

# SOUTH OF MARKET PROJECT AREA NEWSLETTER

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## BESSIE CARMICHAEL SCHOOL by *Jim Garrison*

Folks here in SoMa have good reason to celebrate. Long neglected, the SoMa community is now experiencing the exhilaration of tangible changes. The new Bessie Carmichael will be state-of-the-art and be adjacent to a landscaped park. Sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements were recently completed on Sixth Street from Howard to Harrison, which will be continued along Sixth up to Market this winter. The Redevelopment Agency recently secured \$750,000 for the first year of Six on Sixth, a five-year business and commercial improvement program for the Sixth Street Corridor.

For over twenty years promises were made and then were consistently broken to SoMa parents for improving the dismal conditions of Bessie Carmichael School. So it was immensely pleasurable to watch people—students, parents, community activists, city officials—swing sledge hammers into the wall of the soon-to-be demolished warehouse where the new school will rise. The high energy everyone shared was heightened even more by the laughter and shouts of the elementary schools students at the groundbreaking.

I think several factors played crucial roles in getting the new school, which also offer valuable lessons to our community to keep the momentum for change moving forward.

First, formed in 1999, the New Bessie Carmichael Working Group demonstrates how a community-based, multi-cultural, multi-lingual grassroots coalition of individuals,

businesses, and organizations, can have a positive impact on an official policy of neglect. This working group persevered by lobbying, writing letters, and continually meeting (again and again) with numerous officials to fulfill those earlier promises. I was impressed by how the Working Group helped SOMPAC fulfill its mission of collecting and funneling community input to the appropriate government agencies. Through a number of motions and endorsements, SOMPAC again and again pressed the dire need for a new school.

Second, for me, the new school and park shows the importance of the return in 2000 to district representation. In the “old days,” city supervisors could not be held accountable for fulfilling their promises. Now, constituents have the ability to press for answers to identifiable problems. Sympathetic to the official abandonment of the minority families and their children in SoMa, District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly made building a new school a top priority. With Daly as an ally, the Working Group saw the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution urging SFUSD to prioritize the rebuilding of Bessie Carmichael in January 2001. This was followed in February 2002, when the SFUSD School Board voted unanimously to immediately finance the building of a new Bessie Carmichael.



*Principal Dr. Igancio, Supervisor Daly, and  
Patrice Johnson NBC Working Group*

The public is invited to attend **Neighborhood Parks Council meeting on October 2 at the SOMA Recreation Center to help with the concept design for the new park. (Contact Vidya or Leslie at 415.621.3260).** Those interested in *Six on Sixth* and how it will impact businesses in the neighborhood are invited to **SOMPAC's Economics Employment and Business Development Committee, which meets the first Thursday of every month in the SOMPAC offices.**

## Sixth Street Sidewalk Improvement Update

The Redevelopment Agency, Department of Public Works, and Urban Solutions have been working to build new sidewalks on Sixth Street between Market and Harrison streets. Through a basement loan program, the Agency provides funds to Sixth Street property owners to either abandon or reinforce their sub-sidewalk basements, in order to support the new sidewalks. Construction began on Phase One of Sixth Street between Harrison and Howard streets last February. DPW widened the sidewalks, installed new paving, historic light poles, street trees and bulb-outs. Early next year DPW is scheduled to start construction on Phase Two of Sixth Street between Howard and Market Streets.

In addition to new sidewalks, the Agency has continued to fund sidewalk cleaning on Sixth Street. Through the services of KTB Management Group, Inc. (KTB) and SOMA Partnership, the Agency provides funding for steam cleaning, power washing, litter removal and graffiti abatement. KTB provides power washing twice a month and graffiti removal three days a week on Sixth Street from Natoma to Clementina Street. In addition, KTB provides steam cleaning twice a month on Sixth Street from Market to Clementina Street and subcontracts with SOMA Partnership to remove litter seven days a week on Sixth Street from Natoma to Clementina Street. These services are free to property and business owners in the cleaning areas. If your property is in need of any of these services, please contact **Jack McGann at KTB**

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## Plan Amendment Update

Since last May, the Redevelopment Agency has continued to work with the Committee for Plan Amendment (CPA) to revise the South of Market (SOM) Redevelopment Plan. The proposed Redevelopment Plan Amendment would enable the Redevelopment Agency to further alleviate blight in the SOM Project Area.

Over the summer, the CPA has been discussing possible zoning changes with Agency staff. Planning Department staff, which attended one of the meetings, advised the CPA to find a consensus on their recommended zoning changes. This would enable the Planning Department to determine the feasibility of the recommendations. Interested property owners and others are encouraged to attend the monthly **CPA meetings held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM at the SOMPAC offices.**

### Southern District Preliminary Crime Report Month Ending: July 2002

	July 2001	July 2002	% Change
Homicide	2	0	-100.00%
Rape	4	0	-100.00%
Robbery	40	35	-12.50%
Aggravated Assault	23	37	60.86%
Burglary	81	67	-17.28%
Other Larceny	285	223	-21.75%
Auto Boosting	261	164	-37.16%
Motor Vehicle Theft	60	48	-20.00%
Recovered Vehicle	1	0	-100.00%
<b>District Total:</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>-24.17%</b>

## Launch of Six on Sixth Economic Revitalization Plan for Sixth Street

This fall, SOMPAC the Redevelopment Agency and Urban Solutions plan to launch *Six on Sixth*, an economic revitalization program for Sixth Street between Market and Harrison Streets. *Six on Sixth* aims to improve the neighborhood by strengthening the retail sector and enhancing the appearance of properties and businesses on the street. To achieve this, the Agency is considering offering grants and loans to business and property owners to make facade and tenant improvements and to invest in their businesses. The Agency might also offer grants and loans to attract new businesses to Sixth Street. Lastly, funds could be provided to support community building and promotional activities to improve the image of Sixth Street and to market the retail sector.

