**Tenderloin pleads for protection**

Police captain urges supes to pass loitering law

by Tom Carter

The New Tenderloin coalition — six months old and mad as hell about crime and crummy neighborhood conditions — brought its long list of complaints and pleas for solutions to a Board of Supervisors committee hearing Sept. 10.

The loudest voice turned out to be that of Tenderloin police Capt. Gary Jimenez. He was as worked up as anyone, maybe more than most. He suggested the supervisors study enacting an anti-loitering law, a veritable red flag for the ACLU.

TNT also brought a petition with more than 5,000 signatures that asks the supes’ Public Safety Committee to treat the Tenderloin just like other neighborhoods. The group chafes under the perception that the Tenderloin intentionally gets short shrift from the city because of its tradition of poverty and crime.

Up to 40 speakers — residents young and old, nonprofits, business owners, activists, students, parents and university administrators — described the dangers and chaos of daily living to the three-member committee and District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly, who sat in on the hearing he had arranged. The perils they recounted ranged from muggings and��stepping human fences to reckless drivers and gang shootings.

These conditions, speaker after speaker emphasized, would not be permitted in Pacific Heights and the Marina.

Daly, who once lived in the Tenderloin, had requested the hearing in March when TNT was forming its steering committee.

The group drew praise from committee Chair Ross Mirkarimi for its accomplishments.

Working with the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, TNT has gotten school zone signs upgraded, crosswalks repainted and speed limit signs added. The TNT Safe Haven campaign — anyone who feels threatened can duck inside a sympathetic business bearing an identifying sign — has 22 addresses, some unconfirmed. (See story on Page 2.)

Dina Hilliard, TL organizer for Safety Network and an eight-year resident who helped launch TNT, recapped its brief history for the supes.

The group burst into force April 20 at a meeting attended by more than 125 angry activists. The 5,000-name petition was one idea
Safe Havens

These 22 sites have signed on as safe havens. As of Oct. 1, 14 had completed training and posted the Safe Haven sign.

Glass Crash – 54 Mason St.
Creativity Cafe-Charno Parnassus – 133 5th St.
Downtown Grocery – 289 Eddy St.
Empire Market – 399 Eddy St.
Eugene Friend Rec Center – 270 Sixth St.
G & H Liques – 201 Jones St.
Gray Area Gallery and TL.
Community Benefit District (future site) – 90 Turk St.
Hospitality House – 280 Turk St.
Hospitality House – 181 Sixth St.
Hospitality House Art Studio – 146 Lavaugnsworth St.
Isogoski Hotel – 835 O’Farrell St.
Morry’s Deli – 280 Golden Gate Ave.
TL Community Benefit District (current site) – 118 Jones St.
Rose Hotel – 125 Sixth St.
St. George’s Church – 155 Golden Gate Ave.
San Cristina Hotel – 1000 Market St.
Senator Hotel – 175 Ellis St.
Shu Yu-Lang YMCA youth department
220 Golden Gate Ave.
TNT’s administrative offices – 201 Eddy St.
Vixen – 220 Jones St.
Willow Awakenings – 142 McAllister St.
Youth with a Mission – 357 Ellis St.

Source: The New Tenderloin

Safe Havens sprout in the ‘hood

Storefronts offer refuge from imminent violence to people on the street

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

The 175 studios will have full baths and micro-

kitchens – fridges, microwave, sink, two burners and cabinets. Though the Y’s pool will not survive

the restoration, the grand staircase, auditorium and gym will be preserved. For amenities, DPH plans to put in a wellness center that will include holistic, non-Western medicine and practitioners, Blitzer

said.

What are you doing for social services?” asked

Collaborative Chair Glenda Hope.

The provider hasn’t been chosen yet, Blitzer

said, but on-site services will include social workers and

psych professionals.

What’s happening to the current residents of

the Y, commercial and residential?” asked Daniel

O’Connor, St. Anthony’s community liaison.

