Mayor’s office challenges the Central Market benefit district

Blunt letter details CBD shortcomings in revitalization effort

BY TOM CARTER

The mounting pressure to resurrect Market Street was evident in a critical April memo from the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development mailed to the Central Market Community Benefit District, accusing it of foot-dragging and being uncooperative in collaborative efforts to make timely neighborhood improvements.

The OEWD, which oversees all nine CBDs in the city, sent a single-spaced, nine-page memo to the CBD board April 6 that shocked at least one board member at the April 12 meeting at the Whitcomb Hotel. The memo reviewed the office’s overview of the CBD and its projects through February. Major areas were found lacking.

OEWD is very concerned, the memo said, that the action jeopardizes a $50,000 grant for an expansion of the community guides program to north Market Street for a six-month pilot because the CBD didn’t raise the $25,000 necessary for full funding. OEWD warned the board it may future fundraising for a permanent expanded guides program.

The CBD did not meet its contractural reports requirements for 2008 and 2009 and didn’t submit its 2010 annual report on time, either, the memo by Lisa Pagan, manager of CBD Technical Assistance, and Amy Cohen, Neighborhood Economic Development director, said. The letter said they had “received periodic complaints and requests for assistance from several OEWD and Art Commission staff working with the CBD on a regular basis.”

CBDs are self-drawn districts whose property owners voted to pay an additional tax to support guidelines.

“The grant obligations … are not being met.”

Mayor’s office memo to CBD

New film shows Zamora legacy a rallying point for community

BY TOM CARTER

When artist Mona Caron got the job from the Tenderloin CBD to paint a mural at the gritty intersection of Golden Gate Avenue and Jones Street, she thought the city’s poorest neighborhood didn’t need a work of art, assuming it was too snarled in survival struggles.

“Maybe it’s the last thing they need,” Caron said.

But then-CBD Manager Elaine Zamora, who chose Caron, believed a mural would bring something positive. Zamora was right.

The making of the mural was like a light to motifs, drawing hundreds of people throughout the year it was in production, helping to prime the walls and serving as ad hoc technical advisers until finished in March 2010. For TL habitues, it was and is an enduring source of identity and pride, defining the neighborhood as never before. It tells a life story. And it opens up friendships.

Though it’s the last thing they need,” Caron said.

But then-CBD Manager Elaine Zamora, who chose Caron, believed a mural would bring something positive. Zamora was right.

The making of the mural was like a light to motifs, drawing hundreds of people throughout the year it was in production, helping to prime the walls and serving as ad hoc technical advisers until finished in March 2010. For TL habitues, it was and is an enduring source of identity and pride, defining the neighborhood as never before.

Videoographer and journalist Paige Bierma captured its creation and the lively interaction of its motley supporting cast in a 22-minute film, “A Brush with the Tenderloin,” a project that took her nearly three years to finish.

Bierma spent a year filming on the street, a heaving experience, she called it, with what outsiders consider invisible people, “the homeless folks you step over or cross the street to avoid” and poor ones barely keeping it together.

A print journalist for 15 years, five as an Associated Press stringer in Mexico, Bierma turned to video five years ago. In 2010, she came to film Caron’s sidewalk work a bit apprehensive because of headlines about crime in the rough and tumble Tenderloin. She worried about being mugged and her $5,000 Panasonic camera stolen.

But the opposite happened. Nobody threatened me or tried to steal my camera,” she said. “And I was surprised at how much creative energy there is: street poets, political revolutionaries, artists and musicians. Rappers came and sang to us one day. It’s a strong community with a richness and action every day. It was an eye-opener for me, and I hope it is for the viewers.”

In the mural’s expansive streetscape panels — one a serene scene of the future — are nearly 300 figures. One of them, “Indian Joe” Plamondon, with his cascading, below-the-shoulder black hair and trade-mark stovepipe hat, shows up twice.

“Indian Joe” Plamondon, with his cascading, below-the-shoulder black hair and trade-mark stovepipe hat, shows up twice.

You see a lot of garbage graffiti around,” Plamondon says, standing in front of where the mural shows him lounging under a street sign; elsewhere he is pushing a cart across Golden Gate Avenue. “But this shows what the neighborhood is like and can be — so people can see it and enjoy it. It tells a life story. And it opens up friendships when people see it and start talking to
ART LOVERS Painting of the new mural on the Post Office at 101 Hyde St. starts this month, while five more will be unveiled May 13 on Market Street. The Post Office mural is a Tenderloin CBD project by Johanna Poethig. The other five are part of Street SmARTS, funded by the Department of Public Works, and Art in Storefronts, a program of the San Francisco Arts Commission, to revitalize the shoddy central market district. The new city projects, which also include original art installations in six underused storefronts, will be celebrated from 5 to 7 p.m. Mayor Ed Lee will attend the festivities that begin at Gray Area Foundation for the Arts at 998 Market St. with the unveiling of two murals. A Balinese ensemble, Gamelan X, will lead a procession up Market to U.N. Plaza, where other entertainers will perform. The murals will be at 998 Market St. on the Taylor side of the Warfield, the Golden Gate side of Show Dogs restaurant, the Strand Theater, the Merrill's building, and next to it, the Grant Building at Seventh and Market. The Street SmARTS projects and Art in Storefronts will be on view through Aug. 13. The Post Office mural, which the CBD is funding with a $50,000 grant, will be permanent. Also showing the CBD's substantial investment in their own street and sidewalk cleaning, graffiti removal, community guides, beautification, music in public places and other enhancements. The diversity of projects sets the CBDs apart from traditional business improvement districts called BIDs. The Board of Supervisors approves each independent district, which is governed by a board of directors made up of property owners, merchants and residents elected from within the district’s boundaries.

