

FEB - MAR 2018



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWS

Hand-delivered to **3000** households and businesses bi-monthly

Monday, February 12, 2017

7:00 to 9:00 pm

PUBLIC MEETING

CPMC Davies Campus, Gazebo Room
(outside, ground-level entrance in plaza
between North and South towers)

MEETING AGENDA:

- Meet your neighbors (7:00 - 7:30)
- Rafael Mandelman, who is running for Supervisor of District 8, will briefly discuss his campaign and will participate in a question and answer period with the audience.
- San Francisco Beautiful, which strives to preserve neighborhood character, will make a presentation about their current projects and is seeking suggestions for projects in our neighborhood. Bring some ideas!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, February 10, 10 am - noon
Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day.
Contact Rose at rose@friendsofdubocepark.org or 415-255-8370.

Tuesday, February 13, 7 pm
Park Station Community Meeting.
Park Station Community Room

Wednesday, February 28, 5 - 8 pm
SFMTA public meeting to gather input on
Upper Market circulation study.
Sanchez Elementary School

Saturday, March 10, 10 am - noon
Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day.
Contact Rose at rose@friendsofdubocepark.org or 415-255-8370.

Crepevine Closure Adds Fuel to Concerns Over Big Money Management Company's Plans



With the exception of Verve Coffee, every commercial space in this building at the corner of Church and Market is empty.

Recently, a local business beloved by many in the Duboce Triangle neighborhood closed. Crepevine, on Church Street, had been in business for almost two decades, and was a successful and busy establishment, not to mention professional and friendly staff. Crepevine shuttered its doors due to a series of factors, but, sadly, one of them was a rent increase. Crepevine is not the only local business that DTNA has observed having to shutter in recent years due to rent increases, but what makes the Crepevine closing seem so egregious is that now, with the exception of

Verve Coffee, every commercial space in the building, a fine historical early-twentieth-century marvel that presides elegantly over the Southwestern corner of Church and Market, is empty.

Across the street, at the Southeastern corner of Market Street and Church Street sits another large and elegant historical building with many retail spaces, all of which are empty. Prior to a City-mandated soft-story retrofit, most of the retail spaces were full;

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City Hall Update – Supervisor Jeff Sheehy



Jeff Sheehy
San Francisco District 8 Supervisor

I hope everyone had fantastic holidays and I want to wish everyone Happy New Year!

I also would like to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of Mayor Ed Lee. My heart goes out to his family, and I know that their pain may diminish with time, but will never cease.

When he came into office in 2011, unemployment was nearly 10% and companies were leaving the City. Mayor Lee worked tirelessly to help the City recover. He was well aware that the benefits of economic expansion came with significant costs and that people in the City have and continue to suffer.

I met with him that afternoon and we were both consumed with doing something substantial to address the homeless crisis and with doing it now. His plan to house 1000 people this winter in new navigation centers where they can be safe and warm was the subject of our discussion. Since his death we have moved emergency legislation to make this happen. His plan, which is now the City’s plan, prioritizes the Embarcadero, mid-Market and the Castro for these beds. I look forward to the plan’s implementation, and I believe we will see results.

It was a tremendous and unexpected honor when Mayor Lee appointed me to fill Scott Wiener’s seat. He was my friend and I miss him terribly.

I, along with Supervisors Cohen, Farrell, Safai and Tang, have placed on the ballot a measure that raises \$100 million a year for ten years through a gross receipts tax from commercial leases. The legislation exempts small businesses; production, distribution and repair uses; retail sales and services uses; entertainment; arts and recreation uses and non-profit uses.

The “Housing for All” initiative will spend 45% of the tax to address homelessness, increasing capacity at all levels of the housing ladder, from navigation centers to supportive housing, to transitional housing to rental subsidies. An additional 10% will go specifically to maintain our SRO housing stock. We believe that this

new funding will dramatically change the course of our homelessness crisis.

I sought and we have included in the measure specific funding for homeless young people. Young people make up 20% of the homeless population, and so homelessness solutions for young people will receive 20% of the new funding. We know that half of young people who are homeless are LGBTQ, and that many, if not all, young people come to San Francisco to seek freedom to be their authentic selves. I came here for that reason in 1988 and couch-surfed and worked as bike messenger. Eventually, even with the relatively low wages that job afforded, I was able to get a place to live. It is so very difficult for young people coming to San Francisco today to be able to do what I did.

