

# City plans market takeover

Thousands sign petition to keep fresh food icon

BY TOM CARTER

**T**HE city's Real Estate Division is preparing legislation to take over the iconic Heart of the City Farmers Market, created 27 years ago to serve the central city with fresh fruits and vegetables, and already has hit a wave of resistance.

Real Estate wants to "streamline" the market and the Thursday-Friday antiques market at U.N. Plaza. The city would chuck the nonprofit farmers' market's seven-member board of directors, consisting of five farmers and two community members.

Takeover legislation will be ready this month, according to John Updike, Real Estate assistant director. "There may be operational changes, but nothing to harm the farmers in any way," he said.

**Heart of the City Farmers' Market manager was asked to apply for her own job.**

But shoppers, happy with the status quo, worry that changes could lead to higher food prices and otherwise disturb the successful formula.

"Thousands" have signed a petition to keep the market intact, according to Supervisor Chris Daly's office.

Rumors circulated through the neighborhood about the possible acquisition after Real Estate representatives showed up at the market board's March 12 meeting. Soon after, the market began gathering signatures and distributing flyers about its successes.

The market's manager of 27 years, Christine Adams, was at the April 9 Tenderloin Futures Collaborative meeting. She confirmed Real Estate's intent and asked people to let supervisors know they like the market the way it is — and to help her keep her job.

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PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

**Market Manager Christine Adams with veteran vendor Julie Phan.**

**ESSEX  
REOPENS  
AS SRO**

Double  
memorial  
for 2 of its  
residents

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**IN THE  
PARK FOR  
EARTH DAY**

Seniors turn  
out in record  
numbers

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## CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

### EDDY ST. HOT SPOT



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

**Keyonna Lynch (left) and three of her birthday party ladies are stoked for a glitzy night at Suite 181 on Eddy Street after busing in from Hayward.**

## Suite 181 blues

Troubled club is trying hard to straighten up

BY TOM CARTER

**S**ATURDAY night in the Tenderloin is party time. Buses roll through the Eddy and Taylor intersection packed with hundreds of dolled-up revelers eager to while away the evening in the pink décor of crowded Suite 181, awash in its hot DJ music and tipling libations.

181 Eddy was an after-hours hot spot for decades, a place you could bring your own bottle and buy setups of glasses and ice to keep the party going when the bars closed. More recently, as Polly Esters Culture Club, now under the Suite 181 sobriquet, the clientele has gotten younger, bused in from out of town.

The club is in the middle of the block on Eddy but the buses that bring the out-of-town partiers don't stop there anymore since residents campaigned to reroute the buses, because they were blocking traffic, making noise, spewing fumes and, in general, causing a nuisance.

Now the buses from nearby counties proceed 1½ blocks up Taylor, stopping briefly one at a time behind the Hilton Hotel where there's little traffic. There, scores of beaming, miniskirted young women and stoic men with untucked shirts step off to be

greeted by an official escort, and often Chesa, an uninvited beggar.

They brush past him without giving the Styrofoam cup in his outstretched hand a glance. In a slur that rode on reeking breath, he said he's there for the "beautiful girls" every Saturday at 10 p.m. when the buses start arriving. The women, many with bare shoulders and glamorous makeup, huddle on the sidewalk, some screeching with laughter.

"I've never been to the club," said Rianah Hope, dressed in a fetching white strapless outfit. "We're here for a birthday party."

On the last Saturday in April, she came with a party of 19 young women to celebrate friend Keyonna Lynch's 23rd birthday. They paid \$35 apiece for the roundtrip from Hayward.

In minutes, a much larger bus arrives from Daly City, then another from Dublin with 50 passengers. Escorts, reminding people to get their IDs out, march crowds down to the gritty intersection where a club-hired security guard supervises their crossing.

Lost in their reveries, the birthday women dodge two more drunk beggars and stand in the growing line at 181 Eddy as taxis arrive and cars pull into the \$20 parking lot across the street. Two squad cars drive by at 10:30 p.m. when the line, which has been monitored by Suite 181 staff, is funneling slowly into the surreal pink glow of the club's doorway.

The scene seems the picture of balanced crowd management now. But this year Suite 181 has been the top problem club in the Tenderloin and is under on-going investiga-

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