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SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 8

July/August 2013 Newsletter

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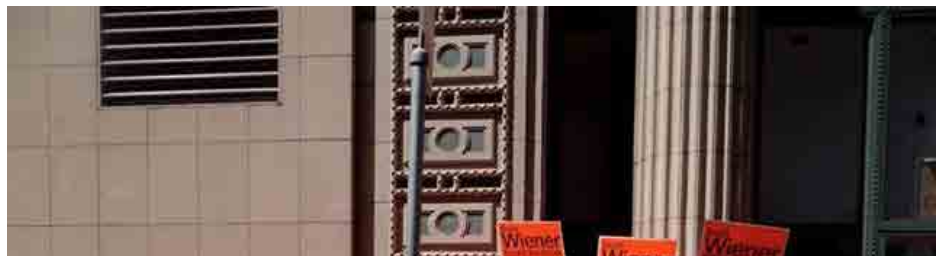
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CASTRO-AREA PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY

Chief Suhr, DA Gascon and others will join me to meet with the community at the Eureka Valley Rec Center at 6:30 PM, Wednesday July 31st

Crime has continued to be a challenge in our district, including in the Castro, and residents are understandably concerned. In this week's issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*, I authored an op-ed on our public safety challenges, which you can read [here](#). Addressing crime is never easy—it requires making sure our police department is properly staffed so there are more officers to respond and take action, and ensuring our community members know how they can best look out for themselves and their neighbors. Our police department is significantly understaffed due to years of poor budget decisions not to fund police academy classes. Since I took office, I've pushed to fund academy classes, and we are now doing so. The department will return to full staffing within about four years. In the meantime, the police and the community have to come together to work to combat crime. On Wednesday, I'll be convening a public safety forum with Chief Greg Suhr, our District Captains, District Attorney George Gascon, and neighborhood safety groups. Please join us.



Thursday, Sept. 12th
10:30am-12:00pm
San Francisco City Hall
Room 274

Saturday, Sept. 14th
9:30am-11:00pm
Church Street Cafe
260 Church Street (at 15th
Street)

NOTE: Occasionally, we need to reschedule office hours. To ensure that you learn of any changes before making the effort to attend, please check with the office a day or two before or alternatively call the office to put your name on the office hours list so that we can notify you if any changes occur.



Scott with supporters getting ready to march in the Pride Parade

Policy Work

CEQA Appeals Reform Legislation Passes

I'm proud to report that after a lengthy legislative process, the Board of Supervisors [unanimously passed my CEQA appeals reform legislation](#). This legislation will, for the first time, establish clear and predictable deadlines, prevent multiple appeals on the same project, and prevent projects from being appealed mid-construction. For years, we have functioned without clear procedures regarding CEQA appeals, instead relying on informal and overly complex interim procedures. Now, after ten years and previous unsuccessful attempts by three other Supervisors, we finally have established codified rules around our CEQA Appeals process. These include setting an appeal deadline of 30 days after the first approval of a project, which will end the bad practice of allowing late CEQA appeals, sometimes even during mid-construction, long after a project has been approved. This is a big step forward to improve on unnecessary and wasteful delays for both project sponsors and opponents. I want to thank all of the good government, environmental, neighborhood, labor, transit, park, affordable housing, and other organizations that supported this legislation.





Scott with Mayor Lee, City staff and supporters right after the Mayor signed the CEQA Appeals Process Legislation into law

Budget Passed and Signed

Last week the Mayor signed our city budget, which the [Board had passed unanimously](#). As a member of the Budget Committee, I was able to work to fund key priorities, including continuing to ensure critical HIV/AIDS services, housing for at-risk youth in the Castro, adding cleaning crews for public spaces, and better recreation for people all over the city. I want to thank Supervisor Mark Farrell for doing an extraordinary job as Budget Chair. He worked tirelessly with all sides to ensure that we achieved a fair and balanced budget.