An additional 35% of the revenues will be

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Historic San Francisco Photograph



Finnila's Finnish Baths in 1985. The 2280-2288 Market Street property, today the defunct CVS next to Café Flore, was owned by the same husband and wife Finnish immigrants Matti and Sandra Finnila for nearly 90 years. Photo courtesy of Max Kirkeberg/SFSU

Message from the New DTNA President



Kimyn Braithwaite
DTNA President

Happy New Year Duboce Triangle, and welcome to 2018! My name is Kimyn Braithwaite and I am the new President of DTNA. I was elected President of the Board at December's General Meeting. I am very excited to take on this position and role, and I hope to get to know my neighborhood and my neighbors a lot more through this opportunity.

I have been a resident of Duboce Triangle for over twelve years and have always considered myself very lucky to be able to call Duboce Triangle my home. The opportunity to move to this neighborhood was a crazy experience, and completely last minute, but it was a dream come true.

I only recently joined DTNA, and have really enjoyed my experiences and the people that I have met so far. I am regularly in awe of the knowledge of all things City that most of the members I have met possess. Most especially, I would really like to thank Mark Scheuer of Scott Street (our previous DTNA Board Secretary) for his dedication and commitment to the DTNA and to our community. Mark has always been extremely kind and immensely helpful in explaining and answering any and all questions I have had. We will definitely

miss him and his expertise, and luckily, we know where he lives, so he will not be able to truly get away.

One of the main reasons I joined DTNA is because I have always been interested in public policy. While my educational background was definitely directed toward public policy, my work experience was far from it. And after so much time had elapsed, I did not really know how to get started. It was not until I read an article in the DTNA newsletter that was asking people of the community to get involved that the proverbial light bulb went off in my head. I contacted DTNA and here we are, almost two years later, and I am about to begin the new year as President of the Board.

One of the roles of President is to help shape the goals for DTNA. Some of the goals for 2017 were in regard to public safety, member engagement, streetscapes and intersections, and maintaining affordability in the neighborhood. Many of these goals we are still working on, and they will probably always need diligent effort from DTNA. However, in

the last year the neighborhood has been presented with a much larger version of a consistent city-wide challenge. A recent hoodline.com article about the encampments surrounding Safeway mentioned a very large uptick in cleanup calls to 311, roughly 1100% between 2016 to 2017. Also, as mentioned in a previous DTNA newsletter and further clarified in this edition, the SFMTA is planning on making some traffic changes to the Upper Market Street corridor which will definitely affect our predominantly residential neighborhood and streets.

As we begin the new year, our plan is to continue working on the goals for 2017, but also to incorporate the new challenges we face in 2018. How can we help encourage landlords to keep rents at a level that will ensure our favorite businesses stay in the neighborhood? How can we encourage small business owners to come to our neighborhood and fill all the empty storefronts? How can we encourage landlords to offer a rent that is appealing and possible for a potential new business to open? How can we continue to be compassionate to-

Continues on page 7



Why Does the SFPD Hide Homicide and Assault Clearance Rates?

“Clearance Rate” is a police term for the percentage of crimes that result in an arrest and a charge. It is an important statistic, but if the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association’s experience is any guide, the San Francisco Police Department does not want this information to become public. We wonder why.

DTNA first became interested in this information discrepancy in 2014, when the Triangle suffered two homicides, which was followed by a series of severe and unprovoked assaults in 2015 and 2016. Our concerned curiosity spiked to alarm. Despite extensive video and eyewitness evidence in several of these incidences, perpetrators were never found or arrested. DTNA reached out to our local captain at Park Station, and to the SFPD homicide department, to try to get a handle on how homicides and assaults are investigated in our neighborhood and in our City, and to what degree they are solved.

We did not have a lot of luck. Homicide detectives refused to attend our meetings (they said it might compromise their investigations), and the Park Station captain at that time did not appear to want to tell us how often homicide and assault crimes were solved, or “cleared”. Unlike many cities around the country, San Francisco does not publish homicide or assault clearance statistics on a regular basis.