The Central Market and Tenderloin CBDs are of particular importance as players now because of the city's Market Street makeover and arts district push. In January 2010, Mayor Newsom and OEWD began the Central Market Partnership initiative in collaboration with the private sector to help the area revive.

ART IN STOREFRONTS DELAYED
The memo complained that in 2009, OEWD gave the CBD a grant to install 13 art works in vacant storefronts along Market Street. But, because the CBD had gotten only one window installation ready a month before the opening date, OEWD had to push the Art in Storefronts opening back six months. Then, when the CBD wanted approval of window content, the Arts Commission offered it a seat on the artist-selection committee. But the district's first two choices—members of OEWD—were met with objections from both sides of Market Street. The memo listed the conditions it wanted approval of: approval of window content, the Arts Commission offered it a seat on the artist-selection committee. But the district’s first two choices—members of OEWD—were met with objections from both sides of Market Street.

HURTADO EXPLAINS
Hurtado explained that in the future, any recommendations from OEWD, bring it to the board. I wondered how long this had been going on.
Central Market CBD on hot seat

Festival and Lynne Valente of People in Plazas, CBD grantee, said they enjoyed working with Hurtado.

Property owner Stan Herzstein said that when the CBD was formed he had been "skeptical" it would work out. But it's "much better than it was," he said, especially street security and cleanliness. Hurtado does a "fabulous job," he said. "You should put yourself on the back," he added.

The memo asked the CBD to step up and play a bigger role in resurrecting Market Street and suggested it start with expanding its Website to become the "online destination for Central Market." It urged the CBD to consider merging with the Tenderloin CBD and consider managing a Sixth Street CBD, if one forms.

The $50,000 grant for community guides to pacify the north side of Market from Fifth to Ninth streets was the meeting's most complex issue. The CBD district runs that distance on Market on the south side with jogs north only on Mason for a block, and between Eighth and Ninth, and jogs south on Fifth and Eighth to Mission.

In September, OEWD told the CBD it had a $50,000 grant for a similar program to start in January, but it was outside the CBD's district. In November, OEWD told the Central Market CBD and MJM Management Group — which trains and furnishes the guides — to meet to discuss details of the project. The budget included $25,000 that Central Market was expected to raise from North of Market property owners. Pagan and Cohen's memo to the board at the next CBD meeting, May 10.

The last agenda item before adjournment was retaining legal counsel to represent the CBD. The board voted to hire Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour. Two days after the meeting, O'Brien resigned as president, and from the board, citing a letter "professional and personal obligations." In a special, open meeting April 19, the board elected Secretary David Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour.

The $50,000 grant for community guides to pacify the north side of Market from Fifth to Ninth streets was the meeting's most complex issue. The CBD district runs that distance on Market on the south side with jogs north only on Mason for a block, and between Eighth and Ninth, and jogs south on Fifth and Eighth to Mission.

In September, OEWD told the CBD it had a $50,000 grant for a similar program to start in January, but it was outside the CBD's district. In November, OEWD told the Central Market CBD and MJM Management Group — which trains and furnishes the guides — to meet to discuss details of the project. The budget included $25,000 that Central Market was expected to raise from North of Market property owners. Pagan and Cohen's memo to the board at the next CBD meeting, May 10.

The last agenda item before adjournment was retaining legal counsel to represent the CBD. The board voted to hire Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour. Two days after the meeting, O'Brien resigned as president, and from the board, citing a letter "professional and personal obligations." In a special, open meeting April 19, the board elected Secretary David Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour.

The $50,000 grant for community guides to pacify the north side of Market from Fifth to Ninth streets was the meeting's most complex issue. The CBD district runs that distance on Market on the south side with jogs north only on Mason for a block, and between Eighth and Ninth, and jogs south on Fifth and Eighth to Mission.

In September, OEWD told the CBD it had a $50,000 grant for a similar program to start in January, but it was outside the CBD's district. In November, OEWD told the Central Market CBD and MJM Management Group — which trains and furnishes the guides — to meet to discuss details of the project. The budget included $25,000 that Central Market was expected to raise from North of Market property owners. Pagan and Cohen's memo to the board at the next CBD meeting, May 10.

The last agenda item before adjournment was retaining legal counsel to represent the CBD. The board voted to hire Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour. Two days after the meeting, O'Brien resigned as president, and from the board, citing a letter "professional and personal obligations." In a special, open meeting April 19, the board elected Secretary David Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour.

The $50,000 grant for community guides to pacify the north side of Market from Fifth to Ninth streets was the meeting's most complex issue. The CBD district runs that distance on Market on the south side with jogs north only on Mason for a block, and between Eighth and Ninth, and jogs south on Fifth and Eighth to Mission.

In September, OEWD told the CBD it had a $50,000 grant for a similar program to start in January, but it was outside the CBD's district. In November, OEWD told the Central Market CBD and MJM Management Group — which trains and furnishes the guides — to meet to discuss details of the project. The budget included $25,000 that Central Market was expected to raise from North of Market property owners. Pagan and Cohen's memo to the board at the next CBD meeting, May 10.