Specifically, I worked hard to ensure the following were included in the Budget:

- Full restoration of \$3 million of federal HIV/AIDS cut in the upcoming fiscal year
- Expanded housing and safety net services in the Castro for homeless and at-risk youth
- Increased cleaning and maintenance crews to perform basic cleaning and maintenance work on public property, such as medians, plazas, sidewalks, and other public spaces
- Increased hours and programming at recreation centers citywide
- Improved healthcare access for transgender residents
- Small business support for Castro Street during the Castro sidewalk widening project
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety projects in District 8
- Restored funding for after-school reading program at Alvarado Elementary School



Scott speaking at the Pink Triangle Ceremony during Pride weekend

MISSION ALCOHOL AND RESTAURANT REFORM LEGISLATION

I have the honor of representing a portion of the Mission, a vibrant, unique neighborhood with an unparalleled culinary and nightlife reputation in the City. Almost twenty years ago, rules in the Planning Code under the title of the Mission Alcohol Special Use District were established to control the proliferation and clustering of businesses selling alcohol. Over time - enter the rule of unintended consequences - these alcohol restrictions prevented, delayed, and undermined great businesses from [starting, growing, or changing in the neighborhood](#). I co-authored with Supervisor David Campos legislation to address these problem in a way to continue to prevent alcohol blight while allowing businesses to thrive. The legislation updates and makes the Mission alcohol restrictions more flexible by allowing the transfer of liquor licenses, improving the ability of business owners to make repairs and renovations to become ADA compliant without losing their liquor license, allowing neighborhood grocery stores to sell beer and wine, and requiring that the Planning Commission approve any full-service restaurant that wants to move into a retail space on Valencia Street. These new zoning measures will encourage businesses that contribute to the health and vitality of the community's commercial corridors.

Park Hours Legislation

Currently, our municipal code - unlike other major American cities - does not set any park hours, which has led to a patchwork of informal park hours that are inconsistent and very difficult to enforce. This lack of enforceable closing hours has led to a significant problem of nighttime vandalism, metal theft, and dumping in our parks. Last week at the Board of Supervisors, I [introduced legislation](#) establishing a uniform statutory rule that all parks are open between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and midnight (i.e., closed from midnight to 5 a.m.), with an exception for the use of any road or adjacent sidewalk for the purpose of traversing the park. San Francisco is the only major American City without established park hours -- New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Austin, Portland and Seattle, just to name a few, all have park closing hours for a five to seven hour period at night. The Recreation and Park Department estimates that vandalism and illegal dumping in City parks, almost all of which occurs at night, cost the city nearly \$1 million a year in staff costs and maintenance expenses. By establishing park closure hours, Park Patrol and the Police will have another tool to fight against these kinds of property crimes that cost our city valuable resources to repair and remove.



An example of vandalism in our parks: a destroyed bench in Portsmouth Square

My Transportation Work

Hearing on Muni Expansion Needs Due to Development and Population Growth

San Francisco is experiencing a tremendous amount of growth right now, and in the coming years we will only see more. This population increase will lead to more housing and jobs for people in San Francisco, which is a good thing. However, I'm concerned that with all this growth, we aren't properly planning for Muni's ability to serve our future population, especially considering Muni's current severe shortcomings. In other words, given that Muni is not meeting our current population's needs, what are we as a city doing to shore up the system, expand its capacity, and ensure that it can meet the needs of a population 20% higher than today's population, with significant development occurring in the eastern part of our city, along Upper Market, and so forth. The answer is "not enough." We need to do much more to invest in the system. To address and shed light on this critical issue for the future of our city, [I held a hearing last week](#). Various city departments reported on how they are evaluating the need for additional transit service, how that expansion will occur, and how it can be paid for on an ongoing basis. We know what we need to do to meet our current and growing transit needs. Now, we just need the political will to make the needed changes and to pay for it. I'm committed to continuing to push on this fundamental challenge.

Legislation to Purchase 60 New Muni Buses

One of the keys to improving our struggling transit system is the complete overhaul of our aging fleet. This means both replacing old vehicles and performing mid-life overhauls of vehicles so that they continue to perform. Earlier this year, I sponsored legislation to purchase new buses and to rehabilitate existing buses, and the first of these new, low-floor buses recently hit our streets. Earlier this month, I introduced additional legislation to approve the purchase of 60 additional new buses. We must continue to find money to make these kinds of purchases if we are going to have an effective, reliable transit system.

