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SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 8

April 2014 Newsletter

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Thursday, May 1st
12:00pm-2:00pm

Policy Work

[Castro In-Law Legislation Passes](#)

Addressing our housing affordability crisis requires a broad range of solutions, including finding ways to increase our housing supply at various affordability levels. Last week, the Board of Supervisors took a step towards doing this when it [unanimously passed my legislation](#) to allow the creation of [new in-law units in the Castro](#). In-law units are the most affordable type of non-subsidized housing and are usually more accessible since they are often on the ground floor. Also, units placed in rent-controlled buildings will be subject to rent control, which will allow for the creation of [new rent-controlled units](#) for the first time in over 30 years. We need to continue to work toward positive solutions like this to create more places for people to live in San Francisco.

[Utility Box Legislation](#)

As many in our neighborhoods know, the process for placing utility boxes on our sidewalks isn't working. It creates adversarial conditions among neighbors, utility companies, and city departments. To address this, I have [introduced legislation](#) to codify and establish an improved process for the placement of utility boxes on our city streets. State law prohibits local governments from banning these boxes, but we do have significant leeway to set standards and processes around the siting of boxes. The legislation will require significant consideration of neighborhood impacts, early community outreach prior to application for a box, and stronger rules for beautification and greening improvements, including placing murals on the boxes. The legislation will also require utilities to make good faith efforts to find private property for the boxes and will require the Department of Public Works to periodically evaluate the feasibility of undergrounding the boxes. I look forward to moving this legislation through the Board of Supervisors soon.

City Hall, Room 274

Saturday, May 3rd
9:00am-11:00am
Church Street Cafe
260 Church 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 at the Bay Woof Beast of the Bay Awards with Lynne from the animal rescue group the Milo Foundation and little Osito. Scott was runner up for most dog-friendly politician, losing out at President Obama.

HIV Budget Hearing

Over the last three years, federal budget cuts to HIV services in San Francisco have resulted in a shortfall of over \$20 million. I have worked each year with the Mayor, my colleagues, and community leaders to ensure that our City budget makes up the difference so we don't see cuts to services for those living with or at-risk for HIV. [I have called for a hearing](#) on the estimated funding cuts for the upcoming fiscal year, including how we as a city can ensure that these shortfalls are filled through our budget process. While lower than in the past, this year's cuts are estimated to amount to \$2.7 million. As in years past, ensuring that this shortfall is funded will be a top priority for me in the budget.

Transportation Updates

Late Night Transit Hearing

This week I held a hearing on our late night transportation needs and possible solutions to improve and expand nighttime service. Nightlife is a significant part of our cultural and economic lifeblood. In 2011, at my request, the City Economist assessed the economic impact of the nighttime economy and determined that the industry contributes \$4.2 billion annually to San Francisco's economy, employs over 50,000 people in largely middle class jobs, and generates about \$50 million in tax revenue. Despite this robust activity, nighttime transit options are spotty and, at times, non-existent, undermining nightlife in general and making it challenging for many workers. At the hearing I announced that I will be seeking the creation of a late night transit working group, headed by the Entertainment Commission and the Office Economic and Workforce Development. I look forward to improving our city's and region's late night mobility.

Expanding Car Share

To be a truly transit-first city, in addition to public transit, we need to have easy access to car sharing, which allows people easy periodic access to cars without having to own one. Car sharing reduces congestion and makes car usage more efficient. As more and more parking lots and gas are developed, we need to be more aggressive about finding spots for car share. In 2012, [I authored legislation](#) to make it easier for developers to place publicly accessible car share spots in their developments. Now, MTA is moving forward with a very important plan to [lease up to 900 on-street parking spaces](#) to car share companies in neighborhoods throughout San Francisco. Moving forward with multiple strategies is key to ensuring strong access to car sharing.

