



January 2013 Newsletter

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Board of Supervisors Update

Inaugural Board Meeting

On January 8, the Board of Supervisors held its inaugural meeting for the term starting in 2013. I want to welcome the two newest members of the Board - London Breed from District 5 and Norman Yee from District 7 - and I look forward to working with both. And, congratulations to Board President David Chiu, who was reelected to his post for an unprecedented third consecutive term. President Chiu has been an effective and dedicated leader at the Board, and I was proud to support his re-election to the Board Presidency.

New Committee Assignments: Land Use Committee and Budget Committee

I've received my new committee assignments at the Board of Supervisors, and I'm proud to report that I'll remain a member of the Budget Committee and will serve as chairman of the Land Use and Economic Development Committee. Good land use policy has been a key priority for me as Supervisor, and I'm happy to be able to continue this work in my new role. I also look forward to my third cycle on the Budget Committee. Among my budget priorities will be protecting HIV funding, reversing years of budget cuts to our parks and clean street programs, and continuing to fund police academy classes so that our police department stops shrinking.

New York Times and Noe Valley Voices Profiles

At the end of last year, both the New York Times and the Noe Valley Voice wrote profiles on my work at the Board of Supervisors. You can read the profiles by clicking [here](#) and [here](#).



Scott and other city officials celebrating Supervisor Sean Elsbernd's final day in office. Sean's leadership and friendship will be greatly missed at the Board.

"City Hall's Most Active Transportation Reformer"

SF Streetsblog - which covers all issues transportation-related in our city - has awarded me a 2012 Streetsie Award for my transportation advocacy and legislative work at City Hall. As Streetsblog explained, "he certainly deserves credit for taking more action than any of his colleagues to improve the city's transportation and land use practices. Whether it's finding ways to help bring more funding to Muni, re-working parking ordinances to expand car-share, or raising pedestrian safety issues in the political discourse, Wiener grabs the year's Streetsie for the most active politician at City Hall trying to improve transportation policy." Thank you to Streetsblog for recognizing my work! You can read more about the award and other Streetsies [here](#).

Volunteer Opportunity

Our office is looking for volunteers to join our team. Anyone interested, please contact Adam Taylor at (415) 554-6968 or Adam.Taylor@sfgov.org.

2013 Legislative Priorities

Prioritizing Muni

Improving Muni - through internal reforms and funding Muni's long-underfunded maintenance and system investment - will continue to be a focus for me in the coming year. Every time I'm standing on a crowded platform trying to crowd onto a train, I'm reminded of all of our frustration and desire for better Muni service. Part of the reason that many at City Hall aren't focused enough on improving Muni is that the problems are described largely in anecdotal terms. We all have our bus and subway nightmare stories, but we haven't measured in precise terms how this impacts the city in lost productivity and financial strain. That's why [I've called for a hearing](#) at which MTA and the Controller will report data describing the extent of Muni's struggle, the root causes of the problems,

and how Muni's lack of reliability affects economic productivity. I've also asked MTA to provide a monthly report on these numbers going forward, so that we can track the agency's progress. If we're going to get serious about transportation funding and reliability, we need to have the hard evidence necessary to force policymakers to pay attention.

Saving Our Urban Forest

Our urban forest - both street trees and park trees - is a critical asset that improves our environment and quality of life. Last year I held a hearing on the state of our urban forest, and the information presented was grim. As a result of budget cuts, the city has been turning over maintenance responsibilities of our 105,000 street trees to property owners. This is a burdensome and unsustainable solution that undermines our urban forest, as not all property owners have the desire, resources or knowledge required to properly care for our street trees.

I believe the solution is to put the Department of Public Works back in charge of taking care of our trees, so that we have more consistent and cost-effective maintenance. However, to do so we need to find a dedicated funding source to pay for this work. One solution would be to assess a modest parcel tax, expressly conditioned on the city assuming full and permanent maintenance responsibility for street trees and for sidewalk damage caused by those trees. Property owners would most likely pay less under a parcel tax than they would for maintaining their trees, as maintenance and sidewalk repair can be costly. Any tax passed would be contingent on the city maintaining the trees, and if the city ever passed ownership back to property owners, the tax would be voided. You can read more about this issue in a column I wrote for Huffington Post [here](#).

Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Part of being a transit first and neighborhood friendly city is having safe and accessible pedestrian access. This includes widening sidewalks, creating bulb-outs and improving intersections, as well as making city regulations more streamlined for allowing these kinds of projects. This year I will be working to improve the process for delivering pedestrian safety projects in San Francisco. Our current process is overly decentralized and highly dysfunctional - more or less designed to kill pedestrian safety improvements.