“We know that Wu Yee Children’s Services will

be back,” Blitzer said. “The other commercial ten

ants, Tenderloin Health’s admin offices and

Hackleberry House’s Community Assessment

and Referral Center, have found alternative locations.”

Of the 105 residential rooms, 42 are occupied,

about half by long-term residents who will be eligi

ble for relocation benefits when the Y closes, Blitzer

said.

The Y’s lease runs through March 2008, she added, but it’s still looking for a transitional site.

Executive Director Carmela Gold wasn’t at the meet

ting to give an update.

And the Y’s two surface parking lots – what’s happen

ning with those?” asked Mark Azronow, Hastings

professor and director of its Civil Justice Clinic.

“F.A. Evans decided not to move forward with

purchasing them,” Blitzer said. “They’re still for sale.” A.F. Evans had planned to construct 40 one-

and two-bedroom market rate condos on the site, a

sale that would have helped the Y finance its new

home at Golden Gate Avenue and Larkin, next to the

Hastings garage project.

Gold made it to the meeting just as it ended. The

Extra ask her if the Y will, in fact, be ready to move by

March.

“We’re working to set a move-out date that will

work best for all three parties and, most important, for

the community,” Gold said. “The transition site? It’s been an incredibly frustrating, on-again-off-again deal.”

The Y found several sites in the neighborhood but none of the negotiations panned out. Gold thought the might have something to announce in November.

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Y’S $60 MILLION FUTURE

Info is trickling in about the coming reincarnation of 220 Golden Gate Ave. — the Central YMCA building that will be renovated into housing for extremely low-income and physically home-less people. The $60 million project is scheduled to start in 2009 and will take 2 years to complete, according to TNTC Senior Project Manager Mara Blitzer and A.F. Evans Project Manager Bill Jones, who presented at the September Collaborative meeting.

The 220 Golden Gate Ave., and A.F. Evans formed a partnership to buy the property, Blitzer said. During development, the two organizations will work with OA developers, with A.F. Evans taking the lead. A.F. Evans construction is com-

plated, A.F. Evans plans to move TNTC as the owner and property manager. Geldard Partners is the architect.
The uke's a hoot

S.F. played a role in popularity of ukulele

BY FRAN LINK

It's less than an hour you can learn more about ukuleles than you could have imagined. Maybe you never imagined it would be fun to spend time that way. But it is.

The exhibition at the Museum of Craft and Folk Art in Yerba Buena Center takes you on a journey through the evolution of the ukulele. They call it "the story of Hawaii's Jumping Flea," which is a literal translation of ukulele. While ukulele music plays in the background, you can browse archival materials that tout the re-emergence of this little instrument that was easy for workers to take along into the taro or sugar cane fields.

The ukulele came to Hawaii in 1879 with five immigrants from Madeira, an island off Portugal. There were instrument makers and two made music. Their virtuosity reached the ears of King David Kalakau, known as the Merry Monarch, and he played and drank with them. The ukule got a bigger boost when Edward Purvis, a British officer, also mastered the instrument and played music written for and by Queen Lili'uokalani.

Ukuleles made by the masters — Manuel Nunes, Jose Santos and Augusto Dias — are the first items on display and these instruments are compelling. Of the trio of masters, the Nunes family is the one that continues to perpetuate the craft, with the son and grandsons still producing instruments in Southern California.

The ukulele is much more interesting and intertwined with San Francisco history than I thought when I walked into the museum. Here are some highlights:

• The woods used to make the instrument are many. First was Portuguese madeira, a type of acacia, then the Hawaiiankoa, next too-heavy spines used by the mainland Martin Guitar Co. of Nazareth, Pa., and finally mahogany, which was popular at the 1915 Pan Pacific International Exhibition in San Francisco, the same landmark event that gave us the Palace of Fine Arts.

• The Royal Hawaiian Band took the music to the mainland in 1893 at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago and really popularized the ukulele sound. The next year the expo was in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park with the California Midwinter International Exposition.