Employee Shuttles

Employee shuttles have been a significant topic of conversation in San Francisco recently. Employers have utilized shuttles for their employees for decades. 80% of the shuttles never leave the city. The other 20% - those going to the Peninsula - have been at the center of the controversy. Some have blamed them for gentrifying the city, while others simply don't like how they operate in our neighborhoods, in terms of their size or use of Muni stops. In discussing this issue, I think it's important to keep in mind that thousands of San Francisco residents - our neighbors - rely on these shuttles to get to work each day. Sometimes that gets lost in the shuffle. It's also important, in my view, to keep in mind that the shuttle riders are residents of

our city. Some have tried to demonize them as somehow not real San Franciscans. I personally don't think that's a productive way to address the issue. A number of the shuttle riders have lived in San Francisco for a long time, but it actually doesn't matter how long they've lived here. This is a city where newcomers continually arrive - over many decades - and absorb into San Francisco's fabric while also bringing fresh perspectives. It's one of the things that makes our city great. We don't get to decide who lives here and who doesn't live here.

The Municipal Transportation agency, in an effort to better regulate the shuttles' routes and bus stop usage, is launching an 18-month pilot program. Under the program, the shuttle operators will pay about \$1.5 million to fund the pilot and its enforcement. Unfortunately, implementation of the pilot program was recently delayed due to the filing of an appeal to the Board of Supervisors under environmental laws. The appeal had no legal merit, and the Board overwhelmingly rejected it.

Our housing crisis is a complex one that has come about due to decades of bad housing policy. In the past decade, our population grew by 75,000, while we added only 18,000 units of housing. We need to address the structural problems that have led to this situation - and also keep people stable in their housing - without scapegoating one particular segment of residents.



Scott speaking at a Soda Tax Town Hall at St. Mary's Hospital with Dr. Lawrence Cheung, Christina Goette and Supervisor Eric Mar

Park Patrol Budget

As part of the upcoming budget process, I'm proposing to double the size of our inadequately staffed park patrol, which is a key part of keeping our parks safe and stopping them from getting trashed so frequently. San Francisco has approximately 220 park properties, constituting 14% of the city's land mass. Yet, our Recreation & Park Department has very few park patrol officers, currently around 25 total for 24-hour a day, 365 days a year in shifts. Currently, there are only about 2 park patrol officers at any given time to patrol the entire park system, with an additional officer at Candlestick Park. Even if no officer is on vacation, out sick, or in training, only a few more officers will be on duty. While our police department plays a role in park safety, the police are stretched and can't always focus on the park system. The lack of adequate park patrol staffing makes it virtually impossible to enforce basic park rules, which leaves our parks trashed, vandalized, and covered with graffiti. This is unacceptable. Our park system is too valuable to leave it so woefully unattended.



Examples of vandalism in Dolores Park and McClaren Park

Russia Divestment

In light of the recent extreme anti-LGBT legislation passed in Russia, as well as other repressive behavior by the Russian government toward LGBT people, last fall I inquired whether the city had any financial relationships with Russia. The San Francisco Employee Retirement System (SFERS) responded that at the time it held \$37 million (.22% of funds) in Russian securities. I then asked SFERS to evaluate whether the fund could divest from these securities consistent with its paramount fiduciary obligations toward current and future retirees as well as taxpayers. I [held a hearing last week](#) to push SFERS to explore this possibility. At the hearing, SFERS reported that its Russian investments now stand at an even lower \$26 million (.14% of the fund). As these funds comprise such a small fraction of the total investments, I will continue to push SFERS to explore divestment.

LGBT Aging Task Force Recommendations and Hearing

In 2012, I authored legislation along with Supervisor David Campos and former Supervisor Christina Olague [to create an LGBT Aging Task Force](#) to address the needs of our growing LGBT senior population. A few weeks ago, the Task Force released its report and recommendations, showing a [significant need for housing and other service needs](#). Today, we will be holding a hearing on these recommendations at the Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee as a first step towards implementing several of the task force's recommendation. Supervisor Campos and I are already working on legislation to implement a few of the recommendations quickly.

Community Spotlight

Richard Magary and Bob Incerti

This month at the Board of Supervisors I had the privilege to honor Richard Magary and Bob Incerti for their years of dedication and service to the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association. Both are taking a step back from their official duties with the neighborhood association -- Richard as the president and Bob as the treasurer. I look forward to continuing to work with them as neighborhood champions.



Scott with Richard Magyar, Bob Incerti and Supervisor London Breed at the Board of Supervisors

Community Updates

Please Don't Paint the Fire Hydrants!

