By JONATHAN NEWSMAN

The SFPD agreed to Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi’s proposal last year that his deputies transport and book suspects arrested from two of the city’s busiest districts stations — Tenderloin and Mission. When prisoners required medical attention, sheriff’s deputies would take them to St. F. General before booking. Funding came from Mirkarimi’s department budget.

This cost-efficient twist on community policing maximized its impact by adding to the time cops could spend on the beat instead of on the written reports and procedural matters arrests required. Instead of an arresting officer accompanying the suspect to 850 Bryant for charging and booking, sheriff’s deputies took the suspect there from district station custody and did the paperwork. Meanwhile, the cop who made the pinch stayed walking the beat.

The six-month experimental program — dubbed Station Transfer Units — operated from mid-July 2014 through the middle of this January. Anecdotal evidence from the pilot points to hundreds of police man hours per station freed up each month, suggesting a permanent adoption of the program city-wide could be a boon to public safety but neither Mirkarimi nor TL Capt. Jason Cherniss could cite the number of arrests, estimated the total time saved for officers to remain on the beat or say what the program cost.

The notion of Station Transfer Units is not new. In the aftermath of Loma Prieta, then-Sheriff Michael Hennessey developed an agreement with the SFPD that deputies would handle custody of arrests from district station to booking. The agreement was quickly implemented and officers turned their full attention to the emergency needs from the quake while deputies expanded their traditional role of supervising and transporting prisoners.

SFPD's were first written into the Sheriff’s Department budget in the late 1990s. Hennessey added 24 deputies, continued transporting and booking prisoners from district stations and assumed responsibility for tracking and serving outstanding arrest warrants.

Then, in 2002, law enforcement budgets tightened. Funding disappeared and the STU program dried up.

Capt. Cherniss estimates his officers typically spend up to two hours each time they transport and book prisoners at the Bryant Street jail and City Prison. When station transfer units were in play during last year’s pilot, Cherniss said sheriff’s deputies were making four to five transfers from Tenderloin Station each 24-hour shift that’s like adding a cop a day on the district beat.

SFPD protocol doubles that number Cherniss noted that department policy requires two officers to be involved in each

Continued on page 3

“Safe Passage corner captain Johnny Sheeley, left, and Michelle Goodlow, a YMCA staffer who assists in the Safe Passage program, help kids navigate the neighborhood’s meanest streets.

By TOM CARTER
PHOTOS BY PAUL DUNN

Safe Passage program to make the Tenderloin’s grim sidewalks safe for school kids, got another infusion of cash when its April soiree raised $10,000 from a growing number of supporters sensing Peace is a major influence on the long-sought turnaround in neighborhood safety.

The goal had been to raise $5,000. “We got a late donation from Glide of about $400 that put us a little bit over,” said Dina Hilliard, executive director. A matching grant from Twitter doubled the money.

This will pay for 300 new vests for the schoolkids, got another infusion of cash when its April soiree raised $10,000 from a growing number of supporters sensing Peace is a major influence on the long-sought turnaround in neighborhood safety.

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The fundraiser keeps financial momentum below.

They heard District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim, Tenderloin police Capt. Jason Cherniss and St. Francis Foundation President Kevin Causey emphasize how important Safe Passage is to the well-being of the neighborhood’s estimat ed 3,500 kids.

Causes called the children’s route “the spine of the Tenderloin.” Starting at Golden Gate Avenue, it covers the midsection of what used to be called the Lower Eddy/Leavenworth.
Housing Partnership clients strut their stuff to tune of $240,000

By Mark Hedin

COMMUNITY HOUSING Partnership celebrated 25 years of moving homeless people into supportive housing with its “American Idol”-style “Night With the Stars” benefit event April 22 at the SFJazz Center.

Although the nonprofit has been hosting such events since 1999, Bridget Holian, director of fund development and communications, said this was “definitely our most successful event regarding how much we raised and in attendance.”

The take? $240,000 and counting. The highlight was a talent show competition among seven finalists chosen at a December audition open to all 1,300 CHP clients. The audition drew 50 entrants. The seven contestants were paired with artistic mentors including Elizabeth Wyler, Christian Caglioti and Caroline Parsons, to hone their acts prior to the show.

Some of these people are Uber-talented,” Holian said. “We’re able to show these people in our buildings are so much more than formerly homeless. It makes it all worth-while.”

Singer La’Shawndra Breston, a native San Franciscan and mother of five, stole the show with her performance of the song “I’m Different.” Multinstrumentalist Stanley Antill took second place with his “Mid-Metaphysical” performance on fiddle, while family dance troupe Jeda, Allayah and Alisha, took third as “Swaggettz.”