• The Pan Pacific International Exhibition of 1915 saw the construction of the Hawaiian Exhibition building in the French Renaissance style by Hawaiian-born Oakland architect C.W. Dickey. Thousands of ukuleles that were sold there by San Francisco's Sherman Clay Piano Co. were made by Jonah Kualal, who produced until he died in 1940. A medalion indicating the gold award that he won at PPIE is affixed to the shaft of his instruments.

• 14,100 ukuleles were made in 1926. In the 1930s and '40s, the ukulele got a boost from GIs returning from the war in the Pacific.

• Arthur Godfrey gave it a shot in the 1950s with the introduction of TV so the music could be heard and seen at the same time.

• When John, Paul and George of the Beatles were 13, they flirted with the uke. So did Elvis and Bruce Springsteen.

• Acceptance has again risen with the virtuosity of young proponents such as Jake Shimabukuro, aka the Jimi Hendrix of the ukulele, who appeared at the San Francisco Ukulele Festival at Yerba Buena Gardens in early September. Shimabukuro is scheduled to return to Yerba Buena Gardens in early Septeber.

There is an eclectic display of the work of contemporary ukulele makers, from fine wood artisans to much whimsical versions in the forms of vodka bottles, an Andy Warhol tomato soup can, a Robert Crumb-type cartoon and a Box-a-tele, made from children's lunch boxes.

Finally, on a wall are four ukuleles that you can play. When I was there, a 4-year-old boy was playing along with his grandma, who was strumming quite well. I asked if she had taken lessons. "Oh no, honey," she replied. "I taught myself from the songbooks of the Beatles and Jumpin' Jim's 60's Uke In.'"

The show was curated by Stephen Becker, previous director of the nearby California Historical Society. Becker has played the guitar since he was 12, the ukulele since college and he has been a ukulele collector for the last five years. He recommends these Web sites for further information: fleamarketmusic.com and Ukulelenews.com.

The exhibition ends Oct. 21. The Folk Art museum is located at 51 Yerba Buena Lane, which is unmarked by street signs but connects Market and Mission between Third and Fourth streets. The museum is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekends, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $5, $4 for seniors, children under 18 are free, as are museum members. For more information: 227-4888 or www.mocf.org.

Look At Us

Dedicated To Nick Ray Who Died While He Was Alive

It takes discipline to be us.
Reward us for being myself.
We are shadows of the past.
I am just a messenger.
A fast car took my ancestors
to The Land of the Free.
Home of the Brave.
I've come a long way to get to the Land of the Dead.
Am I free? Am I brave?
I'm high as a star-spangled flag and want to stay that way.
Forgive us. We never learned how to drive properly.
They enjoy it when we die.
It makes a good story.
I appear romantic from a distance and so does he.
A billion years of suffering comes to this.
Both of us once filmed by a drunken white man
who runs away without paying.
I guess he was broke too.


ONE CITY
ONE BOOK
San Francisco Reads

Fall 2007 • www.sfpl.org
Book discussions • Author events
High school visits • Book Group Therapy
Contemporary-urban-up
Novel series • Landslides
Friends gathered at Mission Creek for a potluck on Oct. 8, 2006, at Mr. Davis’ invitation. He sent this photo to the Kaiser Permanente staff who had

Jack Davis, SomArts director, leaves

former cavernous machine shop into an eclectic arts treasure trove. He and his staff provided technical assistance, lighting when groups rented space, gave classes, too. and Mr. Davis was sought as a consultant on city street fairs and festivals. SomArts was a center for bringing mural projects together.

He brought in so many different audiences,” said Nancy Horn, former director of Kearny Street Workshop that rented SomArts space in the late 1990s and early 2000s. “The Annual Day of the Dead brings in lots of ethnic groups. It’s not just Latino anymore. And the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center is there — Jack brought them in — and the Queer Cultural Center. The Filipinos roasted pigs in the yard during their Lechon Festival. And there was some edgy experimental work.”