The last agenda item before adjournment was retaining legal counsel to represent the CBD. The board voted to hire Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour. Two days after the meeting, O'Brien resigned as president, and from the board, citing a letter "professional and personal obligations." In a special, open meeting April 19, the board elected Secretary David Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour.

The $50,000 grant for community guides to pacify the north side of Market from Fifth to Ninth streets was the meeting's most complex issue. The CBD district runs that distance on Market on the south side with jogs north only on Mason for a block, and between Eighth and Ninth, and jogs south on Fifth and Eighth to Mission.

In September, OEWD told the CBD it had a $50,000 grant for a similar program to start in January, but it was outside the CBD's district. In November, OEWD told the Central Market CBD and MJM Management Group — which trains and furnishes the guides — to meet to discuss details of the project. The budget included $25,000 that Central Market was expected to raise from North of Market property owners. Pagan and Cohen's memo to the board at the next CBD meeting, May 10.

The last agenda item before adjournment was retaining legal counsel to represent the CBD. The board voted to hire Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour. Two days after the meeting, O'Brien resigned as president, and from the board, citing a letter "professional and personal obligations." In a special, open meeting April 19, the board elected Secretary David Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour.

The $50,000 grant for community guides to pacify the north side of Market from Fifth to Ninth streets was the meeting's most complex issue. The CBD district runs that distance on Market on the south side with jogs north only on Mason for a block, and between Eighth and Ninth, and jogs south on Fifth and Eighth to Mission.

In September, OEWD told the CBD it had a $50,000 grant for a similar program to start in January, but it was outside the CBD's district. In November, OEWD told the Central Market CBD and MJM Management Group — which trains and furnishes the guides — to meet to discuss details of the project. The budget included $25,000 that Central Market was expected to raise from North of Market property owners. Pagan and Cohen's memo to the board at the next CBD meeting, May 10.

The last agenda item before adjournment was retaining legal counsel to represent the CBD. The board voted to hire Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour. Two days after the meeting, O'Brien resigned as president, and from the board, citing a letter "professional and personal obligations." In a special, open meeting April 19, the board elected Secretary David Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour.

The $50,000 grant for community guides to pacify the north side of Market from Fifth to Ninth streets was the meeting's most complex issue. The CBD district runs that distance on Market on the south side with jogs north only on Mason for a block, and between Eighth and Ninth, and jogs south on Fifth and Eighth to Mission.

In September, OEWD told the CBD it had a $50,000 grant for a similar program to start in January, but it was outside the CBD's district. In November, OEWD told the Central Market CBD and MJM Management Group — which trains and furnishes the guides — to meet to discuss details of the project. The budget included $25,000 that Central Market was expected to raise from North of Market property owners. Pagan and Cohen's memo to the board at the next CBD meeting, May 10.

The last agenda item before adjournment was retaining legal counsel to represent the CBD. The board voted to hire Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour. Two days after the meeting, O'Brien resigned as president, and from the board, citing a letter "professional and personal obligations." In a special, open meeting April 19, the board elected Secretary David Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP at $600 an hour.
Political action committees spend more than $425,000 on Sparks’ and Walker’s campaigns; yet lose.

BY MARK HEDIN AND JONATHAN NEWMAN

REAL estate interests and labor organizations, using political action committees, a loosely regulated mechanism, were the biggest spenders in the most recent election.

PACs contributed more to four campaigns for supervisor in District 6 than the district’s 14 candidates combined received from any other sources, $497,779 or more than 35% of the $1,429,882 total candidate spending in the November election.

Citywide in the four supervisorial races, PAC funding, one of three funding mechanisms available to campaigns, totaled $1.5 million, meaning District 6 candidates got more than their share, nearly 30% of PAC money spent citywide in the 2010 races.

PACs operate under a different set of rules than individual contributors, and sometimes feature extravagant and loosely regulated spending. Record-keeping and filing requirements are such that tracking PACs requires a lot of time and tenacity. The Extra’s numbers come from Ethics Commission campaign filing through Jan. 31, 2011, the candidates’ and PACs’ final report deadline.

WHY SPECIAL INTERESTS LIKE PACS

A key aspect of PAC campaign financing is that there is no limit to how many individuals, corporations and special interests can spend trying to influence voters through a committee. Candidates are allowed to take no more than $500 from an individual — is allowed to interview the candidate about the content, timing, location, mode, intended audience, distribution, or placement of the communication” — a hit piece, for instance — it is deemed a campaign contribution, and thus can exceed $500.

But a PAC — which can be, and sometimes is an individual — is allowed to interview the candidate on issues affecting the PAC, obtain campaign material from the candidate or candidate’s “agents,” or invite the candidate to make a presentation to them or their “employees, shareholders or family,” provided there’s no discussion about the expenditures to be made on the candidate’s behalf.

WILLIE BROWN NO. 2 CONTRIBUTOR

New Day for SF, to which former Mayor Brown contributed, ranked as the second-largest individual contributor in District 6 — ran afoul of those rules early on, when its treasurer listed a phone number for Left Coast Communications as the PAC’s contact number in Ethics Commission filings. Left Coast was Kim’s campaign consultant, thus prohibited from PAC activity on her behalf.

The fourth and final District 6 supervisorial candidate to get PAC support was Keys, on whose behalf the Coleman Action Fund for Children spent $262,071 in citywide in the four supervisorial races, PAC money flowed freely in District 2. In mid-October, Coates coughed up $144,000 for a PAC called “Common Sense Voters San Francisco 2010,” Vote for Mark Farrell, Ward 2 Supervisor.” This is the same Coates who in 2008 gave $1 million to state Prop. 96, a losing bid to repeal rent control.

