Message from the President

On May 15 many Gateway residents attended a crowded and exhausting meeting of the Board of Supervisors, and spoke out strongly against the 8 Washington luxury condominium project, against the first increase in our northern waterfront height limit in 45 years, against the shutting down of the Tennis & Swim Club, and denounced the expected fierce construction noise and traffic congestion in one of the densest districts in the city. It was to no avail, for around midnight the board voted to approve the project by a count of 8 to 3. Our District 3 supervisor and board president David Chiu led the spirited fight against 8 Washington, and was joined by supervisors Avalos and Campos in voting “no”. David’s opposition to this project has been vigorous and sustained throughout, and was deeply appreciated by GGTA and others in the broad coalition opposing 8 Washington that night.

Opposition continues from the many civic groups comprising this coalition, which includes GGTA, San Francisco Tenants Union, Friends of Golden Gateway, Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association and Telegraph Hill Dwellers among others. The lawsuit that was filed by this coalition last year challenging the validity of the environmental study that permitted Seawall Lot 351 to be part of the 8 Washington development is still pending before the Court of Appeal and should the appeal be upheld the supervisors’ vote could be set aside and another environmental study that includes the entire northeast waterfront will be required.

A more important immediate development in the fight to save our waterfront and our neighborhood is the gathering of signatures to place a referendum on the November ballot to overturn the supervisors’ vote and restore the existing height limit. To put the referendum on the ballot, about 29,000 signatures of registered San Francisco voters are needed by July 18. This is a big but doable task and you can help. We urge all Gateway residents to sign—but sign only once! Times and places where you can sign the petition are listed on the back page.

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Many tenants are concerned about the leasing of apartments to businesses that can make the units available for short-term occupancy. This practice is commonly referred to as “hotelization”. There is a San Francisco ordinance that forbids residential landlords from offering units for “tourist or transient use”. Our supervisor David Chiu is drafting proposed amendments to this ordinance, adding after “tourist or transient use” the words “or occupancy for less than 30 days of an apartment unit leased by a business entity, whether on a short-term or long term basis, including any occupied by employees or guests for less than 30 days where payment of the rent is contracted for or paid by the business entity”. David’s office is also working with the City Attorney to revise the enforcement provisions of the ordinance.

In a signal move to call attention to the issue of hotelization, on May 9 the San Francisco Tenants Union, led by their bullhorn-equipped president Ted Gullicksen, held a rally in front of Vista West on Battery Street demonstrating against both hotelization and the 8 Washington project. It was a well attended two-for-one event. The rally was also joined by David Chiu, was observed by officers of the SFPD, and was entirely peaceful, which is how we like our demonstrations.

BILL HANNAN  
President
A Local Treasure: Café Insalata.

Long-time residents will remember this eating establishment located next to the Eureka Theater on Jackson Street as a nice salad bar, back in the days when salad bars were nowhere near as ubiquitous as they are now. About five years ago there was a change of hands and the new owners, Yong and Jay Chong, kept the Café Insalata name after they took over and continued this small breakfast/lunch restaurant’s mission of providing good homemade food daily to our neighborhood. As a nod to their Korean heritage they did add a number of Asian items to the menu but Café Insalata remains firmly anchored in the tradition of local freshy made food that serves as a counterweight to the many restaurant chains in the financial district. In addition to offering a bountiful salad bar the restaurant features a sandwich counter behind which the always cheerful Yong and his wife can be found regularly taking orders for a variety of made-to-order sandwiches that include one made from a whole turkey they roast daily.

Everything in this restaurant is made “from scratch” and that requires the Chongs to start their day around 6 AM, a considerable chore when they had to commute to Jackson Street from Sunnyvale, where they once owned a small deli. Several years ago they decided to take an apartment in Vista North, and have now cut their commuting distance from thirty-five miles to thirty-five yards, from over an hour to less than five minutes. More importantly, they now consider themselves happily as one of us, Gateway residents who in this case just happen to have a restaurant next door, and perhaps this gives a nice twist to the definition of locally owned. Stop by some time and say hello to our neighbors. Their roast turkey sandwich, by the way, is wonderful.
**Teatro Zinzanni**

