

Curtain ready to go up on city's new Entertainment Commission

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Asked if he had any reservations about sound monitoring leaving the police purview, Anzore demurred. "Well — no, if they can do it well. Our only concern is public safety," he said.

The Entertainment Commission will accept permit applications, check them out and conduct hearings. The mayor-appointed executive director and his staff of permit administrators will do the leg work. At the hearings, the commissioners will "rule upon and issue, deny, condition, suspend, revoke or transfer" permits.

The commission also is charged with coordinating inspections and investigations with other city departments; recommending "good neighbor policies" to the supes and the mayor; mediating disputes between residents and venues or event operators; and arranging for city services for major entertainment events that have no organized sponsors, such as Halloween and New Year's Eve. Finally, the commission has to get out there and promote entertainment events that generate revenue.

OUT IN THE OPEN

Alan believes that it will be easier for legitimate concerns to get the permits they must have to operate, and that the givin', gettin' and keepin' will done more fairly. The police, he said, shouldn't be making public policy, especially out of the public's view. The state's 1967 Ralph M. Brown Act and the city's 1999 Sunshine Ordinance will apply to the new commission's meetings.

Supé Daly, who said he was an early supporter of the commission, expects "good things" from the new department: "There'll be more opportunities for the public to be heard, and the commissioners will be able to concentrate on the issues before them — the police, by contrast, have to focus on so many other things."

Will the commission be all its creators

hoped for? There are only a few precedents: Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles County have combined Sports and Entertainment Commissions — mostly responsible for promoting large city-owned arenas — and Orlando, Fla., has a Film and Entertainment Commission. D.C.'s commission has been operating since the late 1990s, L.A.'s since 1995.

WAKE-UP CALLS

When Leno introduced his Entertainment Commission legislation in May 2002, he noted that some city permit requirements date from the 1930s and don't necessarily reflect modern concerns. But he felt that altering the permit code "could raise concerns" that his legislation relaxes the restrictions.

So he recommended no changes to restrictions except one, a v. 21st century accommodation. Managers of large dance venues [occupancy permits of 150 or more] will have to post cell phone numbers so that people who want to complain about noise during open hours can rail at the managers directly.

The measure, Leno said, "will create an alternative for problem solving so the Police Department will not be the only resource available to neighbors who have a problem."

The Extra asked Peskin if the new commission plans to change any of the antiquated, entertainment-related rules and regs.

Some things were changed last year, he said, at the same time the supes were approving the legislation to create the commission. Section 1024 of Police Code stated that a permit applicant might be required to show evidence of "good moral character." That was amended to evidence of "criminal history and permit history."

"As the commission matures, it may try to make other accommodations to make the law less unwieldy," he said, but that's not a priority now. Get it up and running — that's the goal. Peskin said his office will oversee the commission for at least another year. ■

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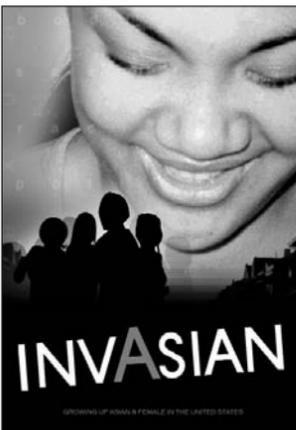
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San Francisco Mental Health Clients' Rights Advocates, 1095 Market Street, Rm. 618, safeguards the rights of people receiving mental health services. MHCRA staff investigate and resolve client complaints; provide legal rights information; educate providers and family members about patients' rights; refer clients to other resources; and monitor mental health facilities to ensure that they comply with patients' rights requirements. For appointment, call 415-552-8100 or toll-free 1-800-729-7727 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-ins welcome.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENT

Thursday, April 24, **Supportive Housing Employment Collaborative's annual exhibition** of photography and essays from formerly homeless San Francisco artists. Reception, 201 Turk, 4:30-6:30 p.m., 749-2790. Exhibit April 25-May 1, Hospitality House Art Studio, 146 Leavenworth, (415) 749-2132.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Consumer Housing Group, 1st Thursday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m., Mental Health Association, 1095 Market St., Suite 408, 241-2926.

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.

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., 111 Jones. Contact: Belinda Lyons, 241-2929.

Code Enforcement Workgroup, 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 2 p.m., 449 Turk. Sponsored by Central City SRO Collaborative. Information: 775-7110.

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.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. Canon Kip Community House, Pool Room, 705 Natoma St. at 8th. Contact: 241-2926.

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

National Alliance for the Mentally III-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.

Traffic Safety Advisory Council, 3rd Tuesday of every month, 3 p.m., 30 Van Ness #2300. Sponsored by DPH Community Health Education Section, open to the public. Goal to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries. Contact Ana Validzic, 581-2478.

Violence Prevention Network, last Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m., 220 Golden Gate, Rm. 4D. Contact Christina Goette, 554-2741.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last

Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Contact Susan Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

North of Market NERT, bimonthly meeting. Contact Tim Agar, 674-6142, or Lt. Juanita Hodge, S.F. Fire Department, 558-3456. Disaster preparedness training by the Fire Department.

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.

Mid-Market Project Area Committee, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. Contact Carolyn Diamond, 362-2500.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., 121 Golden Gate. Contact Roscoe Hawkins, 592-2704, or Katie Mullin, 776-2151.

North of Market Planning Coalition, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact 474-2164.

Tenderloin Police Station Seniors and Disabled Meeting last Thursday of the month, 10 a.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Contact Susan Black, 345-7300.

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Save \$90 a year on your bill

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Saturday, May 3
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