Chances are, if you're not careful, you'll get mugged

**BY TOM CARTER**

T

**Never get overconfident about your ability to walk through the Tenderloin.**

The bad news is the Tenderloin has more robberies per square block than any of the other nine police districts in town. The good news is — or, at least, what we refer to as a violent city as robberies can be sometimes — they're not getting any riper and the number is down. If a projection holds, robberies will be down 2% this year from last.

Still, the vulnerable poor, elderly and disabled residents, with few dollars on them, cautiously navigate streets day and night in the city's poorest and most densely populated neighborhood looking over their shoulders, hoping their number won't come up in the roulette of robbery probability. Everyone who hasn't been robbed knows someone who has. Sometimes it's brutal.

A Central City Extra study of the Tenderloin's 64 robberies during a 90-day period March 12-June 9 shows that among the 24 intersections comprising the TL police district, only one, at Mason-O'Farrell, didn't have a robbery within a half block of it. The Jones Street corridor from Market to O'Farrell had 12 robberies in or near it, the most of any street.

Those who recklessly brandish iPhones and laptops as they pass through the Tenderloin have every reason to be cautious, too. The items are prime booty for desperate people pulling "opportunistic robberies," which most are, police say. Even if victims aren't injured, a mugging still makes a haunting, indelible memory that can shake confidence in the security of the community, as the attempt on me did.

Never get overconfident about your ability to walk safely through the Tenderloin. That's my personal rule now.

I was a victim of an attempted bodily force robbery May 26 on my way from Market and Seventh streets to the police community meeting at the Jones and Eddy station. Going up Jones, I took a detour east on Turk to ask some questions of the Tenderloin liquor's owner. Walking on Turk's north side, I saw the usual crowd in the middle of the 100 block.

I've walked the TL six years. I know where the idlers congregate, how they act, when to be casually evasive and when to cross the street. It helps that I'm a nimble, former high school point guard, a lifelong tennis player and in denial of my 70 years.

It was around 6 p.m., sunny and pleasant with normal street and side traffic. I was walking through maybe eight people, quickly, with longish steps, head slightly down, eyes fixed ahead, concentrating on questions I'd soon ask the store owner. Suddenly, just past the Camelot Hotel, a man who had been leaning against the wall to my left...
**GOOD NEWS**

Lanita Henriquez, program management: www.sfgov.org/ccg or wide totaled $500,000. Information to the Central City SRO Collaborative, San Francisco Tenants Union and the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco — says that the suspension policy unfairly discriminates between SRO residents and other apartment dwellers and violates the Postal Service’s own regulations. Instead of responding to those charges, the Postal Service will press the narrow argument that the city of San Francisco lacks the legal standing to sue a federal agency in this instance. The suspension of individual mail delivery in SROs, announced by the Postal Service in December, is one of its efforts to remedy “fiscal shortfalls,” a self-described $7 billion revenue short of the Postal Service in December, is one of its efforts to remedy “fiscal shortfalls,” a self-described $7 billion revenue shortfall. In the past year, USPS has closed or consolidated nearly 700 administrative centers nationwide, offered early retirement to 150,000 postal employees, reduced the number of collection boxes and raised the cost of first-class postage. In early August, the Postal Service released a list of hundreds of post offices under review for closure or consolidation, including three in San Francisco: Bernal Heights, McLaren Park and the new Federal Building.

Although the Tenderloin’s main postal facility at 101 Hyde St. was mentioned for possible closure, on the Postal Service Website, it didn’t make the final list. These are tough economic times for everyone,” said James Wigdel, USPS spokesman in San Francisco. In a phone interview: “The Postal Service has to address revenue losses and is looking at everything, including routes, schedules and retail operations. Hyde Street is not on the list for possible closure.” The USPS, he added did not comment on lawsuits.

Stephen Collier, lead attorney for the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, which represents Central City SRO Collaborative, San Francisco Tenants Union and the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco, said, “We have opposed the request to dismiss. We don’t think the USPS will be successful.”

---

**THEATER-LOVERS**

The peri-patetic 10-year-old Bindlestiff Studio, with performances of emerging Filipino-American artists, will stop its wandering early next year and finally move into a long-term venue. In August, the Redevelopment Agency unanimously approved a $525,000 loan to Bindlestiff for constructing a ground-floor, ‘black box’ theater space in the Plaza Apartments at Sixth and Howard streets. Redevelopment bought the property in 2000, razed it in 2003, and in 2006, the 2010 resident artist-occupying Redevelopment’s purchase named Bindlestiff as the new building’s permanent ground-floor tenant, but the theater group was unable to raise funds. Under the terms of the Redevelopment loan, Bindlestiff has to make the space available to other performers at least half the time.