Eventually, with dogged persistence and the help of then-Supervisor Scott Wiener’s office, DTNA was able to complete a Request for Information that in June of 2016 resulted in the re-

Homicides	2005 ⁽¹⁾	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Citywide											
Number of incidents	NA	84	98	97	45	49	50	69	48	46	53
Number of clearances ⁽²⁾	NA	24	32	38	22	22	24	37	19	28	23
Clearance rate	NA	29%	33%	39%	49%	45%	48%	54%	40%	61%	43%
Park District											
Number of incidents	NA	2	3	3	3	5	2	2	1	1	2
Number of clearances ⁽²⁾	NA	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	1
Clearance rate	NA	0%	33%	0%	0%	60%	50%	50%	100%	0%	50%
Duboce Triangle											
Number of incidents	NA	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Number of clearances ⁽²⁾	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clearance rate	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	NA

⁽¹⁾2005 data are not available.
⁽²⁾All clearance codes are included.

Assaults ⁽³⁾	2005 ⁽¹⁾	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Citywide											
Number of incidents	NA	12680	12739	12910	12547	11031	10348	9966	10481	10447	10803
Number of clearances ⁽²⁾	NA	4701	4934	5260	5672	4870	4558	3880	5023	4282	4172
Clearance rate	NA	37%	39%	41%	45%	44%	44%	39%	48%	41%	39%
Park District											
Number of incidents	NA	486	386	461	462	371	340	342	330	336	372
Number of clearances ⁽²⁾	NA	194	135	172	217	154	151	121	171	151	130
Clearance rate	NA	40%	35%	37%	47%	42%	44%	35%	52%	45%	35%
Duboce Triangle											
Number of incidents	NA	84	51	64	44	54	52	59	46	44	52
Number of clearances ⁽²⁾	NA	34	19	22	23	19	17	20	20	18	14
Clearance rate	NA	40%	37%	34%	52%	35%	33%	34%	43%	41%	27%

⁽¹⁾2005 data are not available.
⁽²⁾All clearance codes are included.
⁽³⁾Assaults include simple and aggravated assaults.

Homicide and assault crimes from 2006–2015 for citywide, Park District and Duboce Triangle

lease of the statistics printed here. The numbers are interesting.

Citywide, over the ten-year period from 2006-2015, homicides declined from 84 a year to 53 a year. During that time, the clearance rate didn’t budge: the 2015 rate of 43% is about the same as the 10-year average of 44%. Even more worryingly, despite a fairly low number of homicides for a city of our size, the clearance rate for homicides in San Francisco is much lower than the national average; in 2013 the national rate was 64%, more than 20 percentage points higher than ours.

It is also worth noting that (thanks in part to the efforts of Supervisor Wiener) since 2008 there has been a large increase in SFPD funding and officers. So why haven’t outcomes improved? It’s hard to get answers.

Assaults are a similar story. Citywide they have declined, but clearance rates have not improved. And sadly, the results in our neighborhood are worse. About 50 assaults occur each year in the Triangle, not much changed from ten years ago, and the 2015 clearance rate was much lower than in previous years. While DTNA is pleased that to our knowl-

edge there have been no murders in the Triangle since 2014, we believe that the 52 assaults that occurred in our neighborhood in 2015 is too high a number, and we are not satisfied with the 27% clearance rate. 27% means that three quarters of the people who assault others in our neighborhood get away with it.

Why are we commenting on 2015 statistics in 2018? Because, despite our diligent efforts throughout all of 2017, the SFPD has refused to release 2016 statistics to us.

In early 2017, we asked the

Continues on page 8

Major Developer Proposes Condos on Quiet Belcher Street

Sia Consulting, a major developer in San Francisco that also built the Century condominium complex at 2200 Market Street and Sanchez Street, has proposed a large development of 24 rental units by merging three lots (addresses 55-59) on the East side of Belcher Street, currently occupied by a parking lot that serves the former Blockbuster video store (now the Flagship Athletic gym) on Church Street. The site is owned by Maria Haramis, who also owns the building on Church Street. Belcher Street neighbors have organized under the leadership of Belcher resident and DTNA member Brian Kemmler, and several of them attended a recent DTNA Land Use Committee meeting to strategize how to influence the project to be a positive addition to the neighborhood.

