



## Neighborhood News

### Our Neighborhood Parks

At its October meeting, the Board approved the expenditure of significant funds for re-planting at the Merritt/Danvers/Market park. As you know, we arranged for a clean-up at that park earlier this year and then, this summer, we added tons of stone to the walkways. Soon, we will arrange for the planting of a number of native plants. As usual, Leslie has led this effort. We continue to assist in the maintenance of Al's Park on Corbett just below Clayton, an endeavor led by Board member Maria but greatly aided recently by CHN member Margaret. A work party was held Saturday, November 5 and attended by a number of nearby neighbors. Thanks to those who showed up! *Please see the "after" photo at the end of this newsletter.* Ord Park continues to be maintained, mainly by Leslie, on almost a daily basis. It is also the periodic site of a tent but when one appears we have been successful in having the inhabitants removed to a more appropriate location, with thanks to the relevant city officials.

### Castro Merchants & Street Conditions

As paid CHN members know from a recent members-only alert, working with Supervisor Mandelman's office the Castro Merchants group arranged a meeting at 5 p.m. on October 28 in Jane Warner plaza with a number of SFPD captains, Supervisor Mandelman, DPH Director Grant Colfax, representatives from the Health Streets Operation Team (HSOT), the merchants' group, Duboce Triangle representatives, and others. CHN representatives were invited and attended. The upshot of the 90 minute meeting was that there now appears to be a more coordinated effort among SFPD, HSOT, and the Health Department to identify and manage the approximately 25 individuals who are the most disruptive.

### Traffic Enforcement & the Police Commission

As we have written previously, the Police Commission continues to gestate a traffic enforcement order that would bar SFPD from citing for, or enforcing, more than a dozen state motor vehicle laws. These include — with exceptions for commercial vehicles and in a couple other circumstances — failure to signal while turning unless there is a substantial risk of injury or death; most otherwise illegal U-turns from the far left lane; any parking infraction if the vehicle is occupied; and malfunctioning lights except after dark. Board members, but not on behalf of CHN, have objected (to no avail) because of the foreseeable adverse effect on public safety, probably police department morale and recruitment, and the city's overall attractiveness to new residents and businesses. The Human Rights Commission, which has no authority over SFPD or public safety, continues to hold "listening sessions" on the public's experience with police interactions. At the November 2 meeting of the Police Commission it was disclosed that the HRC will provide to the Commission its summary of the "listening sessions," which might mean that the order would soon be ripe for Commission consideration if not adoption. Public comments can be submitted to

the Police Commission ([sfpd.commission@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpd.commission@sfgov.org)); the draft order is here if you scroll down to "Documents" and then click the 9.01 draft:

<https://sf.gov/resource/2022/department-general-orders-under-submission>

The Police Commission website is here (<https://sf.gov/public-body/police-commission>). Also, at the beginning of every public meeting of the Commission, the next one being in the middle of November, individuals have 2 minutes to testify on anything within the Commission's jurisdiction. CHN members are invited to email us should they wish to be involved in this matter.

## **The New San Francisco Four Plex Bill**

The Board of Supervisors recently passed and the Mayor has signed Supervisor Mandelman's amended "four plex" bill. This is a brief description of it. The Corona Heights Neighborhood is in an RH-2 zoning district, meaning that it is zoned for 2 family structures. Much of the west side of the City is RH-1, for single family homes. Zoning districts, whether RH-1 or RH-2, are subject to a number of additional constraints, for example for building height and minimum "set backs" from lot lines. The 4-Plex bill would provide an exception to the density limits by permitting four units per lot, and up to six units on corner lots not inclusive of "accessory dwelling units." But there are conditions: (1) no substantial adverse change to an historic resource; (2) a minimum rear yard requirement of 30% (down from the present 45%) or 15 feet; (3) replacement of all protected units; (4) relocation benefits and a right of first refusal to low income households occupying current units; and (4) the lot owner must have owned the lot for a minimum of one year. There are a few other conditions but those are the most important. As an aside, it should be noted that last year's S.B. 9 already accomplished something similar, but only for RH-1 zones and, even then, no more than two units per lot would be permitted. (Here is a link to the Planning Department's discussion of S.B. 9: <https://sfplanning.org/senate-bill-9>)

## **Castro Theatre Update**

As we previously reported, there is a joint Planning/Historic Preservation meeting set for December 7 on the question of whether to confer historic designation status on the seating in the Castro Theatre. As you know, Another Planet Entertainment wishes to remove the seating, to be replaced by tiers of platforms suitable for standing patrons, tables, and stackable chairs. Normally, a report from Planning Department staff would be publicly available a few days prior to a hearing. Also, we are informed that APE has not been willing to negotiate with opponents of their plan that has gone unmodified since announced several months ago. Our prior newsletters have links to the proponent and opponents; and those wishing to dive deeper can consult the information on the Planning Commission's website.

## **Interested in Neighborhood Police Activity?**

Long time residents know that SFPD divides the city into 10 police districts, each served by a local station. The entirety of CHN's boundaries are within the Park District, whose station - surprise — is adjacent to Kezar Stadium on Clayton at the entrance to Golden Gate Park. (Park Station handles the north and west side of Market Street, but Mission Station handles the east side.) Each station is helmed by a Captain who is the Commanding Officer. We are fortunate that Park Station's relatively new (only to that station) Commanding Officer, Capt. Hart, continues the Park Station tradition of issuing a monthly newsletter that contains the prior month's crime statistics as well as other useful information. Here,

you can read information about Park Station and subscribe to its email if interested:  
<https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/stations/park-station>

## Of Neighborhood Streets and History

Our last email that included photos of the 1890s-era brick and basalt streets in Corona Heights so intrigued our Director of Research that she dug up from the January 25, 1893 edition of the *San Francisco Call* an article deplored the “disgraceful condition” of Corbett Road, with vehicle traffic “impossible at nights” and “officials derelict in their duty.” The article declares that a “... portion of the road is a veritable death trap...” and there is “... barely sufficient space left for a team [of horses, we presume] to pass....” The situation was said to be “a shame and a disgrace that a road like this should be allowed to remain in its present condition even for a single day.” Litigation was threatened. One supposes that brick and basalt subsequently improved conditions sufficient for a team to pass and for litigation to be avoided.

## Al's Park Entrance after Saturday's Clean-up



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](mailto:info@corbettneighbors.com)

Paul Allen, Secretary  
November 6, 2022

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