**REAL DO-GOODERS**

The city’s Community Challenge Grant Program makes awards twice a year to residents, businesses, community groups and nonprofits for neighborhood physical improvement projects, especially those that create green spaces, gathering places, public art and other community amenities. Grant awards and matching requirements depend on size and duration. A small six-month project can get up to $10,000 but must find a 50% match; a six-month, medium-size project grant runs from $10,000 to $25,000 and requires a 25% match, for large, one-year projects, grants are $25,000 to $100,000 with a 25% match and proof of successful past projects. Residents or business owners can form a committee or group to implement a project, but they need a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to serve as their fiscal sponsor. The last day to submit applications for this round is Sept. 30. Last round’s recipients included the Vietnamese Elderly Mutual Aid Association, which received $50,000 for its for neighborhood physical improvement projects, especially those that create green spaces, gathering places, public art and other community amenities.

**SRO mail suit faces test**

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

A Federal lawsuit filed by the city attorney in May that challenges the U.S. Postal Service’s suspension of individual mail delivery to SRO residents — even where their buildings provide designating mail as “for SROs” is about to be tested.

Sept. 4 the Postal Service will ask U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White to dismiss the case, according to Jack Song, the city attorney’s deputy press secretary, arguing the city has no legal authority to sue on behalf of SRO residents.

The city’s lawsuit — filed jointly with the Central City SRO Collaborative, the San Francisco Tenants Union and the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco — says that the suspension policy unfairly discriminates between SRO residents and other apartment dwellers and violates the Postal Service’s own regulations. Instead of responding to those charges, the Postal Service will press the narrow argument that the city of San Francisco lacks the legal standing to sue a federal agency in this instance. The suspension of individual mail delivery in SROs, announced by the Postal Service in December, is one of its efforts to remedy “fiscal shortfalls,” a self-described $7 billion revenue shortfall. In the past year, USPS has closed or consolidated nearly 700 administrative centers nationwide, offered early retirement to 150,000 postal employees, reduced the number of collection boxes and raised the cost of first-class postage. In early August, the Postal Service released a list of hundreds of post offices under review for closure or consolidation, including three in San Francisco: Bernal Heights, McLaren Park and the new Federal Building.

Although the Tenderloin’s main postal facility at 101 Hyde St. was mentioned for possible closure, on the Postal Service Website, it didn’t make the final list. These are tough economic times for everyone,” said James Wigdel, USPS spokesman in San Francisco. In a phone interview: “The Postal Service has to address revenue losses and is looking at everything, including routes, schedules and retail operations. Hyde Street is not on the list for possible closure.” The USPS, he added did not comment on lawsuits.

Stephen Collier, lead attorney for the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, which represents Central City SRO Collaborative, San Francisco Tenants Union and the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco, said, “We have opposed the request to dismiss. We don’t think the USPS will be successful.”

---

**THEATER-LOVERS**

The peri-patetic 10-year-old Bindlestiff Studio, with performances of emerging Filipino-American artists, will stop its wandering early next year and finally move into a long-term venue. In August, the Redevelopment Agency unanimously approved a $525,000 loan to Bindlestiff for constructing a ground-floor, ‘black box’ theater space in the Plaza Apartments at Sixth and Howard streets. Redevelopment bought the property in 2000, razed it in 2003, and in 2006, the 2010 resident artist-occupying Redevelopment’s purchase named Bindlestiff as the new building’s permanent ground-floor tenant, but the theater group was unable to raise funds. Under the terms of the Redevelopment loan, Bindlestiff has to make the space available to other performers at least half the time.

**REAL DO-GOODERS**

The city’s Community Challenge Grant Program makes awards twice a year to residents, businesses, community groups and nonprofits for neighborhood physical improvement projects, especially those that create green spaces, gathering places, public art and other community amenities. Grant awards and matching requirements depend on size and duration. A small six-month project can get up to $10,000 but must find a 50% match; a six-month, medium-size project grant runs from $10,000 to $25,000 and requires a 25% match, for large, one-year projects, grants are $25,000 to $100,000 with a 25% match and proof of successful past projects. Residents or business owners can form a committee or group to implement a project, but they need a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to serve as their fiscal sponsor. The last day to submit applications for this round is Sept. 30. Last round’s recipients included the Vietnamese Elderly Mutual Aid Association, which received $50,000 for its for neighborhood physical improvement projects, especially those that create green spaces, gathering places, public art and other community amenities.

**SRO mail suit faces test**

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

A Federal lawsuit filed by the city attorney in May that challenges the U.S. Postal Service’s suspension of individual mail delivery to SRO residents — even where their buildings provide designating mail as “for SROs” is about to be tested.

Sept. 4 the Postal Service will ask U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White to dismiss the case, according to Jack Song, the city attorney’s deputy press secretary, arguing the city has no legal authority to sue on behalf of SRO residents.

The city’s lawsuit — filed jointly with the Central City SRO Collaborative, the San Francisco Tenants Union and the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco — says that the suspension policy unfairly discriminates between SRO residents and other apartment dwellers and violates the Postal Service’s own regulations. Instead of responding to those charges, the Postal Service will press the narrow argument that the city of San Francisco lacks the legal standing to sue a federal agency in this instance. The suspension of individual mail delivery in SROs, announced by the Postal Service in December, is one of its efforts to remedy “fiscal shortfalls,” a self-described $7 billion revenue shortfall. In the past year, USPS has closed or consolidated nearly 700 administrative centers nationwide, offered early retirement to 150,000 postal employees, reduced the number of collection boxes and raised the cost of first-class postage. In early August, the Postal Service released a list of hundreds of post offices under review for closure or consolidation, including three in San Francisco: Bernal Heights, McLaren Park and the new Federal Building.