The neighbors would like to see the two sites developed simultaneously, which is in line with DTNA’s long term goals. Although the former Blockbuster store is currently occupied, the retail space is dilapidated and has been often vacant, and the

large surface parking lot, much like the one at Safeway, is essentially wasted space in the neighborhood; it could be better used for housing and/or (the neighbors’ idea) a greenway, kids’ play area, or pocket park. The project will require several variances from current zoning, for density, setback from the street, and rear yard space, so there will be an opportunity to make a case at the San Francisco Planning Commission for some neighborhood-benefitting additions to balance the profit-benefitting additions accruing to the owner and the developer.

The developer has not committed to a percentage of units that would be affordable to lower and middle-income people, but the inclusionary housing law updated by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as of August 2017 requires that small projects (24 units or less) allot 12.5% of their units to affordable housing if the building is rental housing, and 18% if the units are to be sold. 12.5% would be 3 units, 18% would be 4 units. DTNA has long advocated for a 20%

inclusionary minimum in our neighborhood, and since this is the largest possible “small” project 20% seems appropriate, that would be 5 units. The neighbors are also supportive of on-site affordable housing.

Other interests the neighbors have include reducing the density of the project, reducing the number of units (what is proposed is 33% more than current zoning), and reducing parking. The plan calls for 10 spaces, but since the Triangle has a very high Walk Score of 95 and there is a MUNI underground stop mere steps away, the neighbors believe that 5 spaces or even fewer would be appropriate.

So far, the drawings presented have been mostly conceptual and massing studies with no details on construction materials or other elements essential to evaluating architectural quality, so it is too early to comment extensively on design. But the neighborhood will push for something as contextual and low-visual impact as possible, after all, this is not a flatiron

building on a major thoroughfare like the Century, but a large new building on a quiet street with mostly century-old architecture. One concern that has already arisen is the prominence of the penthouse stairway currently proposed at the top of the building, which will stick out like a sore thumb if it is built as currently proposed. DTNA had some success modifying a similar structure on building on Market Street, so probably there are some solutions in the offing for that as well.

DTNA is activating its contacts at the Planning Department and Supervisor Sheehy’s office to develop some focus on the project, and will continue to discuss it at future Land Use Committee meetings, which are held on the first Monday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Chase bank at Sanchez and Market. Come by on February 5 to join the conversation, and stay tuned for more updates in this newsletter.



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MTA Explains Plans for Upper Market

In order to allow all voices to be heard DTNA asked MTA to provide a condensed explanation of its plans for Upper Market, with a focus on how those plans will affect the Duboce Triangle neighborhood. Their explanation is printed below:

Join the Discussion: Upper Market Traffic Safety & Circulation

The SFMTA's Upper Market Street Safety Project (see: www.sfmta.com/projects/upper-market-street-safety-project) is a major investment in safety for people walking, riding bikes, taking transit, and driving in the Upper Market Street corridor from Castro Street to Octavia Boulevard. Based on years of collaboration with the DTNA and other community groups who have voiced

safety concerns (which are backed up by collision data), the project's first wave of safety measures hit the ground in 2015 and included more visible and protected crosswalks, increased pedestrian time, better bike lanes and intersection guidance. Additional capital-intensive measures were approved by the SFMTA Board in May 2017 and are currently in design with construction planned for 2019/2020, although some 'near-term' safety measures are also planned for 2018.

At the request of DTNA and other advocates, the SFMTA also studied potential changes to signal timing, signal phasing, and overall traffic circulation at the 17th/Castro/Market, 16th/Noe/Market, and 15th/Sanchez/Market intersections. The goals of the

study were to find ways to:

- Better protect people with more signal separation
- Simplify movements to reduce potential conflict and make travel more intuitive
- Reduce weaving and promote predictable behaviors

As a result of the study, one signal phasing change is planned for implementation in late January or early February, while several other changes are being actively considered by the SFMTA:

Signal change coming soon to 16th/Noe/Market Street

In response to complaints that drivers turning right from Noe Street onto Market Street often get confused, stop, and block 16th Street traffic, the SFMTA will be switching the signal phasing so that **16th Street gets a green light before Noe Street** and Market Street receives a green signal following Noe Street traffic. This change should alleviate traffic blockages while maintaining current capacity and turn movements at the intersection.