In recognition of the organization’s silver anniversary, CHP bestowed Founder’s Awards to Paul Boden, Calvin Welch, Bob Wilson and Laura Ware, who were all present, and to the late Rene Cazanave, whose widow, Sydney, accepted his award.

Judges included “Tales of the City” author Armistead Maupin, and the event was emceed by Dave Clark of KTUU, while muralist Todd Berman did on-the-spot sketches illustrating CHP’s history.

Besides the corporate sponsorships that brought in the bulk of the support for this event — Zedekex led the way as the “Signature Sponsor” — the fundrais-er also included a “live mobile pledging” drive that netted $15,000 from attendees using their smartphones, with a matching gift from Digital Realty.

As things were winding down, Holian said, Supervisor Jane Kim jumped onstage to announce that Caroline Barterin, Twitter’s community liaison, had just kicked in another $15,000. “It was very exciting,” Holian said.

La’Shawndra Breston, a formerly homeless mother of five, singing “I Am Different,” stole the show at Community Housing Partnership’s gala.
Sheriff’s pilot shows how to keep more cops on beat

transporting and booking. “Once in a while I might allow one officer to do it, depending on the prisoner; no history of violence, no prior escape attempts. But it’s pretty rare — 99% of the time it’s two officers,” Cherniss said.

And that two-hour period at arrest is much shorter than the four to five hours it would take for the police officer’s control, Cherniss explained. “The Sheriff’s Department controls the booking; it’s a bit of a juggling act or a shift change, you wait. If the jail nurse thinks a suspect needs a medical evaluation before entering the jail population, you wait.”

He noted the problems peculiar to S.F. General as well. “If you have to take a guy to S.F. General, wait. There’s no special queue for police officers with people in custody. There could be three or four gunshot cases ahead of you on some Friday night. The hospital evaluates the need. So, you handcuff the guy to the gantry and wait your turn. Could be two hours, could be five.” With STUs it’s a deputy cooling his heels while the arresting officer is back working his beat.

Cherniss is an STU fan. “I think it’s great when the sheriff’s deputies hand the officer the handcuffs and say ‘Look, here are your handcuffs.’ It’s the same principle that we offer temporary assignments with SFPD. I can’t understand why we’re still accepting temporary assignments with SFPD.”

Cherniss sees the pilot program as a two-front win because “This is a two-front win because the Sheriff’s Delegation alleviates the SFPD so they can turn their attention back to the community, and we provide an equivalent service at less cost to the taxpayer.”

The STU program can have wide impact. In the controller’s latest biennial survey, San Franciscans’ feelings of safety at night had diminished from 2011. In District 6, less than half the residents reported feeling safe walking alone at night, which the controller attributed to a citywide upswing in household violence.

More officers on the street could address this safety concern, Cherniss said. “Sometimes on our day watch we’re down to seven officers. The more time they can be on the street, the better.”

Mirkarimi said that his department “has been collecting stats and urging the supervisor (referring to Jane Hennessey) to hold a public hearing which would necessitate a thorough evaluation of a reform that hasn’t been getting much attention except for Beyond-Chron and the Examiner.”

He ordered a “substantive change in community policing is conducted in San Francisco, in particular in neighborhoods that have been chronically challenged with public safety issues.”

When the pilot program kicked off last July, Mirkarimi told the Examiner, “This is a two-front win because the Sheriff’s Delegation alleviates the SFPD so they can turn their attention back to the community, and we provide an equivalent service at less cost to the taxpayer.”

Police Chief Greg Suhr was quoted in the same story: “We are looking forward to the start of the pilot program, and although we are starting small, with only two stations, we are looking forward to having the program expand to all 10 districts soon.”

SFPD public information officer Albie Esparza said, “The department remains supportive of the program as far as the transportation of custody is concerned. It can be particularly helpful when alleviating the officers from the hospital watch. It’s up to the Sheriff’s Department to promote it.”

Mirkarimi will need new funding to expand the program permanently. According to aide Lee, Kim endorses STUs. “She has been supportive of the program ever since former Sheriff Hennessey instituted it.” Lee said in an interview, “She has heard from the community that having the Sheriff’s Department handle custody transfers has freed up police officers’ time and capacity to be able to work in the community rather than handling routine physical custody transfers.”

Lee said Kim would like to see it funded, but figures it’s the sheriff’s job to sell it to the supes. “It’s the department head’s role to advocate for the funding needed,” she wrote. ■

City and County of San Francisco Outreach Advertising

May 2015

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The SF311 Customer Action Center is the single central point to get information on government services and report government problems to the City and County of San Francisco. Services and information provided in a language you can understand and with sensitivity to your culture and special needs.