Although the Tenderloin’s main postal facility at 101 Hyde St. was mentioned for possible closure, on the Postal Service Website, it didn’t make the final list. These are tough economic times for everyone,” said James Wigdel, USPS spokesman in San Francisco. In a phone interview: “The Postal Service has to address revenue losses and is looking at everything, including routes, schedules and retail operations. Hyde Street is not on the list for possible closure.” The USPS, he added did not comment on lawsuits.

Stephen Collier, lead attorney for the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, which represents Central City SRO Collaborative, San Francisco Tenants Union and the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco, said, “We have opposed the request to dismiss. We don’t think the USPS will be successful.”

---

**THEATER-LOVERS**

The peri-patetic 10-year-old Bindlestiff Studio, with performances of emerging Filipino-American artists, will stop its wandering early next year and finally move into a long-term venue. In August, the Redevelopment Agency unanimously approved a $525,000 loan to Bindlestiff for constructing a ground-floor, ‘black box’ theater space in the Plaza Apartments at Sixth and Howard streets. Redevelopment bought the property in 2000, razed it in 2003, and in 2006, the 2010 resident artist-occupying Redevelopment’s purchase named Bindlestiff as the new building’s permanent ground-floor tenant, but the theater group was unable to raise funds. Under the terms of the Redevelopment loan, Bindlestiff has to make the space available to other performers at least half the time.

**REAL DO-GOODERS**

The city’s Community Challenge Grant Program makes awards twice a year to residents, businesses, community groups and nonprofits for neighborhood physical improvement projects, especially those that create green spaces, gathering places, public art and other community amenities. Grant awards and matching requirements depend on size and duration. A small six-month project can get up to $10,000 but must find a 50% match; a six-month, medium-size project grant runs from $10,000 to $25,000 and requires a 25% match, for large, one-year projects, grants are $25,000 to $100,000 with a 25% match and proof of successful past projects. Residents or business owners can form a committee or group to implement a project, but they need a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to serve as their fiscal sponsor. The last day to submit applications for this round is Sept. 30. Last round’s recipients included the Vietnamese Elderly Mutual Aid Association, which received $50,000 for its...
64 robberies in TL in 90 days – on pace to 6-year low

BY TOM CARTER

Central City Extra study of robberies in the Tenderloin from March 12 to June 9 shows a trend of fewer robberies in the last 90 days and reveals some unusual patterns of the crime.

During those 90 days, there were 64 robberies in the 36-block police district, an average of 1.8 per square block, highest in the city. The majority were within two blocks of the police station.

Projecting the quarterly figure, the TL can expect 27% fewer robberies this year than last.


If the 13%–25% up-and-down trend holds true, 2009 will have 256 robberies, the lowest in six years.

The 90-day statistics from the Police Department’s Crime Maps unit reveal that the methods used for robbery were fairly divided: 23 cases of strong arm (using threats), 22 of bodily force (hands on) and 19 with weapons. Most incidents happen at night using the cover of darkness when few witnesses are around and fewer cops on duty. The crime drops off after 2:30 a.m. Robbery is stealing by force or intimidation; burglary, is breaking in to steal.

More police on the street and better communication with residents is happening. Elderly, often reluctant to step forward as robbery victims, “have been getting better at reporting,” says Street Crimes unit Sgt. Mark O’Brachta. “Immigrants, too. We’re not concerned about documentation. We won’t turn anyone over to the INS. We’re a sanctuary city.

People call in (911) or just stop us on the street to tell us what’s going on. We get anonymous tips, too. Maybe someone knows about a drug deal and a gang that’s going to hit it. And, yes, we are authorized to pay for tips, depending on the circumstances.”

The Tenderloin’s population makes it a different kind of robbery turf from other neighborhoods. Store robberies aren’t as frequent here as elsewhere because it’s easier for predators to spot weak targets on the street and snap spontaneously into action.

Anyone alone and reduced by age, drugs or alcohol, or physically impaired, is game. A healthier mark, but alone, can be hit by two to four robbers, too.

Prime booty in these spontaneous crimes of opportunity is purses, ipods, iphones and laptops. Shakedowns for just a few bucks are common, too. Just about every elderly person has a story or knows of someone else’s.

Melissa McNeill, 82, is a 25-year resident of the Tenderloin. She’s been victimized three times, maybe more, she can’t remember. Once she was walking on Leavenworth between Eddy and Turk when a “good-size” black woman appeared out of nowhere, slammed her against the wall, snatched $13 out of her pocket and disappeared around a corner. “I don’t know if she saw it sticking out,” McNeill says, sitting in the Curry Senior Center on a corner. “I don’t know if she saw it sticking out.”

Santiago lost. He suffered two broken ribs, he says, “Cold-cocked her,” said Jackson, another Curry Senior Center regular. “And I was mad.”