Street Clutter Hearing

I'm concerned with how the placement of street furniture -- including news racks, kiosks, Muni bus shelters, traffic control boxes, and so forth - is affecting our already crowded sidewalks. Some of these items provide important services, for example, bus shelters, news racks, and traffic control boxes. Others, like advertising kiosks, are of questionable value. To discuss how city agencies and private contractors are managing and coordinating the placement of these items, I [convened a hearing](#) at the Land Use and Economic Development Committee. At the hearing, we heard from the agencies responsible for the management of street furniture on our sidewalks to ensure that they are adhering to the principles of the city's Better Streets Plan.





Scott in Mexico City with Supervisors, City staff and transportation advocates studying Bike-Rapid Transit and Bike Share programs

LGBT Aging Study

Last year, I, along with Supervisor David Campos and former Supervisor Christina Olague, sponsored legislation to create an 18-month task force to study aging in the LGBT community. LGBT seniors face a number of unique challenges, including aging with HIV, being less likely to have adult children to care for them, discrimination in senior services, and so forth. The task force is deep into its work, and it recently

produced a [very useful study](#) about the state of LGBT seniors in San Francisco. The study was based on an extensive survey showing how LGBT seniors are living, what they need, and what their challenges are. I look forward to the task force's continuing work and ultimate policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Professional Dogwalker Legislation Take Effect

At the beginning of July, the legislation I authored last year to establish regulations for professional dogwalkers [went into effect](#). Under the new rules, dogwalkers can walk a maximum of eight dogs at once, must have liability insurance, must carry leashes with them at all times, must obtain a permit from the city, must receive training or demonstrate on-the-job experience, and can only transport dogs in vehicles inspected and approved by Animal Care & Control. I worked with dogwalker groups, dog owner groups, Animal Care & Control, the SPCA, and park groups to ensure that these commonsense regulations will provide a framework for safe practices and still allow our professional dogwalkers to succeed and take care of our city's large population of dogs. For more information about the rules and permits, Animal Care and Control has set up a website at

<http://helpacc.org/SFDogWalkerLaw/>.



Scott with a potential beneficiary of the new dog-walking regulations at Duboce Park.

Community Spotlight

Manish Champee and Elizabeth Stampe

This month at the Board of Supervisors, I recognized Manish Champsee and Elizabeth Stampe, both of Walk San Francisco. Manish is stepping down from the Board of Walk SF and Elizabeth will be leaving her position as Executive Director of the organization. Both Manish and Elizabeth have been tireless and effective advocates for pedestrian safety in San Francisco. Our streets and sidewalks are safer thanks to their hard work.



Scott with Board President David Chiu, Elizabeth Stampe and Manish Champsee

Castro Sidewalk Widening Project

Castro Street's sidewalks are too narrow, and it's exciting that we are finally moving forward - after decades of interest in the neighborhood - on widening the Castro Street sidewalks from Market Street to 19th Street. Castro Street is one of the most pedestrian-utilized commercial corridors in the city, and the sidewalks, because they are so narrow, easily become crowded. Wider sidewalks will make the corridor more vibrant, better for businesses, and generally more usable by the community.

Last year, I obtained funding for the project, and earlier this year, we went through an extensive community design process, which was very helpful in focusing the design. We are now moving from the planning phase to approval and construction. Construction likely will start immediately after the new year. The 400 block of Castro (between Market and 18th) will be first, so that it's complete before Pride. The 500 block (18th to 19th Streets) will then begin and be complete by October, we hope in time for the Castro Street Fair. As with all major infrastructure projects, I recognize that these improvements will be disruptive for a number of months once construction begins. With this in mind, I was able to secure funding in our recently passed budget to help provide small business support during construction. This project will be transformative for our wonderful neighborhood. I'm very much looking forward to getting it done.

