

# Capt. Jimenez moves on to city's night patrol

## Successor became a captain during chief's recent shake-up

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

IT was supposed to be temporary when Gary Jimenez took over the Tenderloin police reins in November 2006. "But I'm giving 150%," he told *The Extra* at the time. "I'm confident I'll remain through the end of the year."

The month stretched to three years, a Tenderloin Station record. Capt. Jimenez moves to a new job Nov. 14 as one of five night captains of SFPD's Field Operations Bureau at 850 Bryant St. managing the department's patrol division. His exact assignment, still to be announced, may be as one of the bureau's two night supervisors, one responsible for patrols in the Metro Division — from the Central, Mission, Northern, Southern and TL stations — and the other for the Golden Gate Division, which includes the city's other five stations.

"I'll be roving the city, responding to all calls where a captain is needed," he told the several dozen friends, family members, colleagues and neighborhood activists at his last monthly Captain's Community Forum on Oct. 27. "It's a job I've coveted for a long time."

Stepping into the TL's top cop slot is Dominic Celaya, 48, on the force 27 years. He was promoted to captain in new Police Chief George Gascón's department reshuffle announced last week.

Transfers like Capt. Jimenez's are pretty normal. When he moves on, he'll be one of the neighborhood's longest-tenured captains.

Kathryn Brown, whom he replaced, stayed two years, eight months. Her predecessor, David Shinn, was transferred after a year and a half. Before him, Steve Tacchini was at the helm for two years, four months. Susan Manheimer, the first female TL captain, was here one year, eight months.

The popular, likeable, energetic Capt. Jimenez, 64, became an S.F. cop in 1970 and had two prior assignments in the Tenderloin: 1989-90 when he was a sergeant at Central Station — at the time there was no separate, permanent police district in the neighborhood — and two more years when the

Tenderloin Task Force was hunkered down in the basement of the shuttered Hibernia Bank from 1991 until the new station was dedicated in October 2000.

His presence in the neighborhood has been a given. He attended most social events and community meetings, and he was in the street with activists urging the creation of a full-service post office, testified at a supervisors' committee meeting about loitering laws, and much more. He talked the community

the extra mile."

"It is difficult for me to leave the Tenderloin," said Capt. Jimenez, clearly touched by the tributes. "Your support has been meaningful to me and it's been an honor for me to be here."

He introduced his personal supports — wife Helen, son Xavier and 2-year-old grandson Xavier IV — and modestly threw out some stats about his TL work: 5,000 arrests annually when he first came on board that rose to 6,500 last year; the \$688,500 in fines, and more to come, being levied on the operator of the Pink Diamonds, now closed for at least a year; and the weight he's thrown behind campaigns to improve the lives of the TL's 3,500 children such as Safe Passage, the push to ensure that kids can walk the streets with less fear.

"Don't ever lose the sense of your power, keep up the wonderful work you've done and keep fighting for the community," he told attending activists.

And for his replacement? "You gave me a chance — now give Capt. Celaya a chance."

Capt. Celaya's most recent assignment was as lieutenant in charge of the general work detail at the Hall of Justice, handling mostly assault cases. He's moved around a lot of city neighborhoods: Bayview for nine months, a community policing lieutenant in the Mission for three years, the vice unit for three years, and at Taraval and Park stations. He also spent two tours at Northern Station; in the second, 1985-90, he got his feet wet in the Tenderloin when the TL Task Force was forming to address growing crime in the neighborhood.

"I want to approach this job with that [same] Task Force mentality," Celaya told the forum. He called it "a way of thinking. We're here to do a special job."

Watch for more info on Capt. Celaya soon: According to SFPD Assistant Public Information Officer Dewayne Tully, Capt. Celaya's promotion isn't official until he walks in to take over on Nov. 14, so anything else about him is embargoed until then. ■

Tom Carter contributed to this report.



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

**Incoming** Tenderloin police Capt. Daniel Celaya, left, with outgoing Capt. Gary Jimenez.

policing talk and he walked the neighborhood walk, looking out for trouble and supporting his officers, whose contributions he acknowledged regularly.

"It was always reassuring to see Capt. Jimenez walking the beat," said a woman at the Oct. 27 forum. The audience burst into applause.

Capt. Celaya, there on his own time, nodded in agreement: "He has a wide reputation."

Community activist Michael Nulty presented Capt. Jimenez with an Alliance for a Better District 6 "Officer of the Year" award and a commendation from the Tenant Associations Coalition for "going

neighborhood.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FROM an email in response to Marjorie Beggs' story on new hospital plans in the October edition of the *Extra*:

I've had a chance to read the article and your reputation for evenhandedness is well deserved. Actually one of the most truly informative articles I've read about any contentious topic in S.F. A couple of clarifications:

We are not moving any beds from Davies campus to Cathedral Hill and at most only one inpatient per day from St Luke's to Cathedral Hill. . . . The CH campus is truly a replacement for services currently at Pacific and California, not the other two campuses. We will be a full three-hospital, four-campus system when the dust settles.

We've been on record for six months saying that we will not reduce a single SNF [skilled nursing facility] bed until we have an acceptable replacement, so we feel that's an important dimension to the "threat" of loss of SNF beds.

The issue of psych beds is past history. The only other psych beds in the CPMC system, formerly at the Davies campus, were consolidated to the Pacific campus with the consent of the Health Commission (and a finding of no adverse impact to citywide health) in spring 2009. No further reductions are planned before or after 2015.

Again, thanks for the fair shake.

Geoffrey Nelson  
Director of Enterprise Development  
California Pacific Medical Center

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