Circulation Changes Under Consideration for Approval:

17th/Castro/Market

- Add protected left turn phases from Market onto Castro to promote more intuitive 'arterial to arterial' connections, reduce pedestrian conflicts, and reduce left turns at 18th Street & Castro by Twin Peaks traffic using 18th Street to access Northbound Castro Street

16th/Noe/Market

- Add protected left-turn phase for westbound 16th Street onto Market to better accommodate high turn demand, and prohibit left-turns

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Neighborhood Impact of SFMTA Upper Market Circulation Proposal, Street by Street by Direction of Travel (Our Wonkish Appraisal)

There will be more vehicular traffic in the Duboce Triangle neighborhood and altered traffic flow around the Triangle as a result of the planned SFMTA Upper Market Circulation changes. There will be more traffic on 15th Street, Castro Street, and westbound 18th Street, and expected less on Noe Street and 16th Street. There will no longer be direct access to 16th Street from within the Triangle. The only access to Inbound Market Street from within the Triangle will be from 14th, 15th, or Herman Streets. There will be no left turns from Noe or Sanchez Streets at Market Street. Access to the south side of Market Street between Noe and Sanchez will only be from Inbound Market Street, accessed by crossing Market to gain access to Westbound 16th Street or Northbound Castro Street, and then back

to Inbound Market Street. The Triangle is bordered by two major traffic routes (Castro and Market Streets) and traversed by two routes (Noe and 14th Streets). Castro-Divisadero and Noe-Scott Streets are the only through routes from Noe and Eureka Valley neighborhoods to Geary Street, the Fillmore, Pacific Heights, the Marina and the Golden Gate Bridge. Currently, the Triangle via Southbound Noe Street provides access to 16th Street (the major through street to South SOMA) and to Inbound Market Street (for access to downtown, North SOMA, as well as the freeways and the Bay Bridge), and Sanchez, 14th & 15th Streets provide access to Inbound Market Street. With the proposed changes, Southbound Noe Street will no longer provide direct access to Eastbound 16th Street or Inbound Mar-

ket Street, and Sanchez will not provide access to Inbound Market Street or Eastbound 15th Street. Southbound Noe Street will provide access to Outbound Market Street and Westbound 16th Street. Northbound Noe Street will provide access to Inbound Market Street and Eastbound 16th Street.

Not enough wonkish detail for you? Even more detailed street-by-street-by-direction-of-travel impact is available on the DTNA Web Site at dtna.org/circulation.

The Duboce Triangle News is published at the beginning of February, April, June, August, October and December by the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

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DTNA, 2261 Market St PMB 301, SF, CA 94114
(415) 295-1530

www.dtna.org

President's Message, continued

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ward our fellow citizens who live on the streets while also ensuring safety for the more vulnerable members of our neighborhood, e.g. children and the elderly?

But equally important is: How do we encourage our friends and neighbors to get more involved with DTNA? We want your ideas and suggestions on how to improve

the neighborhood. We want your knowledge and personal expertise on what is happening or what could potentially happen to make our neighborhood better. Come to our next Land Use or General Meeting and introduce yourself to me or to one of our Board members, and let's get to work to improve our neighborhood, our city, and our country.

Think **Local**

Think **Duboce Triangle**



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Homicide and Assault Clearance Rates, continued

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police commander who ultimately provided the 2005-2015 statistics for the 2016 numbers, so we could see if there was any improvement. Unfortunately, DTNA got the same run-around that we got the first time, and despite 27 e-

mails back and forth between DTNA leadership, the Commander, Captain Sanford (former captain of Park Station) and Supervisor Jeff Sheehy's office, as of December 2017 we still haven't been provided the 2016 statistics.

What is SFPD hiding? It is

DTNA's belief that crime clearance statistics should be published annually in a public forum (like on the SFPD website). We also think it would be a good idea if our Mayor and City Supervisors would start looking into why we keep providing more resources to our police department, and we are

not getting improved results.

If you agree, call Supervisor Sheehy at (415) 554-6968 or e-mail at JeffSheehy@sfgov.org and let him know. All of our safety depends on it.

Supervisor's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

dedicated to creating workforce housing for teachers, nurses, and other community-serving occupations who make too much to qualify for affordable housing, but do not make enough to pay market

prices. For instance, affordable housing becomes available if you make less than \$45,000 a year, but teacher salaries in the public schools start in the low \$50s. We are losing our middle class in San Francisco, and this initiative will seek to stem that tide.

