

GOLDEN GATEWAY TENANTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.goldengatewayta.com

October, 2010

Preserving the Quality of Life at The Gateway

GGTA has joined forces with neighborhood groups including Friends of Golden Gateway (FOGG) forming a broad based community coalition opposing the high-rise luxury condominium project proposed for 8 Washington Street which would destroy the tennis and swimming facilities that have been an integral part of our community for forty years. Our alliance with Telegraph Hill Dwellers and Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association and other community groups has made us a formidable political opponent against the construction of millionaire condos at the expense of rent-controlled middle-class housing.

The proposed development would obliterate views of iconic Telegraph Hill from the Ferry Building, shadow Sue Bierman Park in violation of Proposition K, and reduce open recreational space in the most densely populated neighborhood in the city. The project would diminish our quality of life and take away an amenity promised to many of us when we signed our leases with the Golden Gateway Center. The project would include a 420-space underground parking garage that would increase traffic congestion.

GGTA Political Action: In June GGTA members including Bill Hannan, Diane Root, Ethel Jiminez, Allan Brotsky, Mardi Kildebeck, Bob Demchich and Phil Ryan, working with legendary community organizer Gerry Crowley, gathered more than 200 signed postcards concerning the luxury condominiums which were delivered to Supervisor Chiu. During our petition drive we learned that board member Joe Jedeikin suffered health problems requiring his resignation. We are very grateful for Joe's years of service to the community and wish him a full recovery.

In September, eight GGTA board members wrote personal letters regarding the luxury condominiums, which were delivered to Supervisor Chiu. GGTA board members Paul Eisele and Bill Hannan have joined Phil Ryan at coalition meetings. Phil, Bill and board member Martie Young attended a FOGG policy committee meeting with Supervisor David Chiu on October 13, 2010 on the subject of the luxury condominium project.

Representatives of GGTA's Office of the President including Phil Ryan and Paul Eisele have spoken out at public meetings of the Planning Commission and the Port Commission in opposition to the project, and are lobbying our District 3 Supervisor David Chiu, who is also president of the Board of Supervisors.

Comprehensive Plan for NE Embarcadero Waterfront: Perhaps the most dramatic community accomplishment has been the creation of a comprehensive urban development plan for the entire Northeast Embarcadero authored not by politicians or developers but by our community itself! Under the sponsorship of Asian Neighborhood Design, numerous workshops attended by GGTA and our neighbors have led to creation of a comprehensive planning model for the entire Northeast waterfront that even the San Francisco Planning Commission has

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Preserving the Quality of Life at The Gateway

GOTA has joined forces with neighborhood groups including Friends of Golden Gateway (FOGG) forming a broad based community coalition opposing the high-rise luxury condominium project proposed for 7 Washington Street which would destroy the historic and remaining facilities that have been an integral part of our community for forty years. Our alliance with Telegraph Hill Dwellers and Library Council, Neighborhood Association and other community groups has made us a formidable political opponent against the construction of millennial condos at the expense of rent-controlled middle-class housing.

The proposed development would obliterate views of iconic Telegraph Hill from the ferry building, shadow San Francisco Park in violation of Proposition K, and reduce open recreational space in the most densely populated neighborhood in the city. The project would diminish our quality of life and take away an amenity promised to many of us when we signed our letters with the Golden Gateway Center. The project would include a 450-space underground parking garage that would increase traffic congestion.

GOTA follows member: In June 2010 A members including Bill Hannan, Diane Rook, Ebel Jimenez, Allan Brotsky, Mimi Klibbebeck, Bob Demichiel and Phil Ryan, working with legendary community organizer Gary Crowley, gathered more than 200 signed petitions concerning the luxury condominiums which were delivered to Supervisor Chris Daly on September 15th. We are very grateful for Joe's years of service to the community and wish him a full recovery.

In September, eight GOTA board members wrote personal letters regarding the luxury condominiums, which were delivered to Supervisor Chris Daly board members Paul Fiasse and Bill Hannan have joined Phil Ryan at coalition meetings. Phil, Bill and board member Marie Young attended a FOGG policy committee meeting with Supervisor David Chiu on October 13, 2010 on the subject of the luxury condominium project.