The robber ran off with Jackson and others in hot pursuit. Someone called 911 as they ran, giving location updates as they continued west. A volunteer track coach in the East Bay, Jackson, at 72, can still do 40 meters in 6.8 seconds, he says. But carrying a 13-pound backpack that day winded him and his legs were “burning” when the pursuers and arriving police converged in front of Herbst Theater on Van Ness Avenue. Police took the suspect to the ground and made the arrest.

“I just wanted to stomp him, but I didn’t.”

Jackson reported it and it ran in the Examiner’s police blotter.

But a flaring temper can hurt a victim. A few blocks away, Ron Santiago, 60, was finishing his oatmeal one morning in June at an overflown senior drop-in center that requested anonymity. He remembered two months before, in front of his apartment building at Larkin and Ellis at 11 p.m., when he called the desk clerk on his iPhone to let him in. A husky black man in his 30s came up behind him and grabbed the iPhone.


Santiago lost. He suffered two broken ribs, he says,

Special Report

Hastings Parking Garage Open to Public
376 Larkin Street (between McAllister and Golden Gate)

INTRODUCTORY PARKING RATES !!!!

$10/Day – Early Bird
$10 – Evening Rate
$200 – Monthly

Looking for parking near Civic Center, City Hall, Court Buildings, nearby Museums, Theaters or UC Hastings?

We have it for you!!!!

Come try our new garage with convenient and clean self-parking spaces and friendly staff.

Interested in retail space? Our mixed-use garage has available retail spaces on the ground floor.

UC Hastings Parking Garage aims to provide a high level of customer service by demonstrating efficiency and responsiveness to the needs of our patrons.

Visit our web page at: www.uc.hastings.edu/parking for more details.

Contact: Parking Services – 415.355.9618
Information on retail – 415.565.4710
Continued from Page 1

Diamond said, 'but that's what I really like about it. It will bring buzz to the area. It's a big, unusual idea. Maybe it will be what finally brings economic development to mid-Market.'

The proposed district includes 52 buildings. Each could sport new signs — though some might be as small as 2 by 5 feet — bringing much-needed revenue to an area where half the ground-floor retail is shuttered and, Addington estimates, "conservatively," more than 50% of the office space is unoccupied.

Prop. D's biggest hurdle is that it exempts the district from two hard-won zoning laws: One, on the books since 1970, bans all general advertising on Market Street from the Embarcadero to Octavia Boulevard. The other, Proposition G, approved in 2002 by 78% of the voters, prohibits new general advertising citywide.

Furniture and Carpets, the store with Greek columns, would be much smaller than this sky scraper of an ad.

Prop. D would allow signs like this one on the back side of 995 Market St. (facing Mission), but they would be much smaller. Photo by Marjorie Begg.

WHAT THE ORDINANCE SAYS

Eleven sometimes technical pages long, Prop. D calls the proposed district a "distinct segment of downtown … a locale for entertainment and arts institutions." The hope is that signs will give new energy to what’s there now. Theatres include the Golden Gate, Warfield, Market Street Cinema, Crazy Horse, St. Francis and the Regal (both recently closed). The Guild at 1069 Market and the Centre at 1071 Market, both built in the 1920s, closed in 1987 after decades of showing adult films. The number of arts venues is few, but just the Luggage Store and Red Ink Studios.

Prop. G’s citywide ban on general advertising may be appropriate for other locales, but Prop. D calls it "an unfair burden" on mid-Market owners who could use the revenue to "maintain or establish entertainment and arts venues in their building, creating a unified and distinctive visual environment."

The initiative limits signs to 500 square feet, which is measureable compared with the ad on the south side of 995 Market St. (See photo at left.) Allowed, with conditions on height, position, movement and illumination, are roof signs, wind signs, video and digital signs, rotating signs, wall signs, signs with moving parts and illuminated signs. All must conform with the sign district’s stated purposes. To make the area attractive as a tourist destination, reinvigorate mid-Market, retain and not compromise the area’s historic architectural character, and use portions of ad revenue to fund neighborhood youth and arts activities.

The Central Market Community Benefit District, formed in 2006, with boundaries extending from Fifth to 11th along Market Street plus parts of Stevenson, Jessie and Mission streets, will be the sign district’s administrator and fiscal sponsor. When a building owner wants to sell sign space, the first stop for decisions about its conformity and contract review will be a new CBD subcommittee.

Members won’t be named until the initiative passes, if it does, Addington says, but they’ll include experts in architecture, heritage, reps from the Planning Department and the Arts Commission, members from the Central Market and Tenderloin CBDs, small business owners and other neighborhood stakeholders. After the subcommittee vets a proposed sign, it needs permit approval from the Department of Building Inspection.

Property owners don’t get to keep all the revenue from green-lighted billboards. If their building’s ground floor is used primarily for arts activities (as defined by the Planning Code), owners must contribute 20% of the revenue from each sign to a special district fund; if the space isn’t used for arts, they pay 40%.

PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT KIDS

The CBD collects the revenue and decides how to apportion it. The initiative lists priorities: arts education programs for youth — the CBD will probably solicit proposals from neighborhood groups; a Hallidie Plaza booth to sell tickets to arts, entertainment and cultural activities in the district; and CBD expenses for administering the district. Owners can use leftover revenues to promote arts in the area.

Asked how much revenue the district might rake in, Addington says he has no figures yet but has hired someone to create a financial model.

"Ad revenue is based on impressions" — how many people pass a sign on the road or on foot. Addington explained. "The number of impressions in this area is questionable now, but if Prop. D passes and we can offer exclusives to advertisers and show the area is a cool and interesting destination with real-time excitement, advertisers might be able to see beyond the idea of impressions."

He offered some examples of what ads go for: A sign currently up on the Mission Street side of 995 Market brings its property owner $18,000 a month. One of comparable size in Union Square might generate $75,000 a month. A glittery, spectacular billboard in Times Square could pull down $300,000 a month.

FOR AND AGAINST

Addington says he’s talked with the owners of all 52 buildings in the proposed district. "None have reservations about the initiative except Laurie Lazer and Darryl Smith at the Luggage Store [1007 Market] — they’re artists and they have aesthetic concerns." Smith told The Extra that he admires Addington’s enthusiasm, but worries whether there will be a lot of schlock on the two blocks. "I won’t actively fight it," he says, "but I won’t support it either. I’m wary of the ‘artistic presence’ of electronic billboards."

Lazer added, "We’re such a small city and this idea seems so New York."

The Yes on Proposition D ballot statement calls the sign district ‘a community solution’ and names the S.F. Democratic Party, Chamber of Commerce, Supervisors Chu, Alito-Pier, Elsbernd, Duffy, Campos and Maxwell, plus artists, theater, residents, business and labor as its supporters. Conspicuously absent is Supe. Daly. This is his district, but aide Tom Jackson told The Extra that he’s taken no official position.

Part of the proposed sign district falls within the Tenderloin CBD’s boundaries. Two of its committee reviewed the initiative; one voted to recommend that the full board support it, the other that the full CBD board weigh in with "no recommendation." The full board votes Sept. 21. SPUR has voted to support the proposition. San Francisco Architectural Heritage has yet to take a stand.

"There is a place for signage in that area, but if Prop. D passes and we can offer exclusives to advertisers and show the area is a cool and interesting destination with real-time excitement, advertisers might be able to see beyond the idea of impressions."

He offered some examples of what ads go for: A sign currently up on the Mission Street side of 995 Market brings its property owner $18,000 a month. One of comparable size in Union Square might generate $75,000 a month. A glittery, spectacular billboard in Times Square could pull down $300,000 a month.
Market faces an ‘uphill battle’

“People use the inflatable advertising only when they can’t get any other kind of sign permit,” he told The Extra later. “We’ll be able to do things that are really cool — that are illuminated and digital — so why would we do that?”

Board President Katie O’Brien, development manager for Martin Building Co., pressed for careful crafting of design and attention to preservation with clear controls on signage. The CBD has a reputation to protect, she said. Addington, a former board member that for their next meeting he’d have an initiative master plan, which he’s creating with CBD Executive Director Leigh Ann Baughman told The Extra that anyone walking down the street would be forced to look at general advertising all the time. “It takes away from each individual, without asking.” Static billboards are bad enough, but digital ones “are 501 times worse.” The city has none now. She does like the idea of the CBD managing the district and some ad revenues flowing back into the community, but the initiative, she says, is “weakly written” and lacks restrictions. Even now, billboard companies are flaunting general advertising mandates, and she believes a special general advertising district would compound the city’s work to keep billboards under control. 

By late August, others in the CBD board of the S.F. chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Jack Gold, Heritage executive director, says that building owners and sign companies make so much money, the incentives to violate laws are great. GASP’s penalties, he says, are too weak. If an illegal 2,500-square-foot sign isn’t removed within 30 days of notice, the responsible party — the building owner and the sign company together — rack up $2,500 a day in penalties.

Sider says he can’t comment on Prop. D or, if it passes, how likely it is that property owners in the sign district would become scofflaws.

GASP has had successes, but at a cost. As of Aug. 3, 327 signs had been removed, and fierce legal challenges are typical. Sider says the latest GASP report shows total revenues of $143,425 for the first quarter of fiscal 2008-09, with $50,000 of that from fines and penalties. Expenditures were $139,635 for the same period — and $123,000 of that went to city attorney staff.

—Marjorie Beggs

Half reviewed signs are ‘illegal’

PLANNING Department Ombudsman Dan Sider probably knows more about billboards than anyone in the city.

He heads Planning’s GASP (General Advertising Sign Program), which tries to improve enforcement of signage laws. In a year and a half, GASP has identified 1,509 general advertising signs citywide and evaluated more than half of them.

Forty-seven percent of the signs we reviewed are completely illegal,” Sider said. They had no permit and were required to be removed. Another 25% were reviewed were out of compliance with their permit — they were bigger or taller, for example. The rest were legal.

Sider says that building owners and sign companies make so much money, the incentives to violate laws are great. GASP’s penalties, keyed to size, also can be great. If an illegal 2,500-square-foot sign isn’t removed within 30 days of notice, the responsible party — the building owner and the sign company together — rack up $2,500 a day in penalties.

