

The Daly Top 10

District 6 supervisor cherry-picks his work during 6 years at City Hall

BY TOM CARTER

CENTRAL City Extra asked District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly to select 10 city ordinances he carried during his six years in Room 244 at City Hall, and rank them according to their significance for him. Since he was elected in 2000, Daly has authored 83 ordinances and 212 resolutions.

Then The Extra's Tom Carter interviewed Daly about each ordinance he chose, and Editor Geoff Link pieced the package together.

Daly is running for re-election against seven opposing candidates: Rob Black, George Dias, Matt Drake, Viliam Dogovic, Manuel Jimenez, Davy Jones and Robert Jordan. Election day is Nov. 7.

1. SRO VISITOR FEE BAN

"Can you imagine having to pay \$10 when your friend or relative visits?" Chris Daly was angry about this common practice of SROs – charging for visitors – even before he was elected as supervisor of District 6. "I had identified the issue as a community worker," he said. "I was lucky I got elected so I could do something about it." Daly's ordinance to ban visitor fees in SROs passed in April 2002.

2. ANTI-DEMOLITION ORDINANCE AND SAVING TRINITY PLAZA

Trinity Plaza, like many rent-controlled buildings in the city, is home to low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities. The 377-unit Trinity Plaza at Eighth and Market is owned by Sam Sangiacamo, who wanted to tear it down and rebuild sans rent control. "The families and tenants came to my office in fear that their homes were going to be demolished," Daly says. "This was an easy cause to pick up." His initial bid to stop the demolition and preserve rent-controlled units garnered seven votes from the Board of Supervisors, but was vetoed by Mayor Newsom. Daly took the fight to the ballot box and pushed Sangiacamo to agree to build one-for-one rent-controlled replacement units and give lifetime leases to current Trinity tenants. Plus the city's new inclusionary housing requirement makes one-third of future units at Trinity Plaza affordable. Daly's ordinance passed in June 2005. "It had to go through a lot but it was completely worthwhile to preserve that community. It turned out to be a win-win in the end, and it was sweet," Daly says.

3. RINCON HILL PLAN ZONING

"I'm very proud of this," Daly says. He calls the Rincon Hill Plan "the first neighborhood plan adopted by the city in the last 10 years." It hits developers with a \$25-per-square-foot fee to mitigate the impact of such a plush project on a working-class community, setting up a fund for neighborhood amenities, including affordable housing and rental assistance. It became law in July 2005. "South of Market was always struggling. It's a mixed-use neighborhood and has its share of social issues. And then \$5 million condos get plopped in there. So how do we engage development?" Daly says. "We had everyone's support except my political foes. It's a new model for development in San Francisco." The South of Market Stabilization Fund created under this plan will bring \$34 million for improvements in the South of Market.

4. 2003 AND 2006 BUDGETS – ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES

Supervisor Daly was chairman of the board's Finance Committee in 2003 and 2006, and steered many millions to services, including health clinics, AIDS/HIV programs and child care. This year the supes added \$28 million to the mayor's budget for services and improvements in District 6. Daly calls it a "people's budget." The two value-added budgets were approved in July of 2003 and 2006.

"The deficit we had in 2003 would've wreaked havoc," Daly says. "But there were hundreds of hours of public input in hearings and we put \$30 million back in. In 2006, the money came in stronger than we thought, and what we put in I think makes it the closest we've ever come to a real people's budget."

5. INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ORDINANCE – INCREASING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Daly's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance increases market-rate developers' affordable housing

requirement to 15% for onsite or 20% for offsite development, and lowers the income eligibility requirement so that lower-income San Franciscans qualify for these below-market-rate units. It centralizes and makes the application process easier, and puts the units into a public lottery system to give everyone eligible a fair chance. It was approved in August. "The first inclusionary housing was in 2002, and after Trinity and Rincon it was clear to me that developers could do more to bump it up higher," Daly says. "Then the Planning Department study (this year) found that they could. And getting the change to make eligibility based on San Francisco income meant it was more genuinely affordable."

6. SLOWING EVICTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE SAN FRANCISCANS

"Evictions have been an issue all my six years," Daly says. "And Peskin did much to try to slow evictions of the most vulnerable." Daly has authored or co-sponsored a series of ordinances aimed at slowing evictions, including Ellis Act evictions, especially of seniors and renters with disabilities, and changed the condo conversion lottery system. Daly was also a co-sponsor of Supervisor Aaron Peskin's legislation to set a moratorium on condo conversions for units where seniors and people with disabilities have been evicted. That passed in November 2004. "The economy-driven condo conversions were possible with a little work and the TICs (tenants in common) were caught in the middle. The moratorium was hard because state law had things locked up. We're trying to protect these residents."

7. SINGLE STANDARD OF CARE

City policy since 1999 has been to not stint on mental health care whether the person seeking services is mildly or severely mentally ill. But the policy was not a law and in 2005, when the city faced a nine-digit budget shortfall, the mildly mentally ill were to be turned away. Responding to mental health advocates, Daly crafted legislation to ensure a single standard of mental health care for all in need. It passed in May 2005. "This was a pretty easy victory and I'm very glad we did it," Daly recalls. "The advocates were all concerned about homelessness and mental health issues. And if we were not going to treat mild mental illness it was going to lead to something worse and cost the city more money."

8. TENANT MAIL RECEPTACLES ORDINANCE

The 20,000 San Franciscans living in residential hotels are subjected to a central-mail delivery system. This means they don't have their own mailbox for receiving letters, paychecks, bills, and other correspondence. This means sometimes their mail is lost, along with their privacy and they might not get their mail forwarded when they move. Daly's SRO mailbox legislation requires residential hotel owners to provide a U.S. Postal Service-approved mailbox for each unit, and the addressee gets a key. It passed in April 2006 and all mailboxes must be in place by next summer. "This was identified by the Central City SRO Collaborative and was about improv-



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Let them eat: Supervisor Chris Daly shows off the cake he brought to the SoMa Potluck.

ing the quality of life," Daly says. "We heard significant testimony about people not getting checks and other mail. Nobody voted against it."

9. SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY ORDINANCE

Daly says he long wondered why there are so many vacant buildings that have homeless people sleeping in their doorways. "I always felt the injustice of this situation." His legislation requires all city departments to transfer any unused property to the Real Estate Department to be developed into housing for the homeless. Any real estate that can't be readily developed into affordable housing would be sold and the money put toward housing or services for homeless. The homeless and their advocates dramatized the need by taking over and squatting on some unused city properties. The ordinance passed in May 2004. "A CAC (citizens advisory committee) oversees this and makes recommendations to act on," Daly says. "The first one was on Broadway in Chinatown."

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Drake

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