Representatives of GOTA's Office of the President including Phil Ryan and Paul Fiasse have spoken out at public meetings of the Planning Commission and the Port Commission in opposition to the project, and are lobbying our District 3 Supervisor David Chiu, who is also president of the Board of Supervisors.

Community involvement has been the creation of a comprehensive urban development plan. The main project is authorized not by politicians or developers but by our community itself. Under the sponsorship of Asian Neighborhood Center, numerous workshops attended by GOTA and our neighbors have led to creation of a comprehensive planning model for the entire Northeast waterfront that even the San Francisco Planning Commission has

conceded is more thorough than their plans for the proposed development. The final draft will be presented to the GGTA board for approval before submission to the City.

Lawsuit to Require Environmental Impact Review: In addition to taking political action, GGTA and its coalition partners have filed a lawsuit seeking a declaration that the San Francisco Planning Department and the Port Authority have violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and requiring the Department and the Port Authority to undertake a study of the environmental effects of the luxury condo project. The thirteen petitioners include FOGG, Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association and the San Francisco Tenants Union (Neighbors to Preserve the Waterfront, et al. v. City and County of San Francisco et al., San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CPF-10-510634). Our attorney is Susan Brandt-Hawley.

We Need Gateway Residents' Support: This controversy is now before the Board of Supervisors and our success or failure may well be determined by the active support of Golden Gateway tenants. If you wish to preserve and enhance our living environment we urge you to support and/or join GGTA NOW! We need your involvement in our tenants association so that we can honor our commitment to keep The Gateway truly Golden.

Sue Bierman Park – Recent News

We are middle-class tenants living in rent-controlled residential buildings and in townhouses on San Francisco Bay in the heart of the financial district. Our unique living complex reflects visionary urban planning, and the existence of the San Andreas Fault. City planners insisted on open space (Sidney Walton Square and Justin Herman Plaza) and community recreation (the tennis and swim club), and the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 leveled a true eyesore, the Embarcadero Freeway. Where a concrete exit ramp once stood, an attractive public park was created bordered by the Embarcadero, Davis, Washington and Clay Streets and named for environmentalist Supervisor Sue Bierman..

Peter Pan Intrusion: Last year the Recreation and Park Department decided to use our park as a revenue generator. The Department did not notify GGTA of its plans until after the fact. Half the park was covered by a six-story circus tent for a theatrical production of Peter Pan. Presented with a *fait accompli*, there was little GGTA could do about a structure that closed off the park to us for several months.

Successful GGTA Action: The good news is that GGTA successfully insisted that the Department not agree to an option to extend the show's run, the tent is gone, and the Department is responding to our objection that GGTA was not provided with notice. The Department has solicited bids to renovate both blocks of the park, including ADA compliance and relocation of the Korean monument, and has sought planning input from your tenants association.

The Rec & Park Department asked Phil Ryan to endorse a proposal to excuse the producers from its contractual obligation to restore the park to its pre-show condition. Phil discovered the Department's motive was to leave in place two large power cabinets installed by the Peter Pan producers, which could be used for future commercial activities. Phil notified the Department that these two structures violate the terms of a city ordinance. Within the last few days the

considered it more thorough than their plans for the proposed development. The final draft will be presented to the GOTA board for approval before submission to the City.

Law suit to Repair Footcandle-walk Impact Review: In addition to taking political action GOTA and its coalition partners have filed a lawsuit seeking a declaration that the San Francisco Planning Department and the Port Authority have violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and requiring the Department and the Port Authority to undertake a study of the environmental effects of the luxury condo project. The lawsuit petitioners include FOD, Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association and the San Francisco Tenants Union. (Neighbors to Preserve the Waterfront et al. v. City and County of San Francisco et al., San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CV-10-210634). The attorney is Susan Brand-Hawley.

Waterfront Gateway Review: This controversy is now before the Board of Supervisors and our success or failure may well be determined by the active support of Golden Gateway tenants. If you wish to preserve and enhance our living environment we urge you to support and/or join GOTA NOW! We need your involvement in our tenants association so that we can honor our commitment to keep The Gateway truly Golden.

