

Strip club shut after continuing noise, violence

City-commissioner owner shuttered Pink Diamonds

BY TOM CARTER

THE beleaguered Pink Diamonds strip club was shut down Dec. 1, put out of business by the building owner after the city attorney threatened to sue over the club's continual violations.

The shuttering of the 220 Jones St. venue also came nine days after a man was gunned down on the street in an incident police traced to Pink Diamonds. And it came less than a month after the club management promised the neighborhood smooth sailing. The manager announced in a specially called public meeting that the club had hired an ex-police captain to devise an outside security system to control crowds and avoid bloodshed.

"The property owner decided he wanted that club out of there," Deputy City Attorney Jerry Threet said at the Nov. 25 Tenderloin police Community Forum. "And he called me to say it would be shut down in December."

The building owner is Terrance Alan, who serves on the Entertainment Commission and heads the Late Night Coalition, an industry group that promotes establishing after-hours entertainment in the city.

Threet said the previous day he had sent Alan's lessees a letter, copying Alan, saying the city attorney

was contemplating litigation to get the club to comply with the law. The lessees are Ed Pope of Ed Pope Inc., and Damone H. Smith of D.H.S. Global Investments LLC. Pope and Smith also had created Pink Diamonds' predecessor, The Vixen, which became so plagued with code violations and citations that Alan closed it late in 2007. In a three-month period, police connected seven shootings outside to The Vixen.

After The Vixen closed, Pope and Smith assured the city that new management would toe the line, Threet's letter pointed out. Yet "troubling incidents" continued.

Located just a half a block from the police station, Pink Diamonds opened in the spring and at some point began selling an array of non-alcoholic, high-energy beverages

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

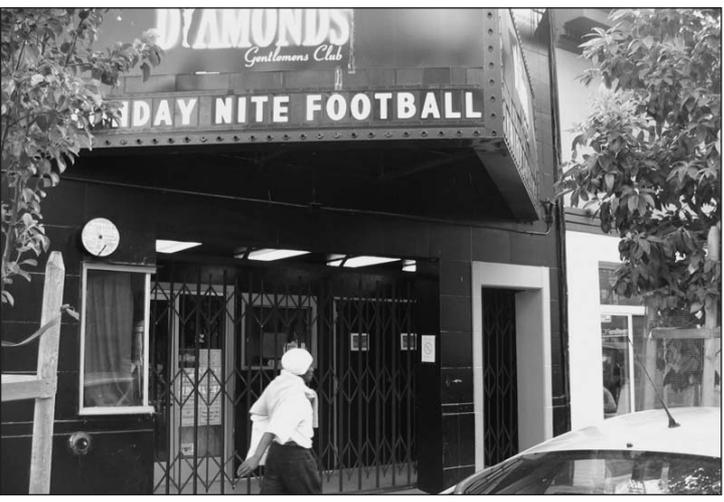


PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Pink Diamonds' management promised much and didn't last a year.

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BREAKING CULTURAL BARRIERS

Pilipino Senior Resource Center

PAGE 3

THE TORCH IS PASSED

SomArts hires new chief executive

PAGE 3



HANK WILSON

He was Teresa of the Tenderloin

PAGE 4

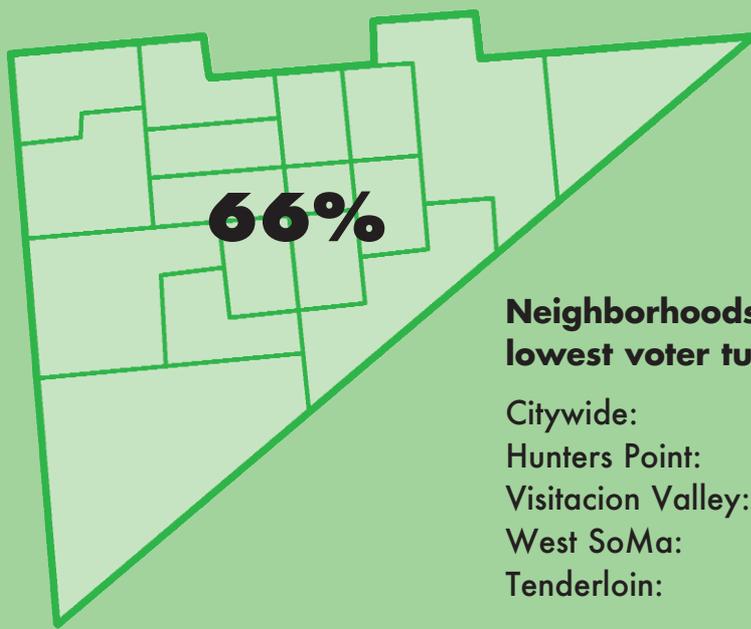
CENTRAL CITY

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PRECINCT BY PRECINCT

THE TENDERLOIN



Neighborhoods with lowest voter turnout:

Citywide:	81%
Hunters Point:	70%
Visitacion Valley:	68%
West SoMa:	70%
Tenderloin:	66%

Of the 12,633 people registered to vote in the Tenderloin, only 66% actually cast ballots in the November election. But it was a big jump in participation.

We're dead last

Central City's turnout soars, yet falls below the rest of S.F.

BY MARJORIE BEGGS, HEIDI SWILLINGER AND TOM CARTER

LIKE the rest of San Francisco, voters in the central city turned out in record numbers for the 2008 general election. Despite the major leap forward, the Civic Center area turnout was low compared with the rest of the city — citywide, 81% of voters, 388,112, cast ballots.

"Compared to 2000 and 2004, it's night and day," said Charles MacNulty, Elections Department voter outreach manager.

When you look at the heart of the central city, the numbers do soar compared with previous elections, yet remain the lowest of the low.

The Extra pulled numbers for the Tenderloin's 17 precincts and nine precincts in west SoMa. Together, the turnout averaged 68% — 20,548 voters registered in the 26 precincts and 13,957 cast ballots.

In the Tenderloin, 66% of those registered voted, a big jump compared with 57% in both 2004 and 2000.

In the West SoMa precincts, 70% voted this election, up from 60% in 2004. Because of changes in SoMa precinct numbers, The

Extra was unable to get comparable information for the 2000 general election.

The Extra's more focused central city boundaries make our tallies less rosy than the Elections Department's, which includes the Tenderloin in a neighborhood of 33 precincts it calls Civic Center/Downtown. The department reported a turnout of 73% for Civic Center/Downtown in 2008, 66% in 2004 and 54% in 2000.

But Civic Center/Downtown's boundaries extend as far east as Sansome Street and north to Sacramento Street. When the TL's 17 precincts are factored out, the 16 tonier precincts averaged a 79% turnout, 12 percentage points higher than the Tenderloin.

The department's SoMa summary takes in an additional 10 precincts that stretch down to King Street and along the Embarcadero to Market Street. Excluding West SoMa, those 10 had an 80% turnout. In the total 19 SoMa precincts, Elections reported, 76% of registered voters cast ballots, up from 68% in 2004.

So, central city came through, better by nine percentage points than eight years ago. But it was still way off the citywide average turnout and, for the first time, was the neighborhood with the lowest turnout in the city. Its closest competitors for that dubious distinction were Visitacion Valley at a hair above 68% and Bayview-Hunters Point at 70%. Both had jumped way up from 2000 — Bayview 19 percentage points and Vis Valley 16.

Of course, the fact that this presidential election was special drew voters everywhere out in droves. That the central city

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 6