Those who want to attend or speak at the MTA hearing on this project can attend the MTA Board of Directors hearing at 1 PM on Tuesday, August 20th. For more information on the meeting information, click [here](#).



The proposed Castro Street Design. To see this in a PDF version, click [here](#).

New Castro Gay Men's Health Center on Track

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is planning a new gay men's health center, focused on HIV care and prevention and other health needs, at the site of the former Superstar Video on Castro Street. The Board of Supervisors recently [passed my legislation](#) making zoning changes to allow for this new community health facility. Construction to convert the building to this new and exciting use likely will begin later this year or early next year.

Noe Valley Town Square: Legislation Passed and Land Purchased

As of July 1st, the City officially owns the parking lot on 24th Street that will become the Noe Valley Town Square. This is great news for the neighborhood and

the City, and I want to thank all of the Noe Valley residents who spearheaded this project, my Board of Supervisors colleagues for supporting my legislation to purchase the lot, and everyone who has pledged and donated money that will go towards transforming this space into a public park. The Residents for Noe Valley Town Square are still raising money to pay for the long-term development of the park. Anyone who wishes to donate can find more information at <http://noevalleytownsquare.com>. Currently, my office is meeting with representatives from the neighborhood, the Farmers' Market, and the Recreation and Park Department to discuss what kind of events and improvements people we will see in the park in the immediate and long-term future. In a few months, Rec and Park will install some short-term park amenities so neighbors can begin to utilize the Town Square. For now, cars can park in the lot, as long as events like the Farmers' Market are not going on.



Scott celebrating the acquisition of the Noe Valley Town Square with Noe Valley residents, Board President David Chiu and Rec and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market.

Glen Park Recreation Center Update

Rec and Park held a community meeting on July 13th where community members attended and gave a lot of feedback on the plans to renovate the Glen Park Rec Center. The current renovations of the tennis courts, the playground, and the surrounding paths and areas are scheduled for completion by this November. The Rec Center will reopen later this summer, so people can continue to use it while the long-term planning for its renovation continues. Meeting materials can be

found on the project webpage under "meeting materials" 7.13.13. Visit <http://sfrecpark.org/project/glen-canyon-park-2012-bond/> for a summary of past community meetings, blog updates and to view the latest info and updates as the project moves forward. For more information, contact Karen Mauney-Brodeck at 415.575.5601 or karen.mauney-brodek@sfgov.org.

Community Calendar

Emerging Business Loan Fund

The City launched the Emerging Business Loan Fund (EBLF) which will make \$12 million in affordable loans available to support San Francisco businesses and entrepreneurs. Eligible applicants can borrow up to \$1,000,000 in loan funds for a variety of investments such as equipment, predevelopment costs, working capital, physical improvements, real estate, and expansion opportunities. The EBLF program expands accessible financing to businesses that cannot access capital from traditional sources and institutions. Loans are available Citywide, but priority is given to Invest in Neighborhood's 25 commercial corridors. For more information on the City's loans and grants for neighborhood businesses, please visit <http://www.oewd.org/Neighborhood-Grants-Loans.aspx>



Scott at a Giant Sweep event with Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu, Supervisor Mark Farrell, Board President David Chiu and volunteers

SFAC: Grants 101: Intro to Grant Writing

Various Dates and Locations starting August 17th

Are you an artist, arts organization, community/neighborhood group, or service organization (education, health, immigrant etc...)? If so, you may qualify for a Cultural Equity Grant. The San Francisco Arts Commission is hosting events where you can learn about Cultural Equity Grants. Cultural Equity Grants awards project-based grants to San Francisco arts organizations and individual artists to nurture the continuing growth of a vibrant and diverse arts ecosystem. Grant deadlines begin in August! Learn grant writing

basics and more about Cultural Equity Grants. For more information, visit sfartscommission.org/ceg or contact Beatrice.Thomas@sfgov.org.

