

## Mirkarimi may soften anti-newspaper stance

BY PAUL KOZAKIEVICZ  
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**I**N an effort to limit litter, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi has introduced legislation that would hit newspaper publishers with stiff fines if they deliver to people who do not want the paper.

The ordinance calls for all publishers to maintain a "do not deliver" list. If a paper is delivered to someone on that list, they can ask the director of the Department of Public Works to determine guilt or innocence. A publisher found guilty could be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second and \$500 for the third. Mirkarimi says the fines are not set in stone and he is reconsidering the punitive aspects of the legislation.

The "do not deliver" legislation also would apply to handbills, including restaurant menus. Organizations that use volunteers to distribute flyers would also be affected. Some neighborhood publishers see the legislation as impractical and an infringement on First Amendment rights.

Many publishers use delivery services to distribute their newspapers and handbills. Under the legislation, the publishers would be responsible for the actions of the delivery service, even though they have no connection to the people who are delivering the paper.

Mirkarimi said political flyers that are distributed door-to-door are exempt from the legislation.

Mirkarimi said he is willing to work with publishers to find other solutions to the litter problem. He said he is considering switching to a voluntary plan. ■

## JEFF DEATON, DAISY YEPIZ Essex Hotel favorites

The renovated Essex Hotel, which reopened in February, conducted a double memorial in April for two of its formerly homeless residents: one, a towering, highly literate man from Colorado affectionately known as "the gentle giant"; the other, a tall African lady whose courage and optimism had inspired those who helped her.

Jeff Deaton and Daisy Yepiz moved into the Community Housing Partnership hotel within six days of each other in February, among the first of Department of Human Services homeless referrals. In late March, they died in their rooms a day apart. Both had been happy in their new community where help and new friends were at their fingertips.

The staff recalled in the April 2 memorial how both were teary-eyed to receive housing. Mr. Deaton wore a huge smile; Ms. Yepiz, whose time had been running out in a shelter, was ecstatic.

"They were sweet people," said Jeff Kositsky, CHP executive director. "And, thanks to the staff who provided them a home and support, the horror of dying in the street is something they didn't have to experience."

"They were incredible people," said an Essex staff member. "They had an aura of dignity about them."

"She always said something (good) would happen," said a social worker who had helped Ms. Yepiz find the Essex. "She was cheerful and had an amazing smile, and she was humble and kind, spiritual, too. It made her so likeable. They were both very, very grateful."

Little was known about Ms. Yepiz when she first moved in. "She chose her company carefully," said the social worker. Few knew she had children in Africa.

Ms. Yepiz died in her room of heart disease on March 25. She was 61.

Mr. Deaton was the first of 84 residents to move into the Essex after its \$23.2 million, yearlong renovation. He had postponed an operation on his trachea, a staff person said, and then had the surgery

after he got situated. On March 26, he was found dead in his room. He was 46. Cause of death is pending.

It was a testament to their popularity that more than 30 residents and others from the Bay Area attended their memorial and spoke affectionately of them. Some people had to stand for lack of seating.

Because of his operation, the 6-foot-5 Mr. Deaton could hardly speak. So the "gentle giant" became a prolific writer. He penned eloquent letters to the staff and other residents about the housing and its appurtenances, and about his love of nature, hiking and rock climbing, and how he missed them. He had come from a shelter but it wasn't known how long he had been homeless or when he originally came to the city.

Mr. Deaton reveled in his new stability and his future. In one six-page handwritten letter to the staff, he wrote in part:

"I never dreamed a few months ago I'd ever live, or have a place to live, have dignity, comfort and a chance to attain the things that I believe I need in order to live an enjoyable life — or have the physical wellness to do so."

His Colorado relatives sent a large bouquet of purple and yellow flowers that were next to a bouquet for Ms. Yepiz on a table in front.

Ms. Yepiz was born in Zimbabwe and left her family to work in America and send money home. Zimbabwe, one of the world's poorest countries, has an unemployment rate of 80%.

"She was tall, maybe 6 feet, and thin, and wore colorful clothes," said one staff member. "And she had a good sense of humor. She valued people and could connect with them. She had no compunction about just walking up and talking to anyone."

Her African name was Daisy Shekede; she was named after her village.

Mr. Ibangi, from Nigeria with two children, brought her to the Bay Area as a nanny for his two children and to help his wife, a family friend said.

"She lived with us," Mr. Ibangi said at the memo-

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Orientation: Sunday, May 11, 12 pm - 6:30 pm  
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Stop in/call Emilie (415) 437-2900 ext. 234.

For a schedule of our current groups or for more information  
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