Horn was doing silk screen posters and exhibitions when the landlord doubled the rent on Kearny Street’s space in South Park before the dot com bust, forcing them out.

“Jack saved us,” she said. “We weren’t the only ones, either. I wouldn’t have known where to go next. He gave us a small space for little money and when we expanded he didn’t say anything to us. It’s one of the many good things I remember Jack for.”

But no matter where or when a new idea popped up, Mr. Davis had a place at the table. He was a founder of the Neighborhood Arts Program and helped start Intersection for the Arts — where he was executive director from 1977 to 1984 in North Beach — the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Pickle Family Circus, Make-A-Circus and Burning Man, which had its first in-town events at SomArts in the early 1990s. He also had a big hand in The Farm, Galería de la Raza, Dance Mission, CellSpace, Day of the Dead, S.F. Pride and Survival Ranch Lab.

“He helped stimulate a vibrant community-based arts atmosphere in San Francisco by providing a home for the unaccepted, the under-appreciated, the underfunded (and underfunded) artists,” said his videographer, George Aguilarr, who captured Mr. Davis’ reflections of his life and times during his last year of life. “He was a good man. The very best kind of man life could produce.”

When the idea for the San Francisco Blues Festival first surfaced, Mr. Davis was there. He did the stage production.

“In any town, any scene, any time, you can count on the fingers of one hand the largely unheralded folks that facilitate almost everything of note that happens,” wrote Burning Man collaborator John Law after Mr. Davis suffered a near fatal heart attack a year ago. “Jack Davis is one of those princes. At crucial points in the life of almost any significant Frisco arts endeavor/event/organization (underground or established), Jack has, in some capacity, small or gigantic, been pivotal in its life or growth.”

That life-changing heart attack occurred Sept. 9, 2006. Mr. Davis was operating a forklift on Pier 70 when he told the two young men working with him that he was short of breath. They drove him to Kaiser hospital where he had his first heart attack. He was in ICU four days. When he was released less than three weeks later, he had three embedded stents.

On Oct. 5 he sent an e-mail to his friends inviting them to a barbecue at Mission Creek.

“I will stage a photograph opportunity to capture all of you who carried me in your hearts, thoughts, and prayers as my life was saved by the doctors and nurses and technicians at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in San Francisco. I want to send those workers a thank you from all of us.”

He briefly described his ordeal and said his heart had stopped beating for 26 minutes.

“My first recollection post surgery was the deep accent of a Pacific Islander in the night — as I was being turned in bed — ‘Don’t worry, bruhadda, we take care of you.’ He spoke the truth. It seems a miracle that on Thursday, December 28, I was discharged with no restrictions on my activities.”

“Yes, we almost lost him at the hospital,” his sister Lynn Davis said on Sept. 26 at SomArts during a potluck in his honor five days after his death. “We were lucky to have him another year. And he used it well. He got his son in school and finished the boat.”

The boat is a three-story houseboat that was built in 18 months. He lived there with his daughter Sarah, her husband, and their 3-year-old daughter, Olivia. It’s moored at Mission Creek, it was the third boat he had designed. He sold the other two.

The SomArts soirée was an emotional release from the shock of losing Mr. Davis. People drifted in and out helping themselves to a table laden with food, drinking wine and reminiscing. In one corner daughter Sarah Davis joked with artist Carlos Loarca and others about “pregnancy overalls” — her dad’s — that she wore before her daughter was born. “Hand-me-down genes,” someone cracked.

A few feet away Mr. Davis was eerily very much alive, talking easily and thoughtfully on a television monitor from his office in the next room. It was the tape Aguilar had made, after Mr. Davis encouraged him to put his heart into what he loved doing. In this case, film.

Prominent on the walls were posters showing Mr. Davis in overalls pointing to the ‘Re’ sign on SomArts’ roller door outside. Referred to last year’s gallery retrospective of more than 80 Solid artists of the 1960s-70s-80s. Mr. Davis was on the panel that discussed those times and was videotaped.

