

Report of SOM PAC
Crime & Safety Committee
July 1998

The regular Crime & Safety Committee meeting was held Wednesday, 8 July 1998; 6 pm, at 1028A Howard St. Committee member Jocson was absent. Sgt. McEachern, SFPD, and Ricardo Olea, Department of Parking & Traffic were present as well as Judith Pomeroy, manager of Marian Residence & Brooks Petros, manager of the 1015 Club.

Bike lanes (6:10 pm)

The Department of Parking and Traffic will be holding a hearing on 18 July at 9 am, 401 Van Ness (temporary City Hall) 4th floor, deciding on adding new bike lanes. The ones that concern us are Howard (one-way) from Steuart to 9th; and 5th (two-way) from Market to Townsend. These link up with existing bike lanes throughout the City. The Howard bike lane (SW bound) is needed to complement the existing bike lane on Folsom (NE bound).

The worst effect is on congestion at intersections. Howard traffic in PACland would not be significantly affected; existing minimal and acceptable congestions would probably not increase significantly. 5th Street traffic in PACland already has excessive delays at Harrison, but Folsom would (as predicted) go from acceptable to tolerable, while Howard would go from minimal to excessive (because of new no-left-turn signs?).

The benefits would include better local transportation, more efficient transportation, and help in getting bikes off of all sidewalks. We already know from decades of experience with freeways that building more auto capacity quickly results in more congestion. We need a little capacity for alternative forms of transportation. Bikes have been neglected for too long.

The Crime & Safety Committee passed, unanimously, the following motion addressed to the Parking and Traffic Commission. "The Crime & Safety Committee of the Redevelopment Agency's South of Market Project Area Committee strongly recommends that the PAC support the addition of bike lanes on Howard and 5th Street." Since the decisive meeting of the Commission is on the 18th and the next PAC meeting is on the 20th, the C & S Committee is further referring the matter to the next Executive Committee meeting for any additional action.

Information on getting residential parking permits for some of PACland was supplied by Engineer Olea. This will be studied at the next C & S Committee meeting (5 Aug). Basically, for a \$21 annual fee most street parking would be time restricted but not applying to permit holders. Parking studies, a neighborhood meeting, and a Board of Supervisor's action would set it up. Perhaps an existing SOM zone could be expanded.

Police Matters (6:30 pm)

Crime statistics for May were not distributed with the June report as they were not made available until after the June PAC mailing but are attached as are the June statistics which were discussed next. The one rape in June (between 6th (?_ 8th, and maybe not in PACland) was a serious increase and some detail will be provided at a later date. Robberies were up probably because of a special robbery operation. In general crime was down in June compared to last June; barely, SW of 6th. & .38% NE of 6th. Sgt McEachern reported that the \$60,000 from the State Justice Dept would be spent this summer on overtime added foot and bike patrols on 6th and Market Streets.

A log of destructive and disruptive actions was presented from an office manager on Howard Street: furniture, clothes, garbage, drug sales & paraphernalia, loitering, sleeping, vandalism, etc, and public urination at least five times a day. The Police will pay special attention to the location for a start. The C & S Committee will also attempt to mitigate the problem. We C & S members are

discovering wide-spread reports of public urination despite the two public nuisance misdemeanor sweeps in the past six months. Ways of discouraging the practice were discussed. It was suggested that logs be kept with identities (if possible), and also using a camera to register the act and to impress the violator. The C & S Committee will follow up at subsequent meetings.

In addition there is a new request for a beer and wine license (across the street from the SOMA Hostel) for a Thai restaurant at 1069 Folsom. We will address this at next month's meeting.

Other Business (7: 1 0) pm

Following the June PAC meeting (15 June) the attached memo was sent to the Secretary concerning letter³ adopted by the PAC. On 18 June the attached letter was delivered to the ABC with newspaper clippings. On 23 June the attached lottery from Captain Martel to the ABC was mailed to the Chair of the C & S Committee. The regular Crime & Safety meeting has been changed FROM the 1st Wednesday of the month TO the 1st Wednesday after the 1st Monday of the month. Thus, the regular C & S meeting will be either the 1st or 2nd Wednesday of the month. The meeting was ended at 7: 13 pm.