supports Care Not Cash: "It's not a solution, but it's a good first step."

Strunsky is also concerned about housing, and in his campaign literature he writes, "Shortages can be alleviated with 'smart growth' along transit corridors ... and by building new parks." He favors Proposition B, the big affordable housing bond.

Strunsky is on leave while he campaigns. If elected, he says, he would quit the DA's office and devote himself fulltime to the district.

"People say that I haven't been involved with the community groups around here," he says. "But I've been involved in this community every day. I bring a very unique perspective in running for this office."

MALINKA MOYE
What makes him run?

The man dressed in jogging attire stuck his head through the open door of the *Extra's* office, thrusting an envelope at the receptionist. As he spun to leave, the reporter sitting at a computer called out, "Hey, you're Malinka Moyer, wait, I want to talk to you — I've been trying to reach you. Can I

have an interview?" Malinka Moyer, 30, who says he's an athlete, is running, literally, for supervisor of District 6. But, unlike the other candidates, he seems to dash away from publicity...and the law.

In the Sept. 19 issue of the Bay Area Reporter, Joe Dignan broke the story on Moyer's run-ins with police, which include charges of drug possession, violent behavior related to a lover's wrangle, and a "bizarre" case in which Moyer was apprehended while skinning a goat he planned to barbecue and eat, believing the meat would give him strength.



Perhaps Moyer had a premonition of his future fame, because rather than dallying to chat with the *Extra*, he directed the reporter to look in the envelope for all the answers. Then he was gone.

The envelope with "all the answers" had a phone number scrawled across the front. Bay Car Stereo answered. Owner Jack Chew is Moyer's campaign treasurer, and a basketball buddy.

"I'm doing it as a favor, to help him," Chew said, explaining why he couldn't answer any questions about Moyer's campaign, platform or war chest. But he did say that as of mid-September no money had been donated.

Inside the campaign envelope was a single salmon sheet of paper asking supporters for a copy of proof of their San Francisco residency and a copy of a check for \$100 made out to Moyer. But, strangely, Moyer writes that he only wants a copy of the check. "You keep the money." Weird enough to make you wish for a standard campaign pitch.

Moyer phoned the *Extra* later that day; he'd changed his mind regarding an interview and arranged to meet the reporter at the top of Potrero Hill on Arkansas Street.

At the top of the hill, Arkansas dead ends and Moyer was nowhere in sight.

Then, suddenly, the candidate appeared: He'd folded his 6-foot-5 body into a squat on top of a razor scooter and was careening down the hill. "Malinka!" the reporter shouted. He stopped, stood up and began the trek back up the hill, clomping in oversize red sneakers. A bus came up the hill behind him and he yelled to the reporter to catch it. They rode about a half block back up to the top of the hill and got out.

And that's how the *Extra* got an exclusive interview with Moyer.

"This is not my forum," said Moyer repeatedly. What is his forum? He wouldn't say. He walked to the fence at the field's edge outside the Potrero Hill rec center and looked down at the faraway neighborhoods.

Why is he running? "To make a drastic change in District 6," he answered, "and I'm not going to win unless I stick to my plan."

What plan? "What I like to do is not have people know what I'm up to," he said.

But how will people know why they should vote for him? His platform, he said, is "employment, business development, health, education..."

What are the details? "You give me some ideas," he answered, continuing to play coy.

Moyer said he had attended Oregon State for several years, majoring in sociology. As a social scientist, he said, he has studied District 6 for about five years — longer then it has been a supervisorial district — but wouldn't elaborate. When at Oregon State, he said, he was on the basketball team. But "I partied out of school," and didn't graduate.

Later, he came to San Francisco and entered a recovery program at Glide. He's been in recovery 10 times, he said, but he claims his "only addiction" has been to marijuana.

"The people who work there [Glide] put a whole lot of time and effort into me — they made me see the plight of the black man, black woman and the nuclear family," he said.

Today's youth are frequently exposed to harmful elements, he said, complaining about rap artists who urge young people to "throw their life away, and society allows it." "I don't like saggy pants, tattoos," he said.

Moyer took a break from the interview to run a quick errand. He gave the reporter his stopwatch and told her to time him, promising he'd be back in two minutes.

Moyer, candidate for District 6, didn't make any campaign promises during the interview, but he did come back in exactly 120 seconds. ■

Prop B spells affordable housing

by Marjorie Beggs

In 1996, San Franciscans approved Proposition A, a \$100 million affordable housing bond. Next month, Proposition B — a \$250 million bond — comes up for a vote.

"It takes up where the 1996 bond left off," said Kelly Cullen, director of TNDC. "Fifty percent of all affordable housing being build today is because of Prop A." A "yes" on Prop B will extend the benefits greatly, he said.

If it passes — and it will take 67% approval to pass — the

city will issue general obligation bonds for \$250 million and use the money to make grants or loans to buy, build or renovate affordable housing, and also to help people with low and moderate incomes buy their first homes.

Among the bond issue's many benefits, Prop B proponents list these as the most important: more homes for seniors with limited resources; more housing for low-income parents who work in essential trades in the city but can't afford to raise their kids here; more loans to first-

time home buyers; and reduction of homelessness by providing permanently affordable housing.

Proponents also claim that Prop B will give the city's economy a \$1 billion boost. First-time home buyers will get \$62.5 million of the \$250 million. The remaining \$187.5 million will leverage as much as \$1 billion, according to SPUR, providing not only more housing but thousands of jobs in the construction trades.

According to the city controller, the \$250 million bond

will add 22 cents a day to the average property tax bill on a \$400,000 home — \$6.82 a month.

Prop B is endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco Tenants Union, SPUR, Coalition on Homelessness, St. Anthony Foundation, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Mayor Willie Brown, Supervisors Tom Ammi-ano, Mark Leno and Gavin Newsom, S.F. Treasurer Susan Leal, Assessor Doris Ward, school board President Jill Wynns, former Supervisor Mabel Teng. ■

James Leo Dunn

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