San Francisco Park - Recent News

We are middle-class tenants living in rent-controlled residential buildings and in townhouses on San Francisco Bay in the heart of the financial district. Our unique living complex reflects visionary urban planning and the existence of the San Francisco City Planning Department's open space (Sidney Watson Square and Jaxin Herman Plaza) and community recreation (the tennis and swim club), and the I own First neighborhood of 1989 leveled a true treasure, the Embarcadero Freeway. Where a concrete exit ramp once stood, an attractive public park was created bordered by the Embarcadero, Davis, Washington and Clay Streets and named for environmentalist Supervisor Sue Bierman.

Save the Waterfront: Last year the Recreation and Park Department decided to use our park as a revenue generator. The Department did not notify GOTA of its plans until after the fact. Half the park was covered by a six-story concrete car for a theatrical production of Peter Pan. If covered with a tent canopy, there was little GOTA could do about a structure that closed off the park to us for several months.

Save the Waterfront: The good news is that GOTA successfully insisted that the Department not agree to an option to lease the show's tent, the tent is gone, and the Department is responding to our objection that GOTA was not provided with notice. The Department has solicited bids to renovate both blocks of the park, including ADA compliance and relocation of the Korean monument, and has sought planning input from your tenants association.

The San Francisco Park Department asked Phil Ryan to endorse a proposal to excuse the producer from its contractual obligation to restore the park to its pre-show condition. Phil discovered the Department's motive was to leave in place two large power conduits installed by the Park Department, which could be used for future commercial activities. Phil notified the Department that these two structures violate the terms of a city ordinance. Within the last few days the

Department has agreed that the two power cabinets will be removed. GGTA will continue to oppose closing off our public parks for commercial uses.

Our position is that Sue Bierman Park and the tennis and swimming facilities are precious recreation spaces which greatly improve the quality of life for tenants of the Golden Gateway Center. We were promised tennis and swimming opportunities when we signed our leases, and we fought long and hard to have the former freeway ramp transformed into Sue Bierman Park.

Social Activities

What would a tenants association be without events? Let's have some fun!

Want to get to know your neighbors? GGTA board member and social committee coordinator JoAnn Michael has been organizing no-host happy hours at Fuzio's in the Embarcadero Center just for that purpose. The first one, for Vista North, was held on July 19 with greeters Paul Eisele and Helen Johnson. The Vista East event was on October 12 with Brenda Duke as greeter. Attendees at both had a great time, just ask them! Vista West's social will be held within the next few weeks with notices being posted in the elevators. We're seeking greeters for that event. It's a wonderful way to meet people! If you live in that building and would enjoy making introductions please let us know via email to info-ggta@googlegroups.com, or leave a message at (415) 248-1767.

Socials have been held: Since JoAnn had the first one in January 2009 in Vista South, socials have been held at the apartments of various residents. Thanks to Marla Palmer and Aleana Lamont for hosting open houses in their apartments too! It's created a real sense of community and many friendships have formed as a result. At the July party, Esther Yassi invited people to sign up for small groups with some now meeting regularly for golf and bridge. There were already book clubs and a Thursday morning walking group. At the Vista East party, Sarelle Weisberg brought up the idea of a showing of our residents' art. Are you an artist who would like to participate? We welcome your suggestions for other small group activities – perhaps for parents with children, Scrabble, museum visits, babysitting, singles...interested? E-mail us at info-ggta@googlegroups.com.

We're a community and can all make a difference: What would enhance your experience here? What would you like to contribute? Want to be available to buy groceries when your neighbor is sick? Want to form a group to hear music together? Do you shop at Costco and have too many paper towels? Are you brilliant and have something to tell us about and want to start a lecture series? Let's pool our resources. If you'd like to share your expertise, e-mail us at info-ggta@googlegroups.com, or leave us a message at (415) 248-1767.

Building Captains

GGTA seeks volunteers to serve as building captains for each of the four high-rise buildings. Building captains would recruit new members and communicate tenant concerns to the GGTA board of directors. To volunteer, contact Bill Hannan at info-ggta@googlegroups.com.

The agreement has agreed that the two parties will be working together to improve the quality of the building and the surrounding area.

Our position is that the building has been the target of the building and the surrounding area. We were provided with the building and the surrounding area. We were provided with the building and the surrounding area.

Building Activities

What would a building association do without events? Let's have some fun!

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It is a community and we all make a difference. What would building you? What would building you? What would building you? What would building you?

Building Activities

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