Another big Common Sense PAC benefactor was sociable fundraiser Dede Wilsey, who, city Ethics Commission records show, shelled out $50,000 to help beat Farrell’s rival Jane Reilly.

Final Common Sense filings show numerous five-figure expenditures for campaign materials opposing Reilly, as well as a $5,000 contribution that was funneled to the “San Francisco Republican County Central Committee Political Party Committee.” Reilly got the most first-place votes, but Farrell won his seat on second- and third-choice voting.

REAL ESTATE INTERESTS WENT FOR SPARKS

In District 6, real estate interests went for Sparks. Coates, oven $45,000 contribution to her cause was made through the Alliance for Jobs and Sustainable Growth PAC, which raised an additional $45,000 for Sparks from the Building Owners and Managers Association of San Francisco. The Alliance ultimately spent $176,800 in a fruitless attempt to persuade District 6 voters to support the Human Rights Commission executive director. This PAC also spent $193,199 on District 8 winner Scott Wiener and $194,000 on District 2 Supervisor. This is the same Coates who in 2008 gave $1 million to a PAC for Wiener and $45,000 for Moss.

Another PAC that spent big for Sparks was the Coalition for Sensible Government, funded by the San Francisco Association of Realtors, which shelled out more than $40,000 for Sparks — and nearly $60,000 for Wiener.

PACs supporting Walker tended to be labor-oriented. The Friends of the Coleman Action, Debora Walker PAC spent $20,000 to support Walker’s cause was made through the Alliance for Jobs and Sustainable Growth PAC, which raised an additional $45,000 for Sparks from the Building Owners and Managers Association of San Francisco. The Alliance ultimately spent $176,800 in a fruitless attempt to persuade District 6 voters to support the Human Rights Commission executive director. This PAC also spent $193,199 on District 8 winner Scott Wiener and $194,000 on District 2 Supervisor. This is the same Coates who in 2008 gave $1 million to a PAC for Wiener and $45,000 for Moss.

Another PAC that spent big for Sparks was the Coalition for Sensible Government, funded by the San Francisco Association of Realtors, which shelled out more than $40,000 for Sparks — and nearly $60,000 for Wiener.

PACs supporting Walker tended to be labor-oriented. The Friends of the Coleman Action, Debora Walker PAC
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

PAC contributions to District 6 supervisoral candidates

Four of the 14 candidates received a total of $439,773 from 13 different PACs.

- **Theresa Sparks**  
  - Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club $15,012  
  - Alliance for Jobs and Sustainable Growth $178,800  
  - Coalition for A Safer California $12,715  
  - Coalition for Sensible Government $33,619  
  - San Francisco Coalition for Responsible Growth $500  
  **TOTAL:** $238,468

- **Debra Walker**  
  - Affordable Housing Alliance $1,172  
  - California Nurses Association $9,990  
  - Coleman Action Fund for Children Committee $284  
  - Friends of Debra Walker $149,514  
  - Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club $5,159  
  - San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee $606  
  - Teachers, Nurses, Muni Riders $3,634  
  **TOTAL:** $170,359

- **Jane Kim**  
  - Coleman Action Fund for Children Committee $284  
  - New Day for SF $30,200  
  - **TOTAL:** $30,484

- **James Keys**  
  - Coleman Action Fund for Children Committee $284  
  **TOTAL:** $284

Source: S.F. Ethics Commission

Willie Brown gives $5,000 to Kim; Sparks gets $45,000 from rent control foe

Walter Merkle, has offices adjacent to Brown's. San Francisco's new mayor got $55,000 from the San Francisco Labor Council, $26,628 from the California Nurses Association and $50,660 from another PAC, Standing Up to Save SF, whose executive director, Tim Paulson, is also executive director of the S.F. Labor Council. At press time, Paulson had not returned The Extra's calls.

The world of PAC financing, however, is a murky one. Ethics Commission staff say they need a more powerful computer system, which they can't afford, to effectively parse the massive electronic files and pounds of paper that constitute campaign funding reports. There are various filing deadline dates throughout the campaign, so a sizable PAC might have to file 500 or more pieces of paper packed with names and numbers.

As an example, The Extra set out to determine what the smallest PAC that contributed to District 6 candidates — the Coleman Action Fund for Children Committee — did with the $852 it reported spending in District 6.

The Extra called the nonprofit Coleman Advocates for Youth, which had formed this PAC. A staff member said all the candidates had been sent a questionnaire about how they stood on various ballot issues, and from those results the PAC printed a postcard listing the candidates who supported "work" and almost $10,000 went to Li Chang Yu for a venue called Kaleidoscope Free Zone, for "field organizing," a total value of $3,634.07 to Friends Supporting Debra Walker and the Walker campaign itself.

Similarly, the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club shows up in Ethics Commission filings as both a PAC, funding Sparks to the tune of $15,000, and as the recipient of funds from other PACs: $1,000 from the Building Owners and Managers Association and $5,000 from the Alliance For Jobs and Sustainable Growth's Sparks account.