And just a closing note—thank you to everyone who submitted to our participatory budgeting process. We received many great proposals and will be voting this Spring on which ones to fund.

As always, my office and I are

here to assist you with ongoing projects, as well as new ideas or concerns. Please feel free to email me directly at jeff.sheehy@sfgov.org or to contact my office at 415-554-6968. I look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood.



We're proud to help improve the neighborhood.

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Art in the Park

Duboce Park has been a location for arts programming since the early 1920's, when the women volunteers of the San Francisco Urban Story League performed puppet shows and storytelling in the park for children. The Harvey Milk Center for the Arts has been headquarters for the Performing Arts Division of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department since its construction in 1954.

The 23,125 square foot center reopened to the public in 2009 after an impressive \$12 million renovation to the 55-year-old building. The

Harvey Milk Arts Center is now home to the Visual as well as the Performing Arts, and has become the City's newest Digital Destination with state-of-the-art technological facilities including brand new Sound Recording Studio and Digital Labs.

The Center is also home to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's exceptional San Francisco Photo Center – the oldest (and one of the largest) public darkrooms for traditional black and white process printing still in existence in the United States. The build-



The Harvey Milk Center for Recreational Arts

ing has an expansive ballroom, dance Studio, art Studios, and multiple exhibition galleries.

Your tax dollars paid for all this, and it is for your use too. Stop by and check it out!

MTA Explains Plans, continued

Continued from page 6

from Noe Street and eastbound 16th Street to reduce pedestrian conflicts and vehicle weaving/blockages

- 15th/Sanchez/Market
- Prohibit left turns from Sanchez Street to reduce pedestrian/bicycle conflicts and vehicle weaving/blockages

Laguna/Guerrero/Market

- Add protected left-turn phases for east- and westbound Market Street to reduce pedestrian and bicycle conflicts

A protected left turn is one controlled by a green arrow, where turning vehicles do not cross the paths of other vehicles or pedestrians in a crosswalk. Prohibited left

turns would include turns from Noe Street onto 16th Street, and from Sanchez Street to 15th Street, in addition to left turns onto Market Street.

More details of the traffic circulation study, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, are available at sfmta.com/uppermarket.

Upcoming Public Meeting to Weigh Trade-Offs & Opportunities

Simplifying movements at these complex intersections requires making certain trade-offs. SFMTA anticipates the proposal would result in diversion of modest traffic volumes and turn movements to adjacent

streets and intersections. Based on the data, however, diversion is expected to be manageable, while benefits for traffic safety and comfort could be substantial.

The project will be hosting a **community open house** on **February 28, 2018, from 5-8pm**, at **Sanchez Elementary School** to provide more opportunity for public input and feedback. Focus topics will include review of landscaping and other public realm improvement opportunities for the larger capital project in addition to the circulation proposal. We hope to see you there.

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Appointments recommended



San Francisco Pet Grooming

209A Sanchez St. at Market St. (415) 861-0111

Crepevine Closure, continued

Continued from page 1

however, now the building is empty with no indication of anything happening in the near future. This building is owned by the same landlord as owns Crepevine's former home.

Furthermore, the next building to the East, which wraps around the corner onto 14th Street, is now losing another of the neighborhood's long held businesses, Snowbright Launderette. One of the reasons behind Snowbright's closing is its inability to renegotiate a successful lease with the property owner.

And (just one more, we promise), the next building to the South on Church Street, formerly occupied by the much-loved Chilango restaurant, is also being gutted and is vacant.

Why such a long list? One commonality in each case is that the landlord is the same. That landlord is Veritas Investments, a large investment property manager with over two billion dollars in their portfolio, funded by unknown international institutions.

Why is Veritas creating a virtual no-man's land along the Church Street corridor? We at DTNA have been asking that question for a long time, but attempts to contact someone up the chain at the company who can answer our questions have proved



All of the retail spaces in this building are empty.

fruitless. The management structure at Veritas is opaque and very difficult to navigate.

Prior to Crepevine's last day, Rafael Mandelman, a candidate for District 8 Supervisor, contacted DTNA in order to find out if there was anything that could be done, not only about the loss of a beloved neighborhood business, but also about the fact that most of the shuttered storefronts along the corridor are in buildings owned by Veritas. Mandelman spoke with both the owner of Crepevine, as well as a representative from Veritas, and found that while their stories were not exactly the same there did seem to be a decent amount of overlap.