The nonprofit dinner theatre Teatro Zinzanni, formerly at Pier 29, is asking for a 10-year lease (with an option to renew) of Port property at Broadway and the Embarcadero, now occupied by – you guessed it – a parking lot. A 33-foot high tent and a few surrounding low-rise structures would occupy the site. The proposed tent may not win a prize for inspirational design, but it is colorful and not unattractive. There would be 260 performances per year, mostly between 5:00 and 10:00 pm, although there would be some matinees. We are told there will be no pyrotechnics inside the tent and noise will be controlled. If you are interested in what the proposed development looks like, they have a website: zinzanni.org. We will keep you informed on these two proposals as they move through the City’s elaborate approval process. At this time we see no reason to lodge any objections, but we remain watchful.

**Other developments**

There are other proposals for changes in our neighborhood that seem less objectionable than 8 Washington. The Port proposes building affordable housing on a half-block parcel on Front near Broadway now used as a parking lot. Although it might be designated for senior citizens, no other assistive services would be provided in this small and modest project, and no parking garage is planned for the building, which would be owned by the Port. We hope the Port will not try to change the existing 65-foot height limit for this property.

**Meetings with Management**

As we have reported in previous newsletters, we have been meeting monthly or bi-monthly with management to discuss issues of mutual interest. In recent meetings we have brought up questions about the redesigned courtyard, specifically our concern about poor signage, traffic speeds, and problematic parking rules. We have also had general discussions about disaster preparedness, noise abating procedures, lease agreement language, utility pass-through charges, event notice postings, social gatherings and about the continuing problem of security in our buildings and in the immediate neighborhood.

We are not shy about expressing ourselves to management, and they have listened. We do not always agree and they do not always act on everything we bring up, but there is dialogue and that is the important first step in working together to make the Gateway a better place.

If you have community concerns you would like us to bring to management’s attention, drop us a note (PO Box 2134, San Francisco 94126) or leave us a message by email at RSVPGGTA@gmail.com or by telephone at 248-1767. We will do our best to respond.

**Small change in the Neighborhood**

You all know the small kiosk-like building that sits by itself in the gap between BPS Reprographics and the Safeway on Jackson Street. Some will remember that for years it served as a florist shop, a cheerful oasis with a touch of European charm (even if run by an Asian), a haven of colors and lovely fragrances on a busy street. It has gone through several iterations since, and in recent years it has been a sushi take-out and a furniture showroom (improbable as that seems for such small quarters) among other unsuccessful attempts to replace the flower lady. We see now that it has become a home to a couple of ATM machines belonging to Chase Bank. It strikes us as a bit incongruous to have ATMs embedded in the façade of a doll house size structure that once seemed so appropriate for showing off daffodils and roses. On the other hand this shift from a personally attended flower stall to an autonomous electronic money machine does say something about how our world is changing.

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**Stop 8 Washington! Sign the petition today!**
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Petitions to STOP THE WALL ON THE WATERFRONT can be signed by Gateway residents at the following times and places:

Thursday and Friday, July 12 and 13, between 5:30 and 7:30 PM in front of Vista North, Vista South, Vista West and Starbuck's on Davis Court.

Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15, between 12:00 and 3:00 PM in front of the Tennis and Swim Club on Drumm.

Be a Member of GGTA

The Golden Gateway Tenants Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization open to all tenants for the low annual dues of $30.00. Its board members regularly communicate with Gateway management to exchange information that affects tenants' quality of life including rent control, new construction, noise pollution and property improvements. It promotes community-building through a variety of social activities, the community website gatewaytenants.nextdoor.com, and the opportunity to serve on the GGTA Board. Dues provide a source of income that enables GGTA to publish newsletters which are distributed to all residents, to subsidize certain social events, and to support activities significant to the community at large, including opposition to the 8 Washington project.

If you are not currently a member of GGTA, please consider joining us now in our continuing efforts to improve our community. Clip out the form below and mail it with your check, to GGTA. P.O.Box 2134, San Francisco, CA 94126

GGTA
PO Box 2134
San Francisco, CA 94126

Name: __________________________ Building ___________ Apartment No. __________

E-mail __________________________ Phone ___________

Area of special interest or concern __________________________

☐ Membership dues ($30) enclosed ☐ Additional contribution $______(Thank You!)

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal