

## **Report of the PAC Crime & Safety Committee**

**Aug 1998**

The regular Crime & Safety Committee meeting was held Wednesday, 5 August 1998, 6 pm, at 1028A Howard St. Committee members Stadlman & Jocson were absent. Sgt. McEachern, SFPD, Dave Snyder of the SF Bicycle Coalition, and Henry Perez for the SSMRA were present as well as the managers of Asian Inc. residences at 518 Minna & 479 Natoma, a representative of Caritas Management Company, PAC members Willis Warner & Bernadette Sy, and other public members.

### **Bike Lanes (6:17 pm)**

The Commission of Parking and Traffic decided against bike lanes on Howard and on 5th, as well as almost all bike lanes throughout the City, even though the Board of Supervisors had approved them. Approximately 25% of SOM residents own cars, compared to about 75% city-wide. And thru-traffic is one of our more serious- problems in PACland. It has been generations now that it has been recognized that the private automobile is not a viable urban vehicle, yet motorists do not pay their own way, even more capital of public monies is poured into bike less and no mass transit urban freeways and bridges, and yet traffic jams expand.

For example is the suggestion that instead of bike lanes on 5th (which would remove one car lane) they should be added to the one-way 4th and 3rd streets. This proposal ignores the fact that the small increase in congestion on 5th street would be incidental to the disruption that would occur on the major arterials of 4th and 3rd streets.

We can help if we strive to improve the balance in transportation alternatives, at least in PACland.

### **Police Matters (6:25 pm)**

#### **Public Urination (6:25 pm)**

Sgt McEachern reported that police drive-bys at the Tehama site, as requested at the July C & S meeting, had shown a reduction in loitering and trashing. There was a discussion on how to reduce similar problems at 518 Minna and 479 Natoma. Posting of no loitering notices will allow the police to make arrests without citizen's formal complaints. Also, nighttime activities will be decreased by installing lights that are activated by motion detectors.

This also reassures residents who are leaving or entering home.

#### **220 6th Street Shop (7:05 pm)**

The SFPD is not opened yet because of building inspectors actions. It will be a retail lingerie store, with som3 women modeling, opened until late at night. They claim that since the modeling is done for less than 15% of the time, they do not require a police permit (for live entertainment). This will be followed up with the police.

#### **Liquor License at 1069 Folsom (7: 13 pm)**

The new request for a beer and wine license (across the street from the SOMA Hostel) for a restaurant ,,it 1069 Folsom will, apparently, not include out the door sales. We will meet the owners at the September C & .s meeting.

### **Crime Statistics (7:17 pm)**

Crime statistics for July (attached) were discussed next. Sgt McEachern reported that the \$60,000 from the State Justice Dept had not yet been released but Captain Martel agreed with the C & S Committee's proposal that the overtime go for added foot and bike patrols on 6th and Market Streets; probably in September and October.

### **Proposed SSMRA Contract (7:34 pm)**

Henry Perez presented his case for the Sixth Street Merchants and Residents Association (SSMRA). Since he has appeared before three of the four PAC committees, and the Chair of C & S is also a member of those; other two committees, this report will combine results of all three meetings. The SSMRA claims several current medical and community services.

The SSMRA "Clinic" at 112 6th is not a licensed medical facility and does no primary care. It has a Doctor from the Waddell Clinic for two hours each on Tuesday am, Wednesday pm, and Saturday am, who refers clients who need primary care to either the SOM Health Center Clinic (less than a block away on Minna) or the Tom Waddell Clinic near City Hall. There is another satellite clinic for the Waddell Clinic in the Rose Hotel. Why would a Waddell Doctor refer 6th Street residents to near City Hall instead of Minna? It has been suggested that since the Minna Clinic has to take uninsured patients and the Waddell Clinic does not, there is a division of potential clients based on ability to be paid. This can be confirmed easily enough, but Perez could not estimate the patient load at the SSMRA office on any day. He also had no explanation why 6th Street patients would not rather go to the licensed Minna Clinic where they would wind up anyway, instead of the SSMRA office. But for this referral service there is a triple duplication of services in a one block area (Rose, SSMRA, and Minna).

A Doctor in the UCSF Medical Center supervises research studies in HIV and TB and the interviews are done at the SSMRA office. No explanation was given as to why these interviews could not be done in the Rose Waddell satellite clinic or the Minna clinic.

The community services Perez recounted included support for a "SoMa Hotel Assn" and "Sixth Street. Neighborhood Coalition", What's Up newsletter, annual Thanksgiving dinner, tenants' meetings, and "SFRA meetings with owners, merchants, and residents". One public member said he had participated in one Thanksgiving dinner but hadn't seen anything like the 500 to 800 people served that Perez claimed. Perez explained that they sent donated turkeys to two other sites as well. But we didn't get the number served at the SSMRA site.