Subsequently, the Mandelman camp has been actively trying to set up a meeting between Veritas and the local community in hopes

of creating an ongoing dialogue between the two about the Church Street corridor. At the time of this writing, the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31st at Churchill's, however that date will have passed by print time. DTNA will make the information about the meeting available to the neighborhood on our website (www.dtna.org) and in future DTNA newsletters, and we hope that anyone with interest was able to attend the meeting. Hopefully we will soon have some answers as to what Veritas intent is in creating so much vacancy in their buildings, and whether or not they are a partner in improving the Church Street Corridor. Stay tuned.

Supervisor Sheehy, Captain Bailey Talk Crime at December General Meeting

San Francisco District 8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy, appointed to the Board of Supervisors in January 2017 by Mayor Ed Lee to succeed Supervisor Scott Wiener, who resigned his seat to take office as a member of the California State Senate, and Captain Una Bailey, who took command of Park Station last December were the featured guests at the DTNA December General Meeting on December 11, 2017.

Supervisor Sheehy started by saying he "celebrated" the foot beats in District 8, including one in the Duboce Triangle, and added that Chop Shop legislation he introduced had already led to a reduction in the number of bicycle chop shops with just a small amount of enforcement.

He remarked that he thinks that kids will have harder time getting cannabis after January 1, when recreational marijuana becomes legal, based on what has happened in Colorado. He said he thinks that cannabis has saved lives and that he has been an open medical cannabis user since the AIDS days. He said it would also add a lot of tax revenue to city coffers.

Sheehy also mentioned that the vacant 100 Church Street, home to the old Out of the Closet, looks like it will be filled by a yoga studio and a veterinarian clinic, great news since the latter use has been a high priority for the neighborhood retail for many years. Cannabis dispensaries were interested in that space but could not be considered since Maitri,

the landlord, would put needed federal funding in jeopardy.

Captain Una Bailey said she most recently headed the Special Victims Unit for two years, has been a police officer for seventeen years, and worked at Taraval, Richmond, and Mission stations, as well as in investigations and internal affairs. She said that Duboce Triangle is considered a relatively safe neighborhood and does not have a lot of incidents that involve physical violence.

Captain Bailey reiterated that there is a foot beat in the Triangle and encouraged citizens to interact with SFPD when they are on patrol. She will bring the beat officers to meet the Neighborhood Watch Groups in the Triangle. She wants people to email her at una.bailey@sfgov.org when they have issues and prefers to hear about problems sooner rather than later, when a bigger problem may occur. People should also call (415) 553-0123 for non-emergencies and 911 for emergencies or crimes in progress. Call 911 if there is any doubt.

When asked about people camping at the Scott Street Labyrinth in Duboce Park, she said that she has zero tolerance for camping and tents, but pointed out that a group congregating in a public area is not camping. Neighborhood Watch Groups can be very effective in reducing crime on a particular block. SAFE runs that program and provides the best tips for making things safer.

During the Question and Answer, Sheehy reiterated Mayor Lee's pledge to get 1,000 homeless people off of the streets, with a focus on the SoMa, Mid-Market, and the Castro neighborhoods. He thought it would be easier to get people off the streets when the rain starts, and when we have more navigation centers operating.

He supports safe injection sites, although he was adamant about not opening one in the Duboce Triangle neighborhood after the community complained loudly about that possibility. He said the data is very positive and that North Beach Citizens provides a good model.

He also talked about employing all of the City resources available and used the area around the 14th Street and Pond Street library as an example. By working with DPW, PUC, the Library, and SFPD, conditions have really improved there.

When asked about traffic enforcement, Capt. Bailey said that every officer should be enforcing traffic laws, which also helps prevent criminals from coming into the neighborhood. She said educational enforcement (warnings, not tickets) works and will continue to work towards the goals of Vision Zero and the Focus on the Five.

We adjourned in concord at 8:45.

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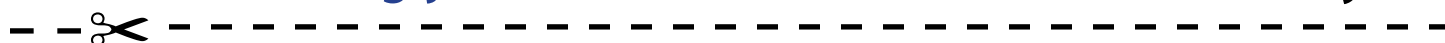
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