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If you’re being treated for a mental disorder, voluntarily or involuntarily, you have the legal rights guaranteed to all other persons:

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If you’re dealing with violent offenders. With deputies handling those arrests officers stay on the street,”

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The SF311 App allows you to get information on City services and submit service requests on-the-go right from your smartphone. You can track your service requests through the app or through our new website, SF311 Explorer. SF311 Explorer not only lets you check the status of your own requests, it enables you to see what issues are being reported throughout all of San Francisco and what the City is doing to resolve them.

Download the SF311 App from your smartphone’s app store and visit the SF311 Explorer at explore.sf311.org today.

San Francisco Youth Commission

Are you a young person 24 or younger who is interested in improving services and programs for youth in San Francisco? The newly forming Children, Youth, and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) has three positions for youth representatives.

The OAC will oversee the policies of the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families and ensure the Children and Youth Fund, passed in November 2014, is effectively used to improve the lives of children and youth in San Francisco. For more information, please visit the SF Youth Commission webpage at www.sf311.org.

Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

May

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Tuesdays, 2:00pm, City Hall Chamber, Room 250.

May 5

May 12

May 19

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.
Boeddeker makeover hastens feelings of safety in the hood

Kate Robinson
Safe Passage program director, meets with volunteers at Boeddeker Park before they head out to their jobs in Tenderloin street corners.

SRO owner complains about yellow bricks as ‘bad graffiti’

By You Caster

The repainting of the Ex’s Safe Pas- sage yellow brick square picked up a nick when one of its long-time supporters called it a ‘joked’ job done without permission and asked Safe Passage owner Jane Kim’s office to find out from the Department of Public Works why it happened and how it can be rectified.

Kathy Looper, who owns the Cadillac Hotel and has supported Safe Passage as a TL Community Benefit District board member, asked in an email to Kim and her assistant why the sidewalk on the Golden Gate Bridge was repainted with the repainting of the Ex’s Safe Passage square. Looper said it was ‘bad graffiti’ and was concerned about it. "Sometimes dealers will only go 20 feet away," she wrote. "We feel safer on the streets. There is a lot more money with our walkie-talkies - we know it has a positive impact."

Because a dope dealer recently got hold of a yellow vest, likely stolen, and was wearing it while selling, Safe Passage has ordered blue replacement vests from Hong Kong, "and not this time to duplicate," Robinson jokes, sensing no one will go to the trouble a second time.

Safe Passage, along with Boeddeker Park, have become the centers for neigh- borhood safety transformation in the last six months.

Hillard calls St. Francis Foundation’s Causey the “mastermind” behind the safety-tour idea for the neighborhood to successfully address and solve these issues. "The TL HIP is committing $1 million this year: $150,000 to Passage, half of which we'll put in the bank," she writes. "We are a safety presence, and we feel safer on the streets. There is a lot more money with our walkie-talkies - we know it has a positive impact."

At Turk and Leavenworth streets, corner captain Victor O’Sullivan takes up bar post at 2:45 pm, watching over passing children on their way home from school.

Preparing for school to let out in the afternoon, Safe Passage corner captain Armando Adams heads out to Tenderloin street corners followed by Kate Robinson, Safe Passage program director and fellow volunteers Thumne Dorsey and Johnny Shoemaker.

Boeddeker Park’s old bricks, repainted for a ‘joked’ look, complaints Kathy Looper Cadillac Hotel owner.

Safe Passage dinged — maintenance ‘botched’

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Safe Passage dinged — maintenance ‘botched’
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in San Francisco

Jesse Cottonham
Human Performance
Senior Specialist

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my neighbors understand
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NEWS ANALYSIS

Nevermind tweets — at CAC you can almost hear the chipschrip

Citizen’s Advisory Committee seats kept vacant, city ignores sunshine laws

By Mark Hedlin

I f there were any doubts about the extent to which City Hall has turned its back on the Tenderloin, look no further than the neglected state of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the Central Market & Tenderloin Area, the group of volunteers cynically put in place as community watchdogs by the city to have a say in negotiations with companies — Twitter, Yammer, Zoosk, One King’s Lane and 21Tech — proceeded with no community input or review.

The state’s Ralph M. Brown Act on public records and the city’s Sunshine Ordinance both apply to the CAC, as stated in its bylaws. Under the terms of those regulations, meeting agendas are to be posted “two hours in advance, draft minutes available within two days of the meeting, and approved minutes within 48 hours of approval” — which usually occurs at the following meeting. But as of April 27, the only minutes or agendas posted for any of the CAC meetings this year is the agenda for Feb. 5.