NERT Training

SFFD Division of Training

2310 Folsom Street (at 19th Street)

Tuesdays 6:30pm-9:30pm

August 20th to September 24th

Or

Personal Readiness Workshop

Thursday, August 8th

6:30pm-8:30pm

The San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is free training from the San Francisco Fire Department in how to help yourself and your neighbors prepare for and respond to a disaster by working together. The 20-hour training taught by First Responders includes personal preparedness, light search and rescue, disaster medicine, shutting off your utilities, and how to participate as a member of a neighborhood response team. NERT also offers continuing training for graduates and activities that support building robust neighborhood teams. For more information, visit the NERT website at <http://sfgov.org/sffdnert> or contact Lt. Erica Arteseros at (415) 970-2022.

Noe Valley Friends of the Urban Forest Community Planting

Saturday, August 10th

9:00am-12:00pm

Location: TBD

Friends of the Urban Forest helps individuals and neighborhood groups plant and care for street trees and sidewalk gardens in San Francisco. This "green infrastructure" improves the city by beautifying neighborhoods, cleaning the air, raising property values and reducing polluted stormwater runoff. Since 1981, FUF has planted more than 47,000 trees, totaling 43% of San Francisco's street tree canopy. Come and help to continue this work. For more information or the location, contact Phil Pierce at Friends of the Urban Forest at (415) 268-0773.



Mayor Ed Lee signs Scott's Food Truck legislation at the Civic Center Off the Grid

DTNA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, August 12th

7:00pm

Castro Theater

The Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA) represents residents, businesses and property owners in San Francisco's Duboce Triangle neighborhood, bordered by Market St., Castro St., Divisadero St., Waller St., Webster St. and Duboce Avenue. Their goal is to protect, maintain and improve our neighborhood quality of life, and ensure that the Duboce Triangle continues to be San Francisco's very best neighborhood in which to live, work and play.

La Cocina's 2nd Annual San Francisco Night Market

Friday, August 16th

6:00pm-9:00pm

100 Alemany Boulevard

This event will partner well-known chefs from across the country with La Cocina program participants to create one-of-a-kind dishes in an environment reminiscent of the nighttime markets in Bangkok, Mexico City, and other vibrant cities of the world. In addition to food, music, and drinks, this year La Cocina is thrilled to welcome cultural games and activities to the Night Market. It is a pre-ticketed event, serving as an important fundraiser for La Cocina, which is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. For your \$35 donation to La Cocina, you will receive entry to the event and plenty of entertainment. For information, or to buy a ticket, click [here](#).

5th Annual Mission Street Food Festival

Saturday, August 17th

9:00am-6:00pm

Folsom Street between 22nd and 26th Streets

This street food festival produced by La Cocina brings together more than 70 micro-entrepreneurs, informal food vendors and renowned chefs to celebrate and promote great street food. For more information, go to www.sfstreetfoodfest.com.

3rd Annual Noe Valley Wine Walk

Thursday, August 22nd

4:00pm-8:00pm

24th Street from Diamond to Chattanooga

Don't miss this unique and affordable event hosted by the Noe Valley Merchants Association and Steven Restino Event Services. The tasting event will include restaurants and merchants offering wine samples, finger foods and special treats. Attendees wishing to participate in the sampling program may purchase on-site tickets for \$25 or advance tickets for \$20 via the website. The on-site tickets sales location is to be determined. Please check back for further information. Participants will receive a wine glass and map with all of the tasting locations. Ticket sales on the day of the event will be "Cash Only."

For more information, click [here](#).



(c) Charlotte Florio

Scott speaking at City Hall the morning the Supreme Court struck down DOMA and Prop 8

Noe Courts Community Meeting

Saturday, September 7th

10:30am-12:00pm

St. Philips Church Parish Hall

725 Diamond Street

Please join us at the 3rd and final community meeting about the future of Noe Courts. We will be reviewing plans park improvements that range from enhancements to the current park layout, to repurposing the tennis courts to accommodate more park users, to shifting the location of the basketball court. For more information, please contact Marvin Yee, Project Manager of the Recreation and Park Department, at Marvin.Yee@sfgov.org, or (415) 581-2541.