Most important was the claim of meetings with the Agency. In December 97 the PAC went on record as supporting SRO: rehab and revitalization to meet the SRO Ordinance; encourage, improvement of management: fl facilitate assistance for owners and tenants. But we also declined to accept SSMRA's program to achieve those goals as-is without further PAC review. Perez has since (without the knowledge of or participation by the PAC) met with Agency staff, City Atty Karen Carrera, Supervisor President Kaufman, and the City Administrator Lee. and is attempting to impose his broad SRO policies on the Agency through the Mayor's Office. Perez claimed that his SRO management standards were soon to be incorporated in the City's SRO management standards. When asked why he didn't gain support for his programs through the PAC, he asked why should he cooperate with an organization that is out to destroy the SSMRA?(1). Berk stated that he wanted the SSMRA to be an effective representative of all 6th Street merchants, excluding none. Perez clarified that his SSMRA Board members (9 to be elected annually in July) were: Mella Dee Hoffman (Lawrence SRO), Bill Wittig (Phillips SRO), David Patel (SRO owner), Mario Pyle (Asian Inc), Gregg Higgs (Seneca SRO), & himself (Hispanic and merchant).

Perez also claimed to have been very instrumental in changing the Agency's position on the 6th Street Improvement Plan by urging the scrapping of the elimination of the under-the-sidewalk basements most 6th Street buildings have as easements from the City. This will delay or avoid the necessary reinforcement of the front facade wall foundation. He also urged coupling the sidewalk replacements with rehabilitation of the SRO hotels. In addition he claims that the 6th Street landlords have authorized him to act for them in dealing with the Agency! The improvement of the SRO hotels and their tenants living conditions is the toughest problem the PAC and the Agency faces. and the Agency has no program for it except the occasional hotel, like the Knox and the Rose, the Delt3 and the Hugo. But there are 39 SRO hotels in PACland. At that rate the problem may be solved by 2050. If the process is quickly hastened a Western Addition solution may happen with the razing of the vast majority; but neither HUD, the City, or Redevelopment has the money to replace them. And if the Ordinance protecting the SRO tenants by forbidding the permanent loss of SRO rooms is ever repealed, there will be a slaughter on 6th Street for the SRO tenants. Henry Perez related that the "red-lining" of the SRO's (prohibiting their conversion to tourist hotels) had red-lined the 6th Street businesses and had cost him his pawn shop.

Henry Perez is the President of the SSMRA and the GP/TOCO Board of Directors, and also series on the Boards of: the South Of Market Council (formerly SOMPSC), the South Of Market Foundation, and a UCSF Medical student organization. Berk pointed out that SSMRA's bid for an Agency contract would be better served if specific programs. For rent and utilities alone, the SSMRA was free to undertake any project at all with no accountability to the community or the Agency. It became an agent of the Agency but with no Agency control or accountability.

Perez also stated that SSMRA received \$19,500 over the four months from mid-January to mid-May of 97 from the Agency and his contract had three programs. They were:

1. Formation of a Sixth Street Hotel Owners Association which organization will be encouraged to participate in community affairs and in the efforts of the South Of Market Problem Solving Council (SOMPSC) and the proposed Project Area Committee (PAC).
2. Owner Participation rules and regulations, which include Property Management and Livability Standards.
3. Hotel House Rules

There are voluminous reports on the SSMRA's performance on these tasks which will be reported on at a later date. The \$19,500 went for: \$15,904 in wages (\$21.6/hr Perez, \$12.5/hr Nakagawa); \$400 in rent; \$1,300 in equipment; and \$1,896 in operating costs.

Apparently no other organization (including the Agency) has investigated Perez's request for funding, but this type of review is one of the most important roles for the PAC to perform. We have a watchdog function to play that no other organization can afford to do. Henry Perez's presentation was mainly anecdotal with few sustaining facts. Accordingly, the Crime & Safety Committee members believe that the PAC should take no action on this SSMRA contract proposal until at the least the following questions are investigated:

- \* what are the medical loads at the SSMRA's clinic;
- \* what are the needle exchange loads at the SSMRA's clinic;
- \* are the uninsured referrals basically to the Minna clinic;
- \* the medical organizations' relations with PACland;
- \* the SSMRA's relationship to the SOM Health Center;

- \* the medical organizations' alternatives for sites;
- \* the source of past rent monies and why they are no longer available;
- \* the 1997 contract and final report(s);
- \* what SRO tenants associations were organized by the SSMRA; '
- \* does Perez have a claim on Redevelopment for the loss of his shop like those displaced by the Agency's actions;
- \* with what authority does Perez represent the SRO hotel owners to the Agency;
- \* what other Boards are the other SSMRA Board members on.

The meeting was ended at 8:21 pm. The next regular C & S meeting will be on 9 Sep, 6 pm, at a location to