Violation of the Sunshine Ordinance or Brown Act is considered willful misconduct and grounds for termination. City Administrator Naomi Kelly did not return The Extra’s request for comment on this story, just as she had declined every request from the Extra to discuss the CAC or the five CBAs she signed in 2014 despite the CAC’s near-unanimous rejection of them all. Perhaps, given what original CAC member Nella Manuel said when she resigned last fall, The CAC “doesn’t do anything.” It doesn’t matter if the city posts its documents or not. Nonetheless, the CAC will meet May 7 at 5:45 p.m. in Room 416 at City Hall — we think.

Mark Hedlin has been covering the Twitter tax break’s effects on the central city since Supervisor Kim’s ordinance established the Citizen’s Advisory Committee. The stated rationale was to give the community input into the benefits that the largest tech companies were required to return to the neighborhood. But Kim fashioned a committee without teeth, denying its members a seat at the negotiating table or veto power over deals the city administrator crafts with the companies, serving as window dressing leaves the dedicated committee members selected for their proven commitment to the community feeling powerless. They are cynically used by the city administrator so the city can say the boost has a voice in the process. No wonder the CAC members are resigning in frustration.

Tenderloin Community Benefit District

The Tenderloin Community Benefit District invites qualified community members to apply for a Board of Director’s seat!

Application deadline: May 15th, 2015, 6 PM

To qualify, applicants must be a Tenderloin property or business owner representative, or resident (within district boundaries).

Serving on the Board of Directors is a rewarding volunteer opportunity. Members help navigate and oversee the organization’s mission and goals to initiate and implement improvement projects and services for the district and community.

To learn more about board membership, contact our office at info@nom-tcbd.org or call: 415-292-4812

The Tenderloin Community Benefit District (TLCBD) exists to facilitate the transformation of the Tenderloin into a cleaner, safer, more vibrant neighborhood.

nom-tcbd.org

Housing Applications Are Being Accepted For The Knox And Bayanihan House

By Mark Hedlin

Good news from the Tenderloin Community Benefit District!

HOUSING APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE KNOX AND BAYANIHAN HOUSE

To qualify, applicants must be a Tenderloin property or business owner representative, or resident (within district boundaries). No minimum income

Building | Size & Amenities | Max/Min Household Income Limits | Rent as of Feb. 1, 2015
--- | --- | --- | ---
The Knox SRO & Tehnika is accepting applications and has an OPEN WAITLIST
SRO – 1 Person or Couple
Room size: 10’ x 10’
Common (Private) bathroom: 7’ 7”
Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-bedroom stove, closet, single bed
Building amenities: small gym, library, private lounge, rooftop garden, community kitchen, laundry facility, 24-hour staff & surveillance
1 person $14,600/year
Non-Min Income $13,740/month
1 person $166/month
2 person $352/month
Move-in deposit
Monthly rent
Utilities
Other
Bayanihan House (Non-assisted units)
OPEN WAITLIST
SRO – 1 Person or Couple
Room size: 10’ x 12’
Shared bathroom
Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-bedroom stove, closet, single bed
Building amenities: community kitchen, 24-hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility
1 person $30,275/year
Non-Min Income
Move-in deposit
Monthly rent
Utilities

Visit Nom-TCBD.org to learn more about applying and attend the open house on May 15th at 6:00 p.m. at 4015 Market St. #102, San Francisco.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS
Healthier Living Workshops: Take Control of Your Health, a program of the Central YMCA. Friday through May 29, 9-11 a.m., Room 207, 1231 Market St. Info: 820-1412.

ARTS EVENTS
Hospitality House 30th annual art auction, May 9, 5:30-9 p.m., 1231 Market St. Info: 882-3088, central-market.org.

REGULAR SCHEDULE
HOUSING
Tenants Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of each month, noon, 207 Tok St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH
CBHS Client Council, 3rd Tuesday of each month, 3-5 p.m., 1380 Howard St., Room 515. Consumer advisors from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 250-3895. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive housing services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James Chonchino, 703-0188 x4204.

Housing and Cluttering Support Groups, weekly meetings at various times, conducted by Mental Health Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 506. Info: 421-2909 or mentalhealth.org/group-search.

Legal clinic, 4th Thursday of each month, 501 Polk St., 10 a.m.-noon. Legal help for people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities who need help with an SSA work review, sponsored by People with Disabilities Foundation. Sliding-scale fee. By appointment only. 901-3070. Info: pwdf.org.

Mental Health Board, 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6-8:30 p.m., City Hall, 2nd floor. Call: 255-3474.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday of each month, 3-4 p.m., Kiley Cutler Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor boardroom. Public meetings to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica.healthyrcd@gmail.com, 587-2463.

SAFETY
SafeWorks Community Relations Forum, 1st Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email: 538-8700 x4202.

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San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center
You can help The General save lives. Find out how at HeartOfOurCity.org

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E-cigarettes are harmful.
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