Project Appeal Reform

Last fall, I introduced legislation to reform and improve our city's process for project appeals under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA is an important environmental protection statute that, at times, can be used not to protect the environment but rather to oppose projects having nothing to do with the environment. While I want to ensure that people can challenge projects with which they disagree, I also want to ensure that the appeal process is predictable and transparent. Our current process is the opposite - vague and chaotic, favoring those who are experienced in the process at the expense of the general public. I've been meeting with various community stakeholders to ensure that the public has accurate information about the legislation and to receive feedback to make the legislation even stronger. I will continue to work in the coming months to ensure that this legislation passes and that it does so with strong support. We can and should have a robust appeal process that also treats everyone fairly.



Scott at the Castro Theater screening of "How to Survive a Plague"

Policy Updates

Mobile Food Legislation

For more than a year, I've been working on legislation to improve our regulatory approach toward food trucks. Food trucks are very popular in San Francisco, and we want to encourage their cutting edge approach to food. At the same time, we want to be thoughtful about how we use our public spaces for commercial activity. Because of a lack of clarity in our law, disputes between food trucks and brick-and-mortar restaurants have resulted in many permit appeals. This chaotic situation isn't good for anyone. I'm working with various stakeholders to formulate a compromise that embraces an interesting and diverse food scene in San Francisco, including both food trucks and traditional restaurants.

Condo/TIC Lottery

Last year, I introduced legislation, with my co-author Supervisor Mark Farrell, to provide much-needed relief to TIC owners while protecting tenants. Many TIC owners - often first-time homeowners - purchased believing that they would be able to convert their properties in 5-7 years. They now have to wait 20 years or more. Many are under water, they can't refinance, and they have a shared mortgage. The situation isn't sustainable.

The legislation - which is scheduled to be heard at Land Use on January 28th - will allow TICs that are eligible to be in the condo lottery - i.e., meeting a threshold for being owner-occupied, not having certain kinds of past evictions, such as Ellis Act evictions, and so forth - to pay a significant fee (\$20,000 per unit) to bypass the lottery and to convert. The money will be dedicated to affordable housing. Eligible TICs are primarily owner-occupied, but any tenants residing in these buildings will receive lifetime leases. I insisted on these tenant protections, as I want to be sure that any tenants involved in this process are protected. In the regular condo lottery, tenants in

converted buildings receive a one-year lease and only receive a lifetime lease if they are senior or disabled. By contrast, the current legislation is more protective in providing lifetime leases to all tenants, regardless of age or disability.

Residential Parking Simplification

My Residential Parking Simplification legislation went into effect on January 1, 2013. The law simplifies the process for small property owners who rent out a few spots to pay parking tax by making it easy to pay and eliminating onerous administrative requirements.

I sponsored this legislation because the tax collector was starting to seek back payment, with penalties and interest, against property owners for uncollected parking taxes, resulting in large bills for owners who had no idea that they even had to pay the tax. Moreover, the city made it very challenging for small property owners to pay parking tax, treating small property owners the same as a large commercial garage. A small property owner leasing just a few spots had to pay monthly, install expensive monitoring equipment, pay a fee of approximately \$1,000 annually, post a bond, and get fingerprinted at the Hall of Justice. My legislation, which applies to residential property owners who rent out up to five spots to non-residents, does several things. First, it simplifies the process of paying parking tax by eliminating the fee, bond and fingerprint requirements, and equipment requirement. It also makes the tax payment annual instead of monthly. Second, the legislation creates an amnesty. Property owners who come forward from January 1 through June 30, 2013, and register will be liable for no more than two years worth of back taxes, with no penalties or interest. Third, the legislation eliminates the restriction on renting out a space only to someone who lives within 1,250 feet of the building. Instead, the renter must reside in San Francisco. You can learn more about the new law and access the parking form at the Treasurer's website [here](#).



Scott at a City Hall press conference talking about the Supreme Court's decision to take up marriage equality.

Robbery Hearing

Last year there was an alarming increase in robberies on our streets and on Muni, especially robberies involving personal mobile devices, like smart phones and iPads. These thieves often act during broad daylight hours. SFPD is working hard to address this threat to public safety. Last year, I called for a hearing from SFPD and the District Attorney on strategies being employed to address this problem and to educate the public about how to avoid being a victim. Now that committee assignments have been set, I expect this hearing to occur in the beginning of February at the Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee.

Community Updates

Castro Street Sidewalk Widening

I helped secure funding for this project, which will make Castro Street between Market and 19th Streets wider, safer, and more attractive. The sidewalks will be widened from their current 12 feet to around 18 feet or so, which will make the sidewalks far better for pedestrians and neighborhood businesses. These streetscape improvements are a great example of the kinds of pedestrian projects I will be championing in the coming year.