Recently, [someone has been painting fire hydrants](#) - mostly in District 8 - various colors. While the painter likely believes he or she is creating art in the neighborhood, this painting is a significant public safety problem, as well as an expense to taxpayers. Fire hydrant colors distinguish different kinds of hydrants for firefighters in an emergency. Painting them can undermine this important piece of information, obscure other critical information as well, and make it much harder to move parts on the hydrant. Moreover reverting the hydrants after they're painted is expensive - about \$4,000 per hydrant - since the hydrants usually have to be removed, taken elsewhere, and repaired. Please help spread the word to whoever is doing this that he or she needs to stop.

Castro Sidewalk/Streetscape Update

The work to improve Castro Street is underway, with significant portions of the sidewalk already demolished. The initial proposal to phase the project by block - which would have meant completion of the project by October - has been replaced with performing all of the sidewalk construction work at once. This means that the physical sidewalk and curb reconstruction is [slated to be completed by mid-June](#), before Frameline and Pride. After Pride, the project team will install new lighting and trees, move utility polls, and refurbish Jane Warner Plaza. While this schedule change means more short-term disruption to the street, it also means the most disruptive aspects of the project will be completed well ahead of schedule. By summer we will have our improved Castro Street largely finished and ready for all to enjoy. For more information about the project or to contact the Department of Public Works, [click here](#) or [here](#).

Dolores Park Update

Construction to rehabilitate and improve Dolores Park continues on schedule. The northern section will be closed until the fall, but the southern portion of the park remains open for use. For more details on the project, click [here](#) or contact Jake Gilchrist at the Recreation and Parks Department at Jacob.Gilchrist@sfgov.org or call (415) 581-2561.



Scott with members of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club at the Cesar Chavez Day breakfast

Diamond/Bosworth Intersection Redesign

Funded by an earmark obtained by the late Congressman Tom Lantos, this project will significantly redesign this problem intersection. The traffic signals will be changed, including installation of a left turn signal, and pedestrian crossings and landscaping will be improved. The design has been repeatedly vetted with neighbors at a number of community meetings. MTA anticipates that the physical work will begin in September and be completed before year end. Subsequently, we will work to install traffic signals at both the Bosworth/Arlington and Bosworth/Lyell intersections.

Community Calendar

Small Business Month Fee Waivers

Under legislation sponsored by Supervisor Katy Tang and in partnership with the Department of Building Inspection, Planning Department, Office of Economic & Workforce Development, and Office of Small Business, merchants can receive a fee waiver for permits issued in May for 1) awning replacements and 2) pedestrian level lighting. To find out more information call the Planning Department at (415) 558-6378 and the Department of Building Inspection (415) 558-6088 for more information.

Shape Up San Francisco Walking Challenge

Shape Up SF is gearing up to virtually walk up the coast of California from March 31-June 6! Online Registration is now open for the Shape Up SF Walking Challenge! Start recruiting family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to form a team. Are you up for the 10-week challenge? For more info please visit: shapeupsfwalkingchallenge.org or email: staff@shapeupsfcoalition.org.

Welcome Tourists to the Castro!

Do you stop for people with maps and cameras and help them find their way? Volunteer as a Castro Ambassador! Castro Ambassadors direct visitors to historic venues, eateries and shopping. Over the past two years Ambassadors helped close to 11,000 tourists from all over the globe. Tourists come with questions from where is Harvey's camera store, to how do we get to Twin Peaks, Golden Gate Park or where is your favorite place for lunch? Ambassador branded T-shirts, hats and jackets help them stand out and be recognized. Ambassadors are equipped with maps and other information for tourists. A short training is also provided to all ambassadors. Interested? Contact Andrea Aiello, Executive Director Castro CBD at execdirector@castrocbd.org, call Andrea at 415-500-1181, or visit the website [here](http://www.castrocbd.org).



Scott with Paul Ash, the Executive Director of the San Francisco and Marin Food Bank

LYRIC's 25th Anniversary Open House

Thursday, April 17th

5:30pm-7:30pm

127 Collingwood Street

LYRIC is hosting an Open House in celebration of 25 Years. Stop by for youth-created LYRIC history retrospective, food, performance and more. For more information, [click here](#).