Sider says he can’t comment on Prop. D or, if it passes, how likely it is that property owners in the sign district would become scofflaws.

GASP has had successes, but at a cost. As of Aug. 3, 327 signs had been removed, and fierce legal challenges are typical. Sider says the latest GASP report shows total revenues of $143,425 for the first quarter of fiscal 2008-09, with $50,000 of that from fines and penalties. Expenditures were $139,635 for the same period — and $123,000 of that went to city attorney staff.

—Marjorie Beggs

Luminous and classic facade at 1019-21 Market S., building's side if Proposition D passes.

The city attorney’s office and Department of Building Inspection have written analyses of Prop. D on the Elections Department Website.

What goes up。”

For some who live and work in the area, the Mid-Market Special Sign District looks like the best bet to make much-needed repairs. Architect William Worthen is a green consultant to the mayor’s office, on the board of the S.F. chapter of the American Institute of Architects, owns a condo in Mint Plaza and joined the Central Market CBD board a year ago. He can’t think of another two blocks in the city where a special sign district would be more appropriate, he says. “It was an electronically illuminated theater district years ago, and that’s what people expected to return to that. Also, this is our neighborhood, we have a vested interest in it, so we’re going to be careful what goes up.”

In two months, Prop. D will go before all the voters, not just mid-Market neighbors. The Extra asked Addington what he would say to the general electorate. “This will enhance the city’s reputation,” he said.

S.F. Beautiful begs to differ: “San Francisco residents and millions of tourists would suffer a commercially blighted skyline.”

Or, maybe, it will push the advertising envelope and force the media to be equal to the challenge of the message. In this case, that means bringing the creative urges that are surg ing in the central city to public awareness.

Marjorie Beggs says Jack Gold, Heritage executive director. “We’re eager to work more closely on the issue, but we need to move forward cautiously. I know David is looking to restore the cultural vitality of that area, but our members and neighborhood stakeholders have several concerns. Size is one.”

The city attorney’s office and Department of Building Inspection have written analyses of Prop. D on the Elections Department Website. Taking BART to The Fringe! produced by EXTi Theatre

SEPTEMBER 2009 / CENTRAL CITY EXTRA 5
“I came here and slept on the floor,” said the first woman, younger and taller, who said she lives in the Tenderloin. “It was the first place he got. It was good for us. He never missed a month’s rent. I knew him ten years.”

The other woman knew him longer.

“I slept outdoors with him and in a truck,” said the second woman, her eyes downcast. “She paused. ‘I found a place to live.’ She passed. ‘I’d be so mad at him and turn around do the same thing again for him. No apologies from him, ever.’

‘Ours was a weird relationship,’ said the first. ‘He took care of me, and then it all turned around. We'll definitely miss him.’

Yeah, asking for cigarettes,” Sollars said lightly. “I always had a couple. He was never annoying and always appreciated it.”
—Tom Carter

DASCHLY LA DAY
Truck driver
He was Dash to his friends and the staff at the Senator Hotel, but Scooter to his family. To all he was pleasant, a joy and uncomplaining, and everyone at his Aug. 20 memorial — his birthday — said they would miss him.

Daschly La Day died in his room Aug. 9, just 11 days before he would have turned 44.

“He was one of the nicest people I’ve ever met, always there for others,” said Isabella Marshall, the hotel manager.

Among the 20 people gathered to remember Mr. La Day were his mother, Jewel La Day, and two aunts, Iris Jasper and Doris Samuel.

Ms. Samuel recalled the last time she’d seen Mr. La Day. “I’m from Beaumont, Texas, and he called me ‘La Day.’”

Mr. La Day was born in Beaumont, moved to California with his family as an infant and graduated from Balboa High School. He and his wife of 10 years had four daughters and four grandchildren. About four years ago, he moved into the Senator, but he didn’t come alone. With him were his two teenage daughters. Kelly McNeil, his staff counselor of 12 years, remembers how he said what he wanted most was to make a home for himself and his two children.

“I’m really shocked at his passing,” McNeil said. “But I will remember him as a kind man who loved to stop in and talk — though he often did that at 4:58 p.m., just two minutes before I was scheduled to leave.”

Mr. La Day’s most recent counselor, Jena Sevillano, recalled how independent he was, but how much he loved his family. “There was real joy on his face when he talked about his children and grandchildren and going on vacation with his mother,” Sevillano said. “He told me, ‘I do everything with her.’

Warren Chutman, a Senator resident for 15 years who befriended the much younger Mr. La Day, said going off on trips was important to him. “He always talked about taking vacations. We also talked about arthritis — I have it and he did, too. He was a nice kid.”

Marshall said that Mr. La Day had physical problems stemming from vehicle accidents, from the time when he was truck driver. His last job was driving for the Food Bank, before his disabilities made the work too difficult.

“He was a kind man who loved to stop in and talk — though he often did that at 4:58 p.m., just two minutes before I was scheduled to leave.”
—Marjorie Beggs

CARY STOWE
A man with friends
Cary Stowe was a happy-go-lucky guy — always up, always said hello, loved to talk about sports — a gray hair to say no to, his friends said at his July 24 memorial service. But he couldn’t kick his worst habit, even when he could hardly walk.

“He had emphysema,” said Mr. Stowe’s neighbor Jon Sollars, a fellow smoker who had quit 14 months earlier, yet still bought off-brand cigarettes to give to anybody who bummed them, mainly Mr. Stowe.

“We used to talk about respiratory issues,” Sollars continued. “He had trouble breathing just walking up Eighth Street. The Wednesday (July 8) before he died he came by and he looked ashly. I told him to go to the hospital right away.”

Sollars uses liquid oxygen for his respiratory condition and keeps it handy. That Wednesday, following his daily routine, Mr. Stowe knocked on Sollars’ door across the hall to bum a cigarette. Surprised at the look of him, Mr. Stowe knocked on Sollars’ door across the hall.

That Wednesday, following his daily routine, Mr. Stowe knocked on Sollars’ door across the hall to bum a cigarette. Surprised at the look of him, Mr. Stowe knocked on Sollars’ door across the hall.

“Yeah, asking for cigarettes,” Sollars said lightly. “I always had a couple. He was never annoying and always appreciated it.”
—Tom Carter

SOUTHSIDE
Two of Mr. Stowe’s female friends arrived late, bereaved and somber.

“We had a couple. He was never annoying and always appreciated it.”
—Marjorie Beggs

The memorial ended with a soulful gospel, “Lord, take my hand and lead your child back home,” sung by hotel resident Rita Whittaker.

“Ours was a weird relationship,” said the first. “He took care of me, and then it all turned around. We'll definitely miss him.”
—Tom Carter

About four years ago, he moved into the Senator, but he didn’t come alone. With him were his two teenage daughters. Kelly McNeil, his staff counselor of 12 years, remembers how he said what he wanted most was to make a home for himself and his two children.

“I’m really shocked at his passing,” McNeil said. “But I will remember him as a kind man who loved to stop in and talk — though he often did that at 4:58 p.m., just two minutes before I was scheduled to leave.”

Mr. La Day’s most recent counselor, Jena Sevillano, recalled how independent he was, but how much he loved his family. “There was real joy on his face when he talked about his children and grandchildren and going on vacation with his mother,” Sevillano said. “He told me, ‘I do everything with her.’

Warren Chutman, a Senator resident for 15 years who befriended the much younger Mr. La Day, said going off on trips was important to him. “He always talked about taking vacations. We also talked about arthritis — I have it and he did, too. He was a nice kid.”

Marshall said that Mr. La Day had physical problems stemming from vehicle accidents, from the time when he was truck driver. His last job was driving for the Food Bank, before his disabilities made the work too difficult.

“He was a kind man who loved to stop in and talk — though he often did that at 4:58 p.m., just two minutes before I was scheduled to leave.”
—Marjorie Beggs

Ground Zero Poetry Reading
at 21 Club, Taylor & Turk
8 p.m., Wed., Sept. 9
Ed Bowers, emcee

Our goal is simple: to provide San Francisco patients with high quality, affordable medicinal cannabis and related products.

The Green Cross
Medical Cannabis Delivery
415.648.4420
THEGREENCROSS.ORG
12 PM to 7 PM
We deliver.

Your body. Your choice. Your life. We are proud to have more than 40+ strains of indica, sativa and hybrid cannabis, oils, tinctures, pills, sprays, teas, body balms, and an array of incredibly delicious edibles.

Become a Green Cross member today. Call us at 415.648.4420 or visit Thegreencross.org
Only individuals with legally recognized Medical Cannabis documentation may obtain cannabis from Medical Cannabis Dispensaries.
MY STORY

Our reporter foils seething mugger

came around to my right side and fell into perfect step with me. His left arm went around my left shoulder. I figured it was someone I knew or some- one who knew me as a neighborhood newspaper reporter and had something to say. But it seemed strange and he was just a blur at my side when I felt something pointed and hard jab against my right ribs, concealed by his coat. It felt like a knuckle. ‘Got any money?’ he growled. I hadn’t looked at him. It happened in blinding speed, three seconds, maybe four.

I didn’t think, just reacted. I spun off his arm toward the wall, whirling to face him, knees slightly bent and leaning forward, the ready position in tennis to receive a serve. The wall now at my back and he in front of me. I was rapped by this 5-foot-10 latinos of medium build in a light gray hoodie that fell a foot below his waist. He wore baggy denim pants and was in his late 20s, early 30s. He reset to face me, too, and was hunched forward, arms spread and ready to grab me if I bolted.

My heart was still racing when it dawned on me how I had dropped my guard. I had been overcon- fident and preoccupied. I hadn’t even looked at the edge of the crowd, not disappearing or fading into it but fixed, staring back at me, daring me to return.

When a predator strikes, an arrest of team of at least four officers in the plainclothes division of the Street Services and spot an opportunity, then linger in the hood after their dirty work. That’s because many hold their dinners in the Tenderloin and at the edge of it,” he said, “they wish—at a lunchtime music-themed rock out at a Ban(ne)d Books Week event

San Francisco Public Library

Have Lunch with the Banned!

SF Main Library, Larkin Street steps Thursday October 1, 2009, Noon-1:30 p.m.

Join Bay Area writers and musicians including Frank Portman, Jack Bouliare, Kathi Kamen Goldmark, Ben Fong-Torres, Penelope Houston, Patricio Johnson, Richie Unterberger, Roy Zimmerman, emcee Jewelle Gomez and more.

Celebrate the freedom for everyone to read what they want—and rock out as they wish—at a lunchtime music-themed Ban(ne)d Books reading and performance on the Larkin Street steps of the Main Library

American Library Association

Banned Books Week


The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is partnering with the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to help improve Boeddeker Park.

WE NEED YOU!

Tell us what would make the park a better place.

PLEASE JOIN US:

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 (Wed), 5:30-7:00pm
OCTOBER 3, 2009 (Sat), 11:00am-12:30pm
OCTOBER 20, 2009 (Tues), 3:30-5:00pm

LOCATION: Boeddeker Park Clubhouse
240 Eddy Street

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) at (415) 495-5660 orJennifer.Worth@tpl.org, or Marvin Yee, at (415) 581-2541 ormarvin.yee@tpl.org.
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**
Public meetings to discuss recommendations for spending $4 million on Boeddeker Park improvements by Trust of Public Land. Sept. 16, 5:30-7 p.m.; Oct. 3, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Oct. 20, 3:30-5 p.m., all at the Boeddeker Clubhouse. Contact: Meghan Pecaut, 495-5660 x 531.

Community meeting and presentation on California Pacific Medical Center’s Cathedral Hill Campus (Geary and Van Ness), Wed., Sept. 9, 6 p.m., 201 Turk community room. Refreshments and door prizes. Co-sponsored by a coalition of community groups.

Positively 6th Street Fair, Sat., Sept. 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Stevenson Alley between 6th and 7th streets. Live music, dance and cultural performances, children’s play area, family activities, food, community information tables and booths, free health and social services, employment assistance. Info: positively6thstreetfair.org. To volunteer: Mental Amitai, 538-8100, ext. 202.

**ART EVENTS**

2009 Fringe Festival, EXIT Theatre’s 18th annual showcase of 41 performances, runs Sept. 9-20. For play descriptions, tie, locations, dates and times: sffringe.org.

Concert at Boeddeker Park. Jazz by Mel and “The Melotones,” Wed., Sept. 16, noon-1 p.m. Concerts made possible by TL Benefit District’s $1,500 grant to Friends of Boeddeker Park.

Parking Day, an impromptu community garden in front of Central City Hospitality House’s arts studio, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Park(ing) Day, an impromptu community garden in front of Central City Hospitality House’s arts studio, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 290 Turk. Features recordings from Tender Transmissions, an aerial network of recordings from Tenderloin residents. Info: Niki Savage, 741-2133.

Central City Hospitality House’s arts studio, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH**

CBHS Consumer Council. 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard, room 537. Call: 255-3965. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Assoc., 870 Market, Suite 928. 421-2926 x306.

Healthcare Team Action. 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Call James Chonsoni, 703-0188 x304.


Mental Health Board. 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 5th Fl. Call: 905-6264. Family member group, open to the public.

**SAFETY**

Safety for Women in the Tenderloin, every 3rd Wednesday, Central City SRO Collaborative, 449 Turk St., 4-6 p.m. Informal, friendly environment, refreshments, gender sensitive to LGBTIQ community and sex workers. Discuss how to make Tenderloin SROs safer for women. Information: Alexandra Goldman, volunteer campaign coordinator, 775-7110 x102.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department’s free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. See www.sfgov.org/nertraining, or call Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

Sokha Police Community Relations Forum. 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly e-mail info: Mental Amitai, 538-8100 x520 or mamilai@sfist.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting. Last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

**NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT**

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy. Contact: Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_distrinct6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

**COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE**

**HOUSING**

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month. noon, 201 Turk. Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8337. Resident unity, leadership training.

**SENIORS AND DISABLED**

Mayor’s Disability Council. 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior Action Network, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior Action Network, third Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Information: 538-3956 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses taking on neighborhood development issues.

**COMMUNITY MEETING**

You are invited Community Meeting Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 6PM 201 Turk Street, Community Room Presentation on: California Pacific Medical Center’s Cathedral Hill Campus at Geary & Van Ness Avenue Refreshments provided Arrive Early Door Prizes Co-Sponsored by: Alliance for a Better District 6, Bay Area Women’s and Children’s Center, Black Brothers Initiative, Central City SRO Collaborative, Citywide Senior Center, The Green Beast, La Vue Latte, Market Street Associates, the Nevada Arts District, Rincon Hill Neighborhood Association, San Francisco Nonprofit Network, Senior Action Network, SRO Leadership Council, Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation, Tenant Association Coalition of San Francisco, Youth with a Mission, 222 Hyde, and 599 Cultural Center