



Annual Meeting Report

First, we thank Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, District Attorney Brooke Jenkins, and SF Standard reporter Mike Ege for speaking at our Annual Meeting on September 12. Mr. Ege provided an excellent overview on recent SF political developments and near-term issues; D.A. Jenkins answered our questions on her prosecutorial priorities and plans; and Supervisor Mandelman fielded questions on issues such as Castro street conditions, policing, safe injection sites, and city finances. We had an excellent neighborhood turnout for this remote meeting. Thank you to those who attended!

Second, we can report the results of the Annual Election: all director candidates were elected, and the two referenda — one that slightly expanded our boundaries, the other a proposal to support the Castro Merchants' demand of the city to improve street conditions in the Castro — passed with 95% of the votes "yes." To the CHN members who voted: thank you!

And, thanks also to the several new CHN members who joined in the past few weeks!

Neighborhood News

Ord/17th Intersection

In response to neighborhood and CHN complaints about the safety of this intersection and after the re-paving of 17th street, the City recently added wide, white pedestrian crossing stripes across 17th, smaller ones at Ord. This is a good start to improving that intersection.

Castro Merchants' Letter to the City

Following the near unanimous vote of the CHN membership, CHN again wrote the Castro Merchants group to offer our organization's support for their pleas to the City. We described the Merchants' letter in some detail in our September newsletter, which is accessible on the home page of our website. We will await word from that group on what more we can do, if anything.

Coyotes and Corona Heights II

San Francisco Recreation and Parks announced that as of Tuesday October 5 the Corona Heights trails were reopened, corresponding "with the end of pupping season." The upper level trails were closed for several months when a den was discovered there.

Castro Theatre Renovation Plans

We described this matter in our September newsletter. At the request of Another Planet Entertainment, the early October

hearings before the Historic Preservation and Planning Commissions have been postponed to December 8. As you might recall, the key issue before the former is whether to "landmark" the entirety of the interior of the building, including the seating. A staff report on that question will be released closer to the hearing date. Separately, we understand that Supervisor Mandelman's office and the Castro Theatre Conservancy have requested that the landmark designation issue be addressed at an earlier meeting. For those interested in knowing more, our September newsletter has the web links to APE and the Conservancy.

Police Commission; Draft Traffic Enforcement Order

As we briefly reported in our September newsletter, for several months two groups designated by the SF Police Commission, a "working group" and more recently the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC), have been discussing (in the case of the working group) and taking input on (in the case of the HRC) an SFPD draft traffic enforcement order. This is a brief explanation of what is going on. At the end of this summary, we provide web links to the relevant materials.

The goal of the general order is "to reduce racial bias in the enforcement of our traffic laws, and in particular, to curtail the use of pretextual stops." With modest exceptions, all pretext stops would be banned. But beyond that, the order, again with some exceptions (the most notable is for commercial vehicles), would bar officers from stopping or citing motor vehicles (and non-motorized vehicles and bicycles) from violating more than a dozen state and local code provisions. These include: failure to signal while turning (unless the failure substantially increases the likelihood of injury or death); most otherwise illegal U-turns from the far left lane; any parking infraction if the car is occupied; numerous violations associated with failure to display registration tags or plates; malfunctioning lights unless after dark; and riding bikes or non-motorized scooters on sidewalks. We note in passing that at our Annual Meeting, DA Jenkins expressed opposition to a total ban on pretext stops.

The above-mentioned working group has met three times, beginning in late July. Another working group session was held on October 6. Written public comments were opened on May 6 but even as of early October there have been relatively few written comments filed with the Police Commission. (See our link below on where and how to file a comment, and to see the ones on file.) Regarding the HRC "listening sessions," two have been held; and we are advised by the HRC that another is under consideration.

CHN Board members individually filed a letter on the draft order with the Police Commission on September 14. The letter made two points. First, we urged the Commission to hold its own city-wide listening sessions if and when a draft order is ripe for general public comment; and this should be preceded by the posting of a memorandum that explains the purpose, terms, alternatives considered, and evidence collected. (There are seven Commissioners; four appointed by the Mayor, three by the Supervisors.) Second, although of course the directors oppose biased policing, simply putting more than a dozen infractions on the "never mind" list might well imperil public safety and depress police department morale.

Regardless of one's views on this proposal, we invite you to make yourself heard should you have a desire to do so. You can email comments to the Police Commission; or, at the beginning of every Police Commission meeting (typically held at 5:30 p.m. on the first three Wednesdays of the month), you can make a two minute comment.

Finally, because we were not confident that our sister neighborhood organizations were aware of the terms of this order we informed a half dozen of them.

The text of the draft order is here:

https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/DGO%209.01_DRAFT_05.06.22_v2.pdf

Working Group agendas, minutes, the draft order, and written public comments submitted to date are here:
<https://sf.gov/resource/2022/department-general-orders-under-submission>

Limited Information on the HRC listening sessions can be found here:
<https://www.racialequitysf.org/trafficstops>

Street Walking

Neighbors know that 17th Street as well as Mars were recently repaved. One of the Newsletter's staff photographers took a photo of Mars after the scraping but before the repaving. Note the brick and mortar work suitable for one of those "fourplexes" the City might soon authorize:



This got us wondering: when was that done? One of our researchers consulted the relevant history bible, Michael R. Corbett's "context statement" of the neighborhood, conveniently for sale on our website, where we learned that the area streets were transitioning in the late 1890s from dirt to macadam -- or in some cases either bricks or basalt blocks. (There were numerous brick factories in the neighborhood.) Obviously, Mars was the beneficiary of brick. By contrast, see the photo immediately below that was snapped by another of our crack staff photographers prior to a repaving; this, of Hattie at Corbett where the basalt blocks were used. Note the significant difference between the brick and basalt:



Finally, below is a 1926 photo of the Mars/17th street intersection, Mars to the left with the 17th/Clayton intersection upper right, showing street conditions with the basalt blocks.



Thank you for your support and interest in enhancing the character
of our neighborhood.

In the meantime, you can contact us at:
info@corbettneighbors.com

Paul Allen, Secretary
October 7, 2022

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