Much campaign money isn't spent in San Francisco. The Alliance for Jobs and Sustainable Growth, for instance, reported paying almost $26,000 to Stanford Campaigns, an Austin, Texas, company, for polling and survey research. New York's Benenson Strategy Group is still owed $4,600 of the $27,600 of work it did for the Alliance, according to filings of Jan. 31. The PAC did, however, send $10,000 to San Francisco UA Local 38 Plumbers and Pipefitters, apparently for office expenses.

New Day for SF, in supporting Kim, raised $8,460 — including $2,500 in free rent — and spent $27,951. About $8,000 of that went to Sara Powell, owner of a Mission District art/music/poetry venue called Kaleidoscope Free Zone, for "field work" and almost $10,000 went to Li Chang Yu for voter registration.

Besides Brown's $5,000, New Day also got $5,000 from attorney Steven Kay, who has represented the 49ers, a group trying to purchase the Oakland As, and numerous sports stars. His firm, Kay and Merkle, has offices adjacent to Brown's. San Francisco's Florence Kong, president of Kwan Wo Ironworks, gave $2,500. Peter Borusa and Alastair McTaggart, both of the prominent Sobla builders Emerald Fund, each contributed $2,000. Urban Realty principals David Rhoades and Martin Sawa, the driving force behind the proposed mid-Market retail showcase CityPlace, together gave $1,500. Lawrence Lui, president of the Stanford Hotels Corp., gave $1,000. Dublin's Kho Corp. and San Francisco's Electric Current Construction each kicked in $1,000. Henry Karnawowicz and the South of Market Business Association supplied the free rent.
Caron mural a showcase for characters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

others about it."

Indian Joe is a main character in the film and part of “the most lively and interesting interaction” Caron says she’s had in 12 years painting street murals. Every day people came up to her to ask technical questions, or to blurt out “what is this?” before realizing it was their neighborhood appearing before them. Then asking, “Can I be in it?"

“People were open and willing to share,” Caron said, who recently completed murals in Bolivia and San Mateo. “I learned a lot. There are nearly 300 people in it. I tried really hard to get everyone in but I just had to stop. It was never-ending. Maybe I’ll come back and add some more someday.”

Caron says that as she painted she became a “slow motion performance act” watched daily by a “Greek chorus” — the food line from St. Anthony’s Dining Room across the street.

In a film preview on the Internet, The Extra saw the community enthusiasm grow as scenes and characters developed and whimsy like a passing antic bicyclist were added to the two walls on the northeast corner. Besides Plamondon, other neighborhood characters getting prime time are kitemaker Jeff Marshall, the ever-present Didi Crane and Huey Newton’s grandson Richard Rice.

While Bierma’s lens catches most of the characters in lively sidewalk talk — including a comically staggering pair of arm-in-arm singing drunks — she takes us into Marshall’s cramped SRO room just across the street where he constructs colorful kites and lets him tell his story of being homeless and strung-out. In the mural he’s a lone figure atop the Boyd, flying a kite.

One of Bierma’s favorite scenes is when Caron discovers that an unprotected part of the City’s new sit/lie law has yet to yield

BY TOM CARTER

The hand-smacking sit/lie ordinance that grew out of troubles the Haight-Ashbury cops couldn’t solve doesn’t appear to be used much by Tenderloin police or by complaining residents in the neighborhood where hundreds of people hang out on sidewalks, some to escape the tight confines of their SRO rooms.

The “Civil Sidewalks” law voters passed in November became effective Dec. 17. But officers had to undergo a special training on its complexities, so enforcement didn’t begin until March 1. Tenderloin police have yet to write a sit/lie citation, according to TL Capt. Joe Garrity.

The law prohibits sitting or lying on sidewalks, or on objects on them, between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. A spot check by The Extra of three police districts for the week of April 16-22 showed that the Tenderloin had just four “calls for service” from people phoning in for suspected sit/lie violations; Southern District, which includes Sixth Street, had 25; and Park District, which includes the Haight, had 30.

“Four to five is about normal for us,” Garrity said. Police only keep calls for service in each district, said Lt. Troy Dangerfield, SFPD spokesman. “There is no breakdown of arrests,
mural has been defaced. Near the image of a prowler car, the street was scrawled: FUCK. Caron, obviously hurt, says as she paints over it that she was warned this might happen. What Biema’s camera catches next is the outrage of Caron’s sidewalk supporters, who feel insulted that someone would so diss their neighborhood. “They take ownership of the mural,” she says.

In the 14 months since the mural was completed, Plamondon estimates, 10 of the 300 depicted have died.

Out of this project, too, grew Indian Joe’s once-in-a-lifetime experience of meeting rock star Alice Cooper, one of his favorites ever since a friend years ago drew imitative black lines down from his eyes. When Plamondon heard that Cooper was going to play the Warfield last year, he was beside himself. Broke though he was, he turned food stamps into a ticket. But the real surprise for the Shuswap Canadian Indian was when Biema took him to radio station 107.7 on Hawthorne Street in SoMa to meet Cooper.

“You know the first thing he said when he saw me? Plamondon says. “‘Am I looking into a fuckin’ mirror?’”

Their videoed meeting made the film, but not the language.

The year of filming “was a good experience — both ways,” Biema says.

“A Brush with the Tenderloin” may have an afterlife. Biema intends to enter it in the East Coast’s Silverdocs festival, the San Francisco International Shorts Festival, Mill Valley Film Festival and possibly others.

Photos by Lenny Limjoco

And source of pride for the community

citations or warnings per district.”

That same week citywide there were no sit/lie arrests, but six citations and 49 “advisements” — warnings to move or the cops can come back and cite you. But nobody can be cited without first being warned in writing.