Jack Davis was born John Arthur Marshall Davis in Phoenix on Nov. 16, 1940. His father was a prominent lawyer who became president of the state bar association and a U.S. District Court judge. He was a cousin of U.S. Sen. Carl Hayden of Arizona, who was close to the family.

After graduating from Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, a Jesuit school, Mr. Davis studied drama in the 1950s and ’60s at the University of Santa Clara and at San Francisco State College. He went south to Newport Beach and became a founding director and lead actor at the South Coast Repertory Theater. He met his first wife, Judith Watson, while playing Macbeth. They were married two weeks later. She explained his transition from stage center to behind the scenes.

“He was a great Shakespearean actor,”
Judy Davis said in an interview, “He was incredible — he won Macbeth. I was there with a friend. He played Willie Loman after that but it was two performances a day — plus a little school project. It just wore him out. He never acted after that.”

She didn’t like Southern California so they came back to San Francisco in 1969. Mr. Davis got a job as technical director in the theater department of Lone Mountain College, now part of USF. Mr. Davis had inherited handy skills from his father and had spent summers “building houses in the Arizona sun,” she said. He worked with Sean McKenna, son of Robert McKenna after whom the theater at San Francisco State is named.

“He could fix anything and he could build anything,” she said.

Their daughter Sarah was born in 1971. But after a few years they separated. Judy stayed in their house on 25th Street and became Chet Helms’ partner. All of them and many friends shared holidays together. Helms became Sarah’s godfather. The Davis’ son Hayden died in 1999 at 24.

Mr. Davis’ organizational skills and fund-raising ability were widely established in the city as his activities evolved. He was personal and trustworthy. He loved reading and was a first rate raconteur, besides. He could pluck irony and essence out of a book and use a measured delivery rich with detail to build interest and drop the foot at the perfect time.

People loved being in his company.

He and Judy Davis were finally divorced in 1985. He married Noriko Tanaka in 1989, the mother of his son Arthur. Divorced now, she lives in Southern California.

In the next weeks, hundreds of people will have Jack Davis on their minds, seeing his face, remembering the details of their experiences with him. E-mails will traverse the country much like one between old friends Doug McKechnie in Oakland and Eric Val Reuther in Florida. McKechnie took the group picture to send to Kaiser staff. Reuther, son of the late labor leader Walter Reuther, was working with the Neighborhood Arts Program when it hired Mr. Davis to maintain NAP’s sound and stage equipment. Both men knew him since 1969.

In an 800-word reminiscence on Oct. 4, Reuther said that when he met “Jack and Judy” they had epitomized “all the beauty and brilliance emerging at that time. I fell in love with both of them instantly.”

NAP had a limited budget, he said, and Mr. Davis’ share was small.

“But there was a new jobs program being trotted out in SF called CETA, and Jack used it smartly to build his fabulous staff and NAP’s service capability,” Reuther wrote. “Jack’s service to SF through his NAP work is an entire story in itself.”

Reuther described more of Mr. Davis’ accomplishments, heroics, endless and seemingly effortless generosity and concluded:

“Jack lived the Ruskin quote: ‘When love and skill work together expect a masterpiece.’

“He was one beautiful, grand, huge masterpiece.’”

Mr. Davis saved him when he was at death’s door the month before. That’s him near the center, seated, wearing a hat.
JOSEPH WILLIAM SHELTON
Electrician, troubadour

Joe Shelton and Rene McIntyre were a hit at the reopening of the Empress Hotel in September 2007, playing and singing songs, he on guitar, she on keyboards. A song the amateur troubadours did with great feeling was “Angel,” made popular by singer Sarah McLachlin, about traveling musicians facing hardships on the road.

This was one of many memories shared at the memorial for Joseph William Shelton on Sept. 25 in the Empress Community Room where Mr. Shelton had often performed. The 14 mourners said Mr. Shelton’s smile, sensitivity and generous personality won him as many friends as his music.

