

EXTRA Central City

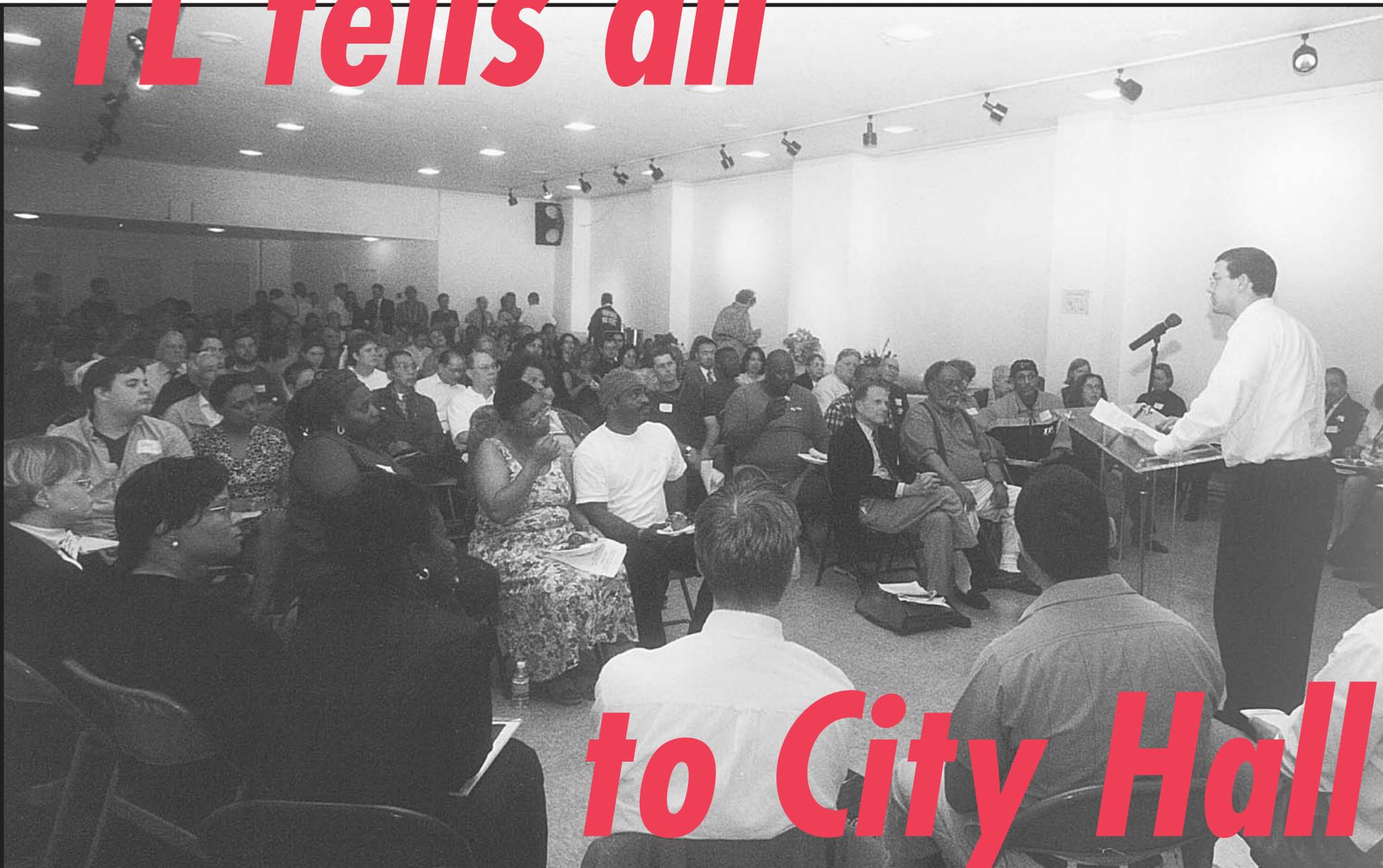
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TL tells all

PHOTO: CARL ANGEL



to City Hall

Supervisor Chris Daly addresses the crowd attending the District 6 town hall meeting on the city budget that was held at Glide on May 30.

Task Force sets date for its own demise

It's half past 11 in the Lower Eddy/Leavenworth Task Force's march toward its organizational high noon, a show-down with destiny.

At its May meeting the Task Force — the group responsible for the current round of neighborhood improvement — set its own termination date: August 8, 2001.

On that Wednesday the Task Force is scheduled to disband. Perhaps it will segue into a new incarnation.

But, maybe not. Resident activist David Baker chaired the meeting. Longtime Task Force staffer Brad Paul was not there to take

notes as he had for the last few years. He resigned in January to take a foundation job.

Adopt-A-Block and TCOP gave progress reports, then there was discussion about the latest massage parlor permit application and the buildup of pigeon poo at the Hibernia Bank building. Then the meeting got down to the main business at hand: the future of the Task Force.

A Futures Committee had previously been formed, but its chairman, Adopt-A-Block Director Nicholas Rosenberg, had a conflicting meeting with the mayor, so he left a little bit early and wasn't present to

DESTINY'S DEADLINE

Geoff Link

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'Please put us in the budget' — refrain at Finance meeting

"You're welcome, you're welcome, you're welcome," said Rev. Cecil Williams, retired but not retiring. "And again, you are welcome!" The masses broke into applause and embraced the warm and comfortable atmosphere — setting an unlikely tone for the 5:30 p.m. budget hearing on May 30.

Glide played host for the 2-1/2-hour town hall meeting, the penultimate of the Finance Committee's series of hearings in the 11 supervisorial districts.

District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly was there with Finance Committee Chairman Mark Leno and about 20 other city officials — department heads, budget officer professionals and top bureaucrats.

But the real stars were the

160 people who were there, many to testify about community needs — residents, service providers, housing activists from District 6.

It was close to 6 p.m. before the meeting got off the ground. Glide Meal Program organizers Calvin Gipson and Dan Finnegan had put out tortillas, potato chips, pasta salad, grapes, bananas and an army of water bottles. Later in the meeting the church distributed fans — courtesy of the Cecil Williams House family support program. Throughout the meeting, people walked in, mingled, sat down, chit-chatted, made a one-minute-speech, grabbed some food, and walked out.

The government officials got to hear for themselves what the people had to say about

what should and should not be included in the upcoming 2001-02 San Francisco budget to be adopted by The Board of Supervisors on July 23.

Residents' proposals can be included in the budget in the form of "add-backs" — the bureaucratic term for including items left out of the Mayor's budget — which in the past have amounted to a minuscule amount. Supervisor Daly, quoting Budget Analyst Harvey Rose, said that last year social services received only \$11.3 million out of the city's \$4.5 billion budget — only \$1 of every \$400 spent on San Francisco's needs.

"Add-backs are the crumbs that supervisors fight over to figure out what kind of social service programs get funded," explained Daly, who emceed

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