“Every case is different,” Garrity said. “It could be medical, or drunk or a number of things. Having experience helps.”

The law has eight exceptions that Garrity wants the public to know. Most are obvious:

- Prostrate people needing medical attention, folks in wheelchairs, customers at outdoor cafes, people attending performances, parades, demonstrations and so on, sitting in line for goods and services (if not impeding pedestrians), children in strollers and folks lounging in a Pavement to Parks project.

The first offense is an infraction. If convicted, a fine ranges from $50 to $100 and/or community service. Incurring a second citation within 24 hours is a misdemeanor and a conviction brings a $200 to $300 fine and/or community service, and/or up to 10 days in jail. Anyone cited within 120 days of a conviction, and is then found guilty of the misdemeanor, faces a $400 to $550 fine, and/or community service, and/or up to 30 days in jail.

In Garrity’s weekly community newsletter he offers to furnish anyone a summary of the law and a page of FAQs.

“A Brush with the Tenderloin” will be shown May 13 at 8:30 p.m. and at 8 p.m. in suite A at 134 Golden Gate Ave. Q and A’s with Biema will follow.

Photos by Lenny Limjoco

Top: Marvin Debow and his wife Davonne are elated to be in the mural. He points to their spot in the painting. Photos far left and right are by Paige Biema. Center photo courtesy of FM Radio Station 107.7.
RAYMOND DYER
‘A good brother’

There was no shortage of tears at Coast Hotel the crowd, sunny afternoon of Feb. 23 as more than 30 friends and relatives gathered to remember Raymond “Ray” Ray Dyer, a fun-loving resident of the hotel who died the week before at age 54.

“He was always smiling and laughing about everything. Fun to be around... He was very easy to befriend, loved his grandchildren,” fellow Coast resident, Cindy, said. Turning toward Mr. Dyer’s family, she said, “I know all about you. You’ll mean the world to him.”

Jeffrey, another Coast tenant, addressed the family: “I know your brother real good, too. He just lost $20 trying to bet me with the Rams... He had his ways, everybody do. …

Turning toward Mr. Dyer’s family, she said. “Some we get closer to than others. Ray was one of the ones we didn’t have a choice, he’d just walk into the office and start telling jokes.”

“He was a protector of the weak,” said a nephew, who also cited Mr. Dyer’s love of family and efforts to do right, before breaking down in tears, unable to continue.

Person after person testified to Mr. Dyer’s love of family and high spirits, and of his love of food — “Ray’s ribs” and Bernal Alhambra were mentioned. Ronald Dyer, his older brother, also recalled his brother promising to take him to dinner, and doing so — at Glade.

He wasn’t necessarily the best man I ever knew, but he was the best brother I ever had.

I guess all you guys know Ray could make you laugh and piss you off in 60 seconds. He’d get real mad, but cared about being independent of grace. He asked for a lot of help, but cared about being independent and didn’t want to burden anybody else.

“Was a very smart man, liked to tell jokes,” his friend, Richie Carlson, recalled. “He always talked about that — and history. He was a very smart man, liked to tell jokes. He was great. He had a lot of common sense that made it hard for him to do much, but he handled it with a lot of grace. He asked for a lot of help, but cared about being independent and didn’t want to burden anybody else.

Mr. Dyer struggled with cancer that had reached his bones and was mostly bed-ridden in his final years. Ray was a good brother.”

Mr. Dyer, who moved into the Hamlin in 1992, was 56 when he died Feb. 19. He was born Feb. 3, 1955, in Alabama. He studied political science at Emory University in Atlanta and planned to become a lawyer. Ultimately, however, he worked in menswear at San Francisco department stores, helping fit clothes.

“He loved that,” his friend, Richie Carlson, recalled. “He always talked about that — and history. He was a very smart man, liked to tell jokes. He was great. He had a lot of common sense that made it hard for him to do much, but he handled it with a lot of grace. He asked for a lot of help, but cared about being independent and didn’t want to burden anybody else.

Mr. Dyer struggled with cancer that had reached his bones and was mostly bed-ridden in his final years. Pearl Dyer, who knew him for years.

OBITUARIES

James Lane

JAMES “PETE” LANE
Handled intense pain well

James “Pete” Lane was a courteous, cultured man who lived with great pain, and took great pains to show his appreciation for the help he sometimes needed. This was the collective memory of those who attended his memorial service Feb. 23 at the Hamlin Hotel.

“He wouldn’t let us know that he was in pain, just that he was struggling,” said resident and care-giver Cassidy Blonsky, who knew Mr. Lane for the last six months of his life. “He didn’t want to burden anyone by dying because it was burden enough to him.”

Mr. Lane, who moved into the Hamlin in 1992, was 56 when he died Feb. 19. He was born Feb. 3, 1955, in Alabama. He studied political science at Emory University in Atlanta and planned to become a lawyer. Ultimately, however, he worked in menswear at San Francisco department stores, helping fit clothes.

“He loved that,” his friend, Richie Carlson, recalled. “He always talked about that — and history. He was a very smart man, liked to tell jokes. He was great. He had a lot of common sense that made it hard for him to do much, but he handled it with a lot of grace. He asked for a lot of help, but cared about being independent and didn’t want to burden anybody else.

Mr. Lane struggled with cancer that had reached his bones and was mostly bed-ridden in his final years. Pearl Dyer, who knew him for years.