A Vietnamese veteran and electrician by trade, Mr. Shelton was diagnosed less than a year ago with brain cancer. He died Sept. 4 at the Mattie Rogers near Church and Duboce streets. He was 55.

“He was the epitome of an honest man,” said a man in the front row.

“He had a vision of how people should be treated,” said a woman in the back, “but not always the solution.”

“He faced death with dignity and courage,” said another man.

Property manager Roberta Goodman said Mr. Shelton was instrumental in achieving the feeling of camaraderie at the hotel. When he served on the tenant council, he had big ideas for everyone’s welfare. “He was full of them,” she said. “He had a passion to create a food program. And he wanted people to change. The frustration (when change didn’t come) would drive him bazy.”

But Mr. Shelton’s wish for more nutritious food for Empress residents came to fruition a few months before his death. Goodman created the Empress Food Market. Every Thursday afternoon residents can pick up a large canvas bag of produce and grains that she gets from the Food Bank. “It’s enough to last almost a week,” she said. “These are people with very limited means. And it’s hardly $1.88 a person.

The hotel is operated by the Department of Public Health for formerly homeless. Mr. Shelton became a resident June 8, 2005, through the Health Care for Homeless Veterans program.

Nutrition was one of Mr. Shelton’s many concerns for all people in the Tenderloin, said Shivi Blake, 31, a guitar-playing friend from Noe Valley who met him playing open mike music four years ago.

The two played at Bazaar in the Richmond, Dylan’s in the Fillmore and at Canvas Gallery on Ninth Avenue. They went to music festivals together and camped and hiked in Marin County and Tahoe.

“He was very talented and had written about 10 songs,” Blake said. “He had lyrics for another 50. He was interested in politics, homelessness and technical things about electricity and cars.”

Mr. Shelton was originally from Birmingham, Ala. After two years of junior college, he joined the Air Force and served 1972-76. He took his discharge in Alabama and rode a motorcycle down the West Coast to Half Moon Bay, a place that enchanted him. But he returned to Birmingham and got a job as an aircraft mechanic.

“He was smart, well-traveled and self-taught,” his former wife, Carol Balch, then a college art student, wrote in a letter Goodman read aloud. “That was the Joe Shelton I fell in love with.” They married and had a son, Joseph Allen Shelton.

In 1981, Mr. Shelton, then 29, ran for Birmingham City Council. He wanted to “create a mass transit industry that would provide jobs and revenue for the city,” he said in a reprinted Birmingham News article. He didn’t win, and his wife wrote that the city still lacks adequate transportation.

Copies of the article were on a table along with copies of the October 2006 Central City Extra, which featured a tenant talent show at the Empress and on page 7 was a photo of Mr. Shelton. His opening song was about being transported back to love, family, beauty and serenity. He finished with “Get Together,” a Love Generation anthem that goes: “Moon people, please smile on your brother, everybody get together, try to love one another right now.”

“He really helped knit people together,” said Goodman. “He’s someone who cared about the community. He touched people.”

Blake had put a half dozen of Mr. Shelton’s self-produced CDs for anyone to take on a table near the candles and a bouquet. He was assigned to take care of Mr. Shelton’s ashes. They will be scattered in San Francisco Bay and possibly Half Moon Bay, where another music festival was held.

At the end, before refreshments were served, Rene McIntyre went to the front and played an electric piano and, in a pretty voice that didn’t waver, sang “Angel,” which ended...

...you are pulled from the wreckage of your silent reverie

you’re in the arms of the angel

you may find some comfort here.