The program has a budget of \$750,000 for the first year. Businesses and properties located on Sixth Street between Market and Harrison Streets would be eligible to participate. The details of the program are being developed by Agency and Urban Solutions staff, working closely with the South of Market PAC. The Redevelopment Commission is expected to consider this program this fall.

### The goals of *Six on Sixth* are:

To revitalize neighborhood-serving businesses

To bring vacant commercial real estate back online by helping property owners renovate underutilized retail space

To attract new businesses to the area run by established operators with a proven track record of success

To beautify the commercial environment

Urban Solutions would manage the program, perform outreach and assist participants throughout the process of applying and executing their projects. The Redevelopment Agency and the Mayor's Office of Community Development would administer the loans and grants.

If you have any comments or questions about how you can participate in *Six on Sixth*, please call **Jenny McNulty at Urban Solutions at (415) 553-4433**.

## What's in a Name? by Henry Karnilowicz

1 name \ nam \ [ME, fr. OEnama; akin to OHG namo, name, L nomen, Gk anoma, onyma] 1 a: a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing 1 b: a descriptive or disparaging epithet, 3 a: REPUTATION, b: an illustrious record: FAME, c: a person or thing with a reputation.

When a child is born the first thing the parent's do is bestow on it a name. Sometimes though, once the child grows to an adult, the name given by the parents is found to not be to the liking of that person and so he or she changes the name to something that that person feels is more attractive or appealing.

As we go through life one of the first things we do when meeting someone is introduce ourselves by stating what our name is, and it is not uncommon for the next question to be "where are you from?"

When we talk about people or places we always mention their names. Names reveal not only the identity but also the reputation of a person, animal, place or thing. Thus we change names to either: erase what is no longer relevant, or has a terrible reputation, or because we wish to change the flavor or to honor someone. In San Francisco over the years we have changed names of streets to e.g.: Lech Walensa Street, Cesar Chavez Street, Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, etc. Of all the people, which, have, streets named after them there is one person who truly is a piece of San Francisco history and yet there is not one street named after him, he is Emperor Norton 1. With the revitalization of the Sixth Street corridor it would change the image of the area if Sixth Street were renamed Emperor Norton 1 Way.

Joshua Abraham Norton was born in 1819 in England and migrated from South Africa to San Francisco in 1849 with a then princely sum of \$40,000.00. By 1854 he lost all his money in real estate speculation by trying to corner the rice market. On September 17, 1859 he proclaimed himself Emperor Norton 1 of the United States. Until his death in 1880 he made numerous proclamations and decrees, including calling on the world leaders to form a League of United Nations where disputes between nations could be resolved peacefully. Unfortunately that was not to happen till after World War III! One of his de-crees was that a suspension bridge be built between San Francisco and Oakland! His proclamations were always published in the local newspapers. To pay his bills he is-sued paper currency, mostly 50c but also \$5.00 and \$10.00 denominations, which were honored. When he died his funeral cortege was 2 miles long with over 10,000 people attending.

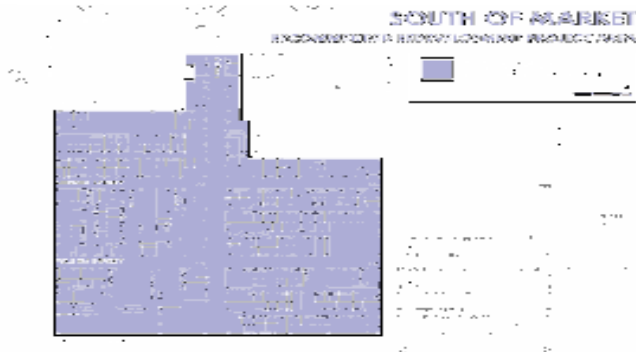
I think that it would be a wonderful tribute to a person who was a real San Francisco character and it would also add to make this main artery into San Francisco one that will have character instead of just a number.

"Serving the South of Market Project Area since 1997"

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*SOMPAC Minutes & Agendas  
Available online via  
[www.sompac.com](http://www.sompac.com)*



## SOMPAC MEMBERS

**CBO: Mercy Housing California/  
Shadow Morton**

**SRO Residential Tenant/  
Diane Burke**

**Business Owner/Service/  
Marty Cerles**

**Residential Owner/Occupant/  
Leonard Creed**

**SRO Hotel Owner/  
Dr. Mahendra J. Dave**

**Non-SRO Residential Tenant/  
Jim Garrison**

**SRO Residential Tenant/  
Joanna Hagerty**

**CBO: West Bay Multi-Services Inc.  
Edwin Jolson**

**Business Owner or Representative/Wholesale  
Henry Karnilowicz**

**CBO: South of Market Employment Center/  
Don Marcos**

**Residential Owner/Non-Occupant/  
Angus McCarthy**

**CBO: Urban Solutions/  
Jenny McNulty**

**Residential Owner/Occupant/  
Wilma Parker**

**SRO Hotel Owner/  
Dipak Patel**

**CBO: SF Medical Outreach Program/  
Charles Range**

**SRO Residential Tenant/  
Antoinetta Stadlman**

**Non-SRO Residential Tenant/  
Mark Swenson**

**CBO: SF Tenants Union/  
David Wilbur**

**6th Street Merchant/Retail/  
Vacant**

**Non-SRO Residential Tenant/  
Vacant**

**SRO Residential Tenant/  
Vacant**

**PAC STAFF:  
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## DECEMBER 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				