CENTRAL MARKET

GET CONNECTED

All CMCBD meetings are open to the public. Help us create a clean, safe and inviting Central Market. Get connected to the Central Market Community Benefit District (CMCBD).

All CMCBD meeting notices and agendas available at the San Francisco Public Library and at www.Central-Market.org.

Learn more about the CMCBD’s Board of Directors Meetings and Committees, and how you can get involved.

415 957 5985 | www.central-market.org

TCF: The Central Market Community Benefit Corporation (CMCBD) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community-based organization formed in 2006 to provide purposes and services to improve the quality of the experience or the public nature of San Francisco’s Central Market Community Benefit District (CMCBD)

Tenderloin Technology Fair

Date: Saturday, May 21st
Time: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Place: 150 Golden Gate Avenue 3rd Floor

Enroll in our classes. Please RSVP to save your place! Free to all residents of the Tenderloin and to anyone who is homeless or marginally housed.

• A Class on Craigslist.com at 10:00
• A Class on what to look for When Purchasing a Computer at 10:00
• A Class on Yola.com at 12:00
• Personal PC Tutoring at 12:00

Computer Repair

Bring your Laptop/Desktop to the Tenderloin Tech Fair where professionally trained ReliaTech Technicians will diagnose and repair common problems.

To RSVP please call, email or visit our front desk:
Phone: (415) 592-2766
Email: FrontDesk@TenderloinTechnologyLab.org
more than a decade in her work as a desk clerk and case manager at the hotel, said that Mr. Lane would get out into the neighborhood using his walkie-talkie and wheelchair, taking calls to where he needed to get. Spend time lounging in the hotel’s community room, or receive guests and fellow hotel residents in his second-floor room at the Hamlin after rebreaking his shoulder. He was hospitalized at Cal Pacific Medical Center on Feb. 17 and died there two days later.

John Franklin of the Community Housing Partnership said Mr. Lane was an Alabama University fan and that, as an Auburn fan himself, they enjoyed a lot of friendly banter over college football.

“He was a great guy,” Durmas said. “He seemed like he was ready,” Roma Eisenstark said. “It seemed like a lot of things were going on in his life. He had a lot of things he was concerned about, and he didn’t think about himself.”

Carlson recalled. “He would have his moments in the neighborhood,” Carlson said. “But he would always make that extra effort to let you know he was thankful and appreciative. He was a wonderful tenant.”

Duras also took care to speak for Mr. Lane’s custodian Sunny, who couldn’t attend the memorial. “She is taking it really hard. She’s really kind of torn up right now.”

Mr. Lane is survived by a brother-in-law. He lost his sister about three years ago, Carlson said. “He had a painful life,” Blondy said. “He could handle pain and he was really tough and he went through a lot of stuff. He’s probably feeling the most peace he’s felt most of his life.”

— Mark Heim

SAUNDRA CASIMERE

Telephone operator

Head-strong Saundra Casimere pulled a “great escape” in her final months so she could be at home in the Alexander Residence with people who loved her.

The mother of two and former telephone operator got the news that she had terminal cancer in December when she was bedridden at S.F. General. She couldn’t stand the thought of wasting away in the hospital. So she plotted her escape with her granddaughter.

“He was a great guy,” Durmas recalled. “He would have his moments and he would call, saying, Pearl, I need this done today. T-O-D-A-Y,” said Mr. Lane was “always sending me over there to get Miller Genuine Draft.”

One hotel resident, Mary Mathews, said that Mr. Lane was “always sending me stuff. He’s probably feeling the aches and pains of torn up right now.”

“I think of wasting away in the hospital room. She couldn’t stand the thought of wasting away in the hospital. So she plotted her escape with her granddaughter. She thought of wasting away in the hospital. So she plotted her escape with her granddaughter.

“He had a painful life,” Blonsky said. “He could handle pain and he was really tough and he went through a lot of stuff. He’s probably feeling the most peace he’s felt most of his life.”

— Tom Carter

DONALD HAND

Glide volunteer

The William Penn Hotel community room overflowed with 50 mourners who remembered Donald Hand, an exemplary man who extended his helping hand to everyone and was a longtime Glide Memorial United Methodist Church volunteer.

Mr. Hand, known as Donnie, devoted the last 15 years of his life to feeding and caring for the poor as a Glide volunteer. He died there in the late 1980s.

The memorial opened with guitarist Gaudioso Galicia accompanying the group’s singing of “How Great Thou Art.” At the end, the mourners sang “Amazing Grace” and a Filipino hymn, “We Will Never Forget You.”

The TNDC-owned Alexander treated everyone to cookies and snacks.

— Mark Hedin

OBITUARIES

Treat Yourself.
Hetch Hetchy Tap Water. It’s Delicious.

Help us keep our water delicious. Dial 311 to report water quality issues.
Downtown remodeled efficiency studios

$675 and up. Beautifully maintained efficiency studios in a clean, friendly downtown building.

Units feature
- Private bathrooms and kitchenettes
- Water, heat and electric included
- Laundry room in building
- Two elevators
- Handicap accessible
- 24-hour desk clerk
- On-site resident manager and maintenance person
- Close to Civic Center
- Muni/BART, Hastings Law School, Academy of Art University, Golden Gate University, California Culinary Academy, Main Library, farmers markets

No pets, please. Income must be at two times the rent. Good credit required. One-year lease.