Cinco de Noe

Saturday, September 7th

12:00pm-4:00pm

Noe Valley Recreation Center

Celebrate the fifth anniversary of Upper Noe Rec Center's remodel at Cinco de Noe, featuring a cultural mix of food and live music, children's art activities, special recreation opportunities, community organizations and, of course, neighbors. Think of it as a block party for the whole neighborhood! What's to celebrate? Prior to its renovation, the center was run down, neglected, somewhat hazardous, and in many ways less than inviting. Improved access, appearance, seating, restrooms, playground and other amenities have

improved access, appearance, seating, restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities have made it a place neighbors now want to visit, gather or simply enjoy as they pass through on walks in the neighborhood.

San Francisco Opera in the Park

Saturday, September 8th

1:30pm-4:00pm

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Join the SF Opera for arias al fresco as we celebrate the opening of San Francisco Opera's 91st season with stars from the fall operas, accompanied by the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Orchestra, conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. Bring a picnic and enjoy this outdoor concert. Food and beverages will also be available for sale at the event.



Scott after the first marriage ceremony he performed after the Supreme Court invalidated Prop 8

Castro Farmers' Market

Weekly on Wednesdays

4:00pm-8:00pm

Noe Street at Market Street

The Castro Farmers Market runs every Wednesday from March 31st to December 18th. For more information, click [here](#).

Glen Park Farmers' Market

*Weekly on Sundays
10:00am-2:00pm*

Glen Park BART Parking Lot (Bosworth and Diamond)

The Glen Park Farmers' Market runs every Sunday from March 31st to November 24th. Click [here](#) for more information.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Weekly on Saturdays

8:00am-1:00pm

24th Street (between Sanchez and Vicksburg Streets)

The Noe Valley Farmers' Market is a year-round California certified farmers' market operated primarily by community volunteers and run in partnership with the Noe Valley Ministry. Click [here](#) for more information.

Family and Adult Bicycling Classes

Ongoing

Locations TBD

Learn how to ride a bike, practice road safety, develop good traffic skills, bike while pregnant, bike with your child/toddler and much more. Workshops fill up quickly and are offered throughout the year. Click [here](#) for more information

LGBT Drop-In Club Weekly Workgroup at The Center

Weekly on Tuesdays

10:00-11:30am

The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street

The Center's Workforce Development Program is pleased to provide a free workgroup open to all job seekers. Come network and get support with your job search. The Job Club is a peer-to-peer discussion group where you can share experiences / best practices and receive ongoing direction and advice from a career coach to help manage a productive job search. One-On-One drop-in is the best first step before attending the workgroup. If you have a question regarding the group please contact Clair Farley, clairf@sfcenter.org. If you are interested in One-on-One job search and coaching please contact christinar@sfcenter.org or (415) 865-5614. Please note the building does not open to the public until noon. Job Club attendees please wait at the Center's main door and someone will let you in by 10:00am. Click [here](#) for more information.



Scott at the Larkin Street Youth Services' Annual Education Graduation

ADA Merchant Committee

1st and 3rd Thursdays

9:30am

Sally Brunn Library (Noe Valley Branch), 451 Jersey Street

For merchants who are struggling with ADA compliance issues, please attend a meeting

hosted by the ADA Merchant Committee. They are seeking the active participation of all merchants and all agencies city-wide to assist small businesses in coping with this very complex situation. The library is closed at that time, so please knock on the door to enter. Any questions, please contact Gwen Sanderson, Video Wave, nvgwen@gmail.com, 415-509-6261 or Susan Walia, Castro Computer Services, susan@modcore.com, 415-826-6678.

Open Gyms

Every Sunday

5:00-8:00pm

Eureka Valley Recreation Center (100 Collingwood at 18th Street)

Basketball players of all skill-levels and ages are invited to Open Gyms every Sunday. For \$5, the San Francisco Gay Basketball Association hosts these open-court style games. All are welcome. Bring a dark t-shirt and a white t-shirt to signify which team you are on. Click [here](#) for more information

Free Rapid HIV Testing for Youth

Weekly on Tuesdays

5:00-7:00pm

The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street

Free Rapid HIV testing for youth 24 and under offered by Larkin Street Youth Services.

Click [here](#) for more information