—TOM CARTER

TENDERLOIN HEALTH
A continuum of care

Outreach and Community Events October 2007

Health Promotion Forum
Topic: Supersrophine / “Bup”
Speaker: Dr. Carina Gomez and Mary Rogers,
San Francisco Department of Public Health
Date/Time: Tuesday, October 16, 12 noon - 1:30 pm

HIV Treatment Forum
Topic: Living Well with HIV/AIDS
Speaker: Roberta Goodman, Brinna-Wyss Supthal
Date/Time: Monday, October 15, 3 pm - 4 pm

Client Advisory Panel
Come talk with Tenderloin Health’s Board Client Representative(s)
and program managers about plans for Tenderloin Health. Also provide
input on new services and how we can improve.
Date/Time: Wednesday, October 10, 11:30 am - 1 pm;
Wednesday, October 24, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health
Orientation: Sunday, October 14, 12 pm - 6:30 pm
220 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor
Lunch provided
You must register for volunteer trainings.
Sign in or call Emile (415) 437-3900 ext. 234
For a schedule of our current events or for more information call 415.437-7476 or go to www.tenderloinhealth.org
that came to fruition. A peaceful march to City Hall was another. On May 8, 200 people dramatized their fears by walking across homicide and accident sites before ending inside the Board of Supervisors' chamber with a plea for safety.

Hillard told the committee the neigh-
borhood was among the Crime Response
Network in this nonprofit problem
solving operates in the Western Addition, Bayview-Hunters Point and the Mission.

TNT looked forward also, she said, to the mayor’s proposed Community Justice Center to deal with quality of life issues, and asked for it to be located in the Tenderloin.

“People are forced to live in fear, like
ghetto-ization,” David Seward, chief fi-
cancial officer of Hastings Law School, told the supes. “Violence has increased. A drug war is in the neighborhood and it’s incumbent on the city to come together to address this.”

Clark Danwood, dean of Student Affairs at the Art Institute of California-San Francisco at 1170 Market St., said the school’s 1,500 students and 250 faculty thread their way daily through U.N. Plaza under random threats of violence. “Three weeks ago there was a shooting outside,” he said. School President James Campbell asked the committee: “What can we do on a short-term basis?”

Just “to traverse the landscape” is dif-
cult, said lawyer Elaine Zamora, who runs the Tenderloin Community Board District out of her 118 Jones St. office, a Safe Haven.

“We need help to make our neighborhood livable.”

One middle-age man who walks through the TL on his way to his Union Square job said he was accidently bumped into a man, turned to apologize and saw a hypo-
dermic needle hanging in the man’s arm.

Randi Shaw, Tenderloin Executive Adviser for the TL Community Board District Executive director, stepped to the mike to testify. Shaw said a few minutes ago he’d been in his office watching the hearing on SFGTV and felt compelled to walk over to City Hall and publicly endorse Capt. Jimenez — because no one had yet men-
tioned Jimenez, his enthusiasm and con-
tribution to the Tenderloin. The room burst into applause. Shaw said he was happy that Jimenez — originally an interim replace-
ment for Capt. Kathryn Craig — had not been among Chief Heather Fries’ reassig-
ments of station commanders.

“Captains come and go,” Shaw said.

“That’s what we need in the community Capt. Jimenez is so motivated it’s like a personal mission.”

Jimenez came to the podium to ask for the approval as the fact, he said later, that no one called for more neighborhood police stations.

On the 10-months heading into station, his officers have turned in record arrest
numbers, but other dealers rush in to take

t up the slack, he says. He has been contin-
ually frustrated by the drug and quality of life issues that overwhelm his department.

The most recent figures show that calls for serv-
ice in the neighborhood jumped 21% in the first eight months of 2007.

He made it clear to the committee that he wants legislation enabling his officers to
clear nightclubs of drug dealers, panhan-
dlers, drunks, crazies, encampments and sleepers. Having to walk a daily “gauntlet,” he said, the supervisors, deputies and ter-
rorizes families, seniors and the disabled, while appalling everyone else.

In the context of his department makes “makes more arrests per capita than any-
where in America.” But the system justice, he added, doesn’t meet its meaningful con-
sequences for violators.

“But laws can make it illegal to litter,” Jimenez said, I think people want it.” He has heard for months at community meet-
ings in his police station and elsewhere how sick and tired people are of the filthy, threat-
ening streets.