Call (415) 885-3343 for appointment, or walk-ins welcome Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Help us shape the future of Pacific Campus!

Meet and talk with the medical and planning teams about the future of California Pacific Medical Center’s (CPMC) Pacific Campus. Learn about the hospital’s future medical programming, design and landscape, transportation, construction phasing, and how to get involved in the visioning process.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
2333 Buchanan Street, San Francisco

Labyrinth Garden

If you are taking public transportation (recommended): The Pacific Campus is served by the 1 California, 22 Fillmore, 3 Jackson, and 24 Divisadero.

For more information, visit RebuildCPMC.org

For more information about the popup Rose, contact Frida Hagedorn at
frida@iapaxbpr.com or
(415) 251-0888.

OBITUARIES

STEFAN HANSON
Give away books

Steve Hanson, a quixotic, generous man with an astonishing library, was found lying unconscious on the sidewalk next to his wheelchair March 18, bleeding from a head injury, his bicycle helmet nowhere in sight.

Mr. Hanson, 60, was a 12-year resident of the William Penn Hotel on Eddy Street. The exact circumstances of Mr. Hanson’s death were unclear. Jose Jauregui, his case worker for three years, said paramedics found him on a Tenderloin sidewalk but he didn’t know where. He said Mr. Hanson had trouble breathing and had passed out on several previous occasions. The medical examiner said cause of death was pending.

He had more paperbacks than I’ve ever seen,” said his friend, Percy Coleman, at Mr. Hanson’s memorial in the hotel where three vases of white roses and a dozen upturned playing cards were placed on a table in his memory. “They were in big milk cartons all stacked everywhere. Must have been 10,000, all of them were categorized, like science, religion, beat poetry.”

Mr. Hanson, quiet and attentive to people, was a voracious reader of fiction and poetry, and “a guy on a mission” to share the written word. The former taxi driver gave scores of books and maps and notes to his friends. They said his heart was big and his gifts even bigger — sometimes they didn’t know what to do with the volume. “He’d bring bags of 200 books” to weekly tenant meetings, said James Tracy of the Community Housing Partnership, where Mr. Coleman was

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

cont...
Mr. Hanson was also a much-appreciated volunteer at the Speed Project, part of the AIDS Foundation, said Terry Morris, who heads the project. Another mourner said he was sensitive to how drugs affected people.

Another mourner told how Mr. Hanson had tried hard to find the owner of a stray black cat with white markings wandering on Turk street but had no luck. He took it in and called it Tuxedo. Someone in front held the cat during the memorial.

Coleman, who drank a lot of beer with Mr. Hanson, said that earlier this year Mr. Hanson went to the hospital and returned in a wheelchair. A couple of times afterward Coleman saw him stand and then fall. Mr. Hanson wasn’t looking very good and was in and out of Veterans Hospital with breathing problems, Jauregui said.

Coleman gave him his bicycle helmet. “He wore it every day, too, except the day he died.”

Mr. Hanson had “moments” of sarcasm but he was “a beautiful person,” said one woman. “He made sure people got what they needed,” said another.

Because he had a “quirky” sense of humor, said Pat Murphy, they “clicked.” He once described himself as “a red-neck against racism” and, on a form he filled out, “a hetero-flexible,” adding, “I don’t care who I hang out with.”

Jauregui said Mr. Hanson was a remarkably “diverse” person. When they first met, Mr. Hanson was so inspired by the art on Jauregui’s office walls — some were Frida Kahlo posters — that he returned the next day with a present — a deck of playing cards from the Mexico City Modern Art Museum that featured images of Mexico’s famous artists.

Rev. Jana Drakka, the Buddhist priest who officiates at memorials for THC residents, said that Mr. Hanson’s family from Bellingham, Wash., had sent their sentiments. She read from his mother’s: “Now you are the captain of your ship and the master of your soul.”

Mr. Hanson’s older sister, Barbara, whose comments lay on the table, wrote that as a child he seemed “filled with sunlight — our golden boy — and as he got older life’s changes sometimes overwhelmed him, but the core of sweetness remained.”

As the memorial began, Drakka invited mourners to light incense at the table as an offering for the deceased and to linger there in prayer or remembrance, a custom that favors anyone too shy to speak in a group. Two people accepted.

At the end, Jauregui gave the roses he bought, and the cards, to the mourners. And Coleman, who gave away Mr. Hanson’s books to the Main Library and the hotel’s library, gave Tuxedo a home. — TOM CARTER

Rebuild CPMC. More than a plan for better health care. It’s a blueprint.
Self help is what you want. Self help is what you do for yourself.

Self help works really well if you have someone who knows your options and has answers to your questions. Someone who talks the same talk and walks the same walk. One person helps another person by sharing experiences. It gives you perspective.

Self help is what you want more out of life, and having the initiative to go after it. You are what you want to be. We will give you resources to help you to achieve that goal.

It's your choice. Nonjudgmental feedback can help you make positive choices, and compassionate guidance can bolster your self-confidence.

That's what helps

Office of Self Help is a safe staffed place by your peers who also struggle with mental health and substance abuse issues. We’ve been where you are. Here you can work on daily living skills and other options to improve the quality of your life.

Self help is an option to clinical services, though we will connect you with a compassionate clinician, if you wish.

Come on in, have a cup of chamomile tea and a warm place to sit and talk.

Office of Self Help Drop-In Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 202

This behavioral health education message is underwritten by Bank of the West.

575-1400