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20th

12:00pm-4:00pm

Hellman Hollow, Golden Gate Park

As a result of the Dolores Park closure, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence annual Easter celebration has been moved to Golden Gate Park. All the usual antics can be expected - Music, laughter, adult contests - Easter Bonnet, Hunky Jesus, and the newly added Foxy Mary! Wizard of Oz costuming encouraged. Bring a picnic and join us for a wonderful afternoon of joyful irreverence. Children's Easter (Easter Egg Hunt/games) will begin at 10:00am, and the Easter Stage and Show will go from 12:00-4:00pm. Click here for more information.

The Royal Bunny After Birth Block Party

Saturday, April 20th

4:00pm-7:00pm

Noe and Market Street out front Cafe Flore

Come to Noe and Market Street in front of Cafe Flore on Easter, 4pm - 7pm, for a truly sickening block party. [Click here](#) for more information.

SF Connected Swap Meet #2

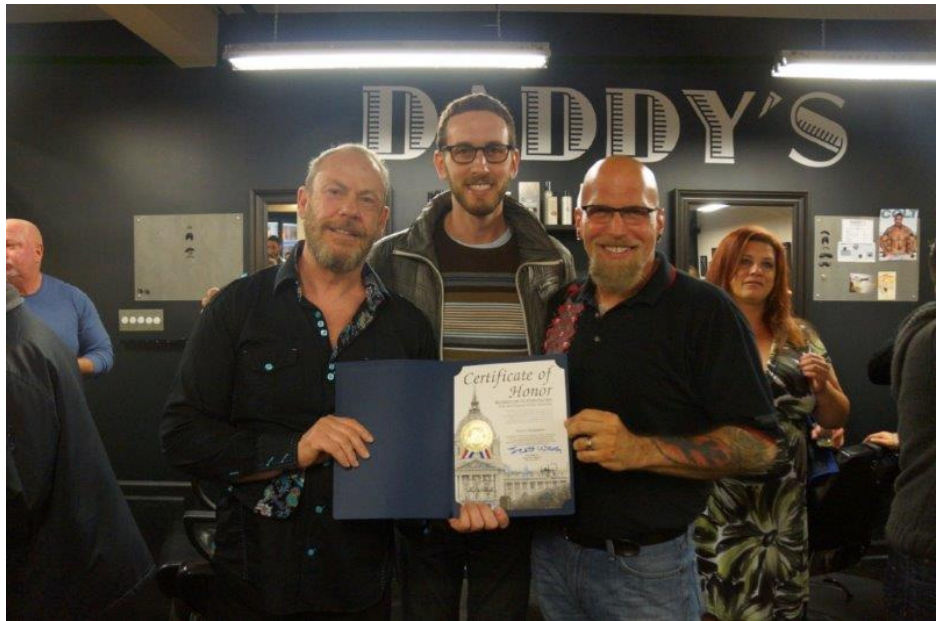
Tuesday, April 22nd

9:30am-12:00pm

First Unitarian Universalist Center

1187 Franklin Street (at Geary)

Join the second SF Connected Swap Meet. There will be resource tables, presentations and opportunities to share your ideas about affordable computers, internet access, volunteer opportunities, and more. Call Community Living Campaign at (415) 821-1003.



Scott at the reopening of Daddy's Barber Shop

9th Annual Poems Under the Dome

Thursday, April 24th

5:30pm-8:00pm

San Francisco City Hall, North Light Court

9th Annual Poems Under the Dome! Celebrate National Poetry Month at City Hall! Reading slots chosen by free and random lottery drawing. 1 poem in 3 minutes or less. For details go to www.poemdome.net. FREE!

Buena Vista Park Clean-Up

Saturday, April 26th

9:00am

Buena Vista Park

Join neighbors for a Spring cleaning for Buena Vista Park. For more information, contact Isabel Wade at isabelwade@gmail.com.

Dogfest

Saturday, April 26th

11:00am-4:00pm

Duboce Park

DogFest is a celebration of dogs and kids benefitting SFUSD McKinley Elementary School, a K-5 public school at Castro and 14th Streets. The festival offers something for dogs, kids, and parents of both breeds. For more information, [click here](#).