“It’s the environment,” Jimenez said. And a lot of the victims are the weak and vulnerable. “And there’s not a damn thing we can do about it.”

“I sure as hell need a lot of help with the environment.”

“I promise you, if we had that and exercised zero tolerance, it would devastate drug traffic in the Tenderloin. And it would clear a sidewalk path for people to go to work and kids to walk to school.”

Gang members, squeezed out by heat in the Tenderloin, addition, the Mission and Bayview, have come into the TL with dope and guns. TL’s homicide rate has jumped. For the first six months of 2007 there were eight homicides compared with five in 2006, according to figures provided at the hearing by the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice. In answer to a question from Daly, Jimenez said six of the killings this year were gang-
related. A possible seventh came Oct. 3 at 4 a.m. when a 17-year-old was shot and killed while standing at Ellis and Larkin.

The TL’s gritty reputation is a magnet. Only 3% of suspects arrested here have addresses in the Tenderloin, Jimenez report-
ed at his community police meeting on July 31.

Not all the Public Safety supes were aware of the Tenderloin’s worsening condi-
tions.

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell said she was shopping on Market Street and was amazed when she wandered near the demarcation between Fifth and Sixth streets, and found not a dirty curtain drops there and Market Street morphs from spiffy shop-
ners’ territory into a grimy scene of random beggars, downstrewn and shut up front

She was overwhelmed by the smell of stale urine near Sixth Street as tourists

walked nearby.

“How embarrassed I was because it looked bad and smelled so bad,” Maxwell said. “Don’t give up. My commitment is to do whatever it takes to improve the environ-
ment.”

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A tale of 2 cities

T ENDELIN’s police Capt. Gary Jimenez, at the super-

visors’ Public Safety Committee hearing, named

Seattle and Los Angeles as two cities with programs for dealing with idle populations that are magnets for crime. Both have found ways to put the squeeze on loiter-

ers without actually passing loitering laws, which he told The Extra in his office later, are virtually unenforceable.

“I don’t have a problem with a tired person sitting on the sidewalks — I’ve done that — but they shoot up and soon you’ve got an environment that invites that criminal element,” he said.

“It’s a matter of displacement,” he added. “You can’t move people out unless there’s another place for them to go.” Seattle directs them to another part of town. Los Angeles restricts the time a person can be in a certain area. LA’s approach is probably the most compatible with San Francisco’s policies, he said.

LA police Cmdr. Andrew Smith told The Extra his city put 50 more cops in a 50-block downtown area that included a skid row, created a “safe sleep area” there, trimmed trees, picked up trash and added lights.

Crime is down 80% and homeless are down 60%, Smith said. “The central downtown hasn’t been safer in our own lifetimes. It’s phenomenal improvement.”

Sleeping in the beds, as the targeted LA area is called, is banned 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Homeless can snooze after that, but if a cop taps someone awake at 6 a.m. the choice is jail or see a social worker with the chance for services and 21 days in a shelter. Either way, the person gets medical screening.

“Homeless advocates say it mean-spited,” Smith said. “I don’t understand them. The proof is in the pudding. People are getting arrested now, not dying,”

In Seattle, an ordinance excludes homeless from parks, and a raft of trespass laws — with no appeal — can result in arrest for leaning on a rail or sitting in a parking lot. Seattle has 5,500 homeless and only 2,900 shelter beds, according to the Seattle Displacement Coalition’s Web site.

The ACLU is one of a dozen groups protesting Seattle’s laws. ACLU also is unhappy with LA’s safe sleep area. A recent UCLA study of the initiative found that of the 1,000 people cited each month, few can pay the fines and risk jail time.

“We were promised that in addition to law enforce-
m ent we would be seeing more beds and more programs to treat the homeless,” said ACLU lawyer Peter Bebrin in the Los Angeles Daily News. “Well, there hasn’t been no more social programs added and what we are left with is the police function.”

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-TOM CARTER

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