Diamond Heights Community Association Community Meeting

Saturday, April 26th

4:00pm-5:30pm

San Francisco Police Academy, Amber Drive

Join Diamond Heights neighbors to hear Supervisor Wiener, from opponents and proponents of the Waterfront Heights Limits Initiative, candidates from the State Assembly District 17 race (David Campos, David Chiu, David Salaverry), and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.



Scott with the American Heart Association on National Walking Day

16th Annual Glen Park Festival

Saturday, April 27th

10:00am-4:30pm

The Festival brings residents, neighbors and friends together for a day of entertainment, music, dancing, and good food. The day promotes neighborhood restaurants, artists and craftspeople from Glen Park and well beyond. The Glen Park Festival raises money for children's programs based in Glen Park.

Golden Gate Restaurant Association Scholarship Foundation Applications

Deadline April 30

Do you know a student currently studying in a culinary or hospitality program who could use financial assistance? If so, encourage them to apply for the Golden Gate Restaurant Association annual scholarship. The Golden Gate Restaurant Association Scholarship Foundation (GGRASF) is a 501(c)(3) and has provided scholarships annually since its inception in 1968 to students dedicated to careers in the culinary and hospitality fields. The foundation also contacts all Bay Area high schools, community colleges, colleges and universities with culinary/hospitality programs to promote the opportunity to their students. The application is available [here](http://donnalynggra.org) and is also available in an online version. For more information, contact Donnalyn Murphy at donnalynggra.org or call (415) 781-5348 ext 2.

Free Seminar about the Gross Receipts Tax

Thursday, May 1st

2:00pm-3:30pm

San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street

In 2014, the City will phase in a Gross Receipts Tax and reduce the Payroll Expense Tax over the next five years. The Gross Receipts Tax will only apply to businesses with more than \$1 million in annual gross receipts, exempting most small businesses. Business Registration Fees will also change for all businesses.

District 8 Youth Town Hall

Saturday, May 1st

6:00pm-8:00pm

LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street

Join Supervisor Wiener and District 8 Youth Commissioner Angela Van Stark for a town hall meeting to discuss issues related to the youth of District 8. Co-sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and the Youth Commission, this event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Adam Taylor at adam.taylor@sfgov.org.



Scott at the opening the Little Free Library on Noe Street

Bike To Work Day

Thursday, May 8th

7:45am-8:30am

It's the 20th Anniversary of San Francisco's Bike to Work Day and we're celebrating the momentous event in style and all month long. District 8 residents can join Supervisor Wiener at Jane Warner Plaza to bike down Market Street at 7:45am. [Click here](#) for more information and [here](#) to sign up.

2014 National Soda Summit

June 4th and 5th

The National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

2014 is shaping up as a historic year for campaigns to reduce sugar-drink consumption in the U.S. in the fight against obesity, diabetes, and other diseases. Illinois and San Francisco/Berkeley are considering soda taxes, and California's legislature is considering a health warning on soda. Hospitals around the country are making the switch from soda to healthy beverages, and restaurants are being challenged to remove soda as the default on kids' meals. Hear from the advocates leading these campaigns, catch up on the latest science from leading researchers, and learn winning strategies to take home to your community. For more information, visit our website [here](#).

Community Boards Resolution

Are you having difficulty with someone? A loud neighbor? Disrespectful roommate? Unresponsive landlord? Community Boards' Neighborhood Mediation Program can assist you with quality of life issues (noise, parking, pets, graffiti, maintenance, etc) or relationship conflicts (family members, roommates, landlords, neighbors, etc). Contact Community Boards at (415) 920-3820 x100 or learn more at www.communityboards.org.



Scott (somewhere in there) with first responders at a citywide emergency preparedness drill with NERT at Everett Middle School

2014 SF Housing Expo

Saturday, June 14th, 2014

St. Marys Cathedral, 1111 Gough St.

The event is to provide free information and resources for homebuyers, homeowners and tenants. Find local services, programs and financial tools to help SF residents achieve and maintain affordable housing in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the nation. For more information click [here](#). For further questions,

please contact Catalina Valencia at 415-202-5464 or Catalina@homeownerspsf.org.

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.