Noe Valley Pedestrian Safety Improvements

As part of the Streets Bond passed in 2011, I was able to secure funding for pedestrian safety improvements in Noe Valley, along 24th Street. In coming months, I'll be working with the Noe Valley Association and city departments to convene community meetings for input on the best ways to improve pedestrian safety in the neighborhood.

Glen Canyon improvements

The Glen Canyon Renovation Project - including improvements to the playground, tennis courts, rec center, and park entrance - began construction activities on Thursday, January 10th. The rec center building is currently closed in order to receive improvements as part of this renovation, including a new heating system and a new restroom. Rec and Park is working with the contractor to provide portable toilets available for park users while the Recreation Center is being renovated. While the park entrances at Elk Street near the tennis courts will be closed, alternate park entrances will be open during construction from Elk Street and Bosworth Street. The construction project is expected to be completed in November of 2013, assuming there are no additional delays. In addition, as part of the successful 2012 parks bond, the Glen Canyon rec center received an additional \$12 million to complete the total renovation of this failing building. There will be a community process to ensure support for this important project. For questions, please contact Karen Mauney-Brodek at (415) 575-5601 or karen.mauney-brodek@sfgov.org or check the project website by clicking here.

Community Meeting on Public Safety in the Castro & Upper Market

Please join Supervisor Wiener for a community meeting to address the recent uptick in crime in the Castro/Upper Market neighborhood:

Monday, January 28th

6:00-7:00pm

Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Multipurpose Room, 2nd Floor
100 Collingwood Street (at 18th Street)

Representatives from Mission, Northern and Park Police Stations will be in attendance for a presentation followed by an opportunity for questions. Community co-sponsors for the event include the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence "Stop the Violence" program, Castro Community On Patrol, San Francisco SAFE, Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association and the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro. Please note that a public safety meeting for Noe Valley is currently in

the works, and will be scheduled for mid-late February. For more details, please see the upcoming February newsletter or call Adam Taylor at 415-554-6968.

Award from Raoul Wallenberg Jewish Democratic Club

I was recently honored by the Raoul Wallenberg Jewish Democratic Club with the first annual Milton Marks III Public Service Award. Milton passed away last year after many years of honorable community service. Milton's wife, Abby, was at the award ceremony with me. I'm deeply humbled by this honor.



Scott with Milton's wife, Abby

Twin Peaks Tavern Declared Historic Landmark

On January 15th, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved legislation I sponsored declaring the Twin Peaks Tavern as a historic landmark. The Twin Peaks Tavern represents the LGBT community's proud movement out of the shadows and into the open. As the first known gay bar to feature full length open plate glass windows, it has been a visible beacon in the LGBT movement for over 40 years. Today it is a gathering place where young, old and everyone in between join together to celebrate our community.

Dolores Park Renovation Update and Open House

The Dolores Park Renovation is very near the end of the planning process. The final planning documents will be released in late February or early March, and construction is planned to begin in Fall 2013. The expected completion date for the project will be Fall 2014. The proposed plan includes improved ADA-compliant entries and pathways, renovated sport courts (including a new multi-use court), a new operations building beneath the basketball court, 2 new restroom buildings, removal of the current operations/restroom building, proposed improvements to the MUNI tracks, safe crossing across Church Street, entirely new irrigation and drainage, new picnic areas, a completely renovated multi-use field, 2 improved dog play areas, and overall rehabilitation of the landscape. All of these improvements are possible while respecting the widely-held community desire to fix Mission Dolores Park while changing it as little as possible. Rec and Park staff will be hosting a meeting to communicate progress on the Renovation on **February 6th from 5:30pm-7:30pm**. The location has not yet been determined, but please follow up with either Rec and Park or my office to find out where it will be. At this meeting the community will be able to comment and ask questions of the project to Rec and Park staff. For information about the meeting or the project, please contact Jake Gilchrist at (415) 581-2561 or Jacob.Gilchrist@sfgov.org.

Duboce and Church Streetscape Improvement Celebration

In December, I was joined by representatives from MTA, the Arts Commission, DPW, the Transportation Authority, and community groups to celebrate the completion of the MTA's Rail and Streetscape project. These great improvements not only make for a smoother and faster journey for the Muni vehicles rolling down Duboce and Church, but they have also greatly improved pedestrian and bicycle experiences through enhanced safety measures and streetscape beautification.



Scott at the Duboce and Church Celebration with other local officials

SFPD Seeking Help Identifying Suspect In Attempted Sexual Assault

On January 6, 2013 at approximately 2:40 in the morning a 31-year-old San Francisco woman was attacked on 23rd Street near Church Street. The male suspect grabbed her by the head, threw her to the pavement, then straddled her and slammed her head onto the concrete. In the struggle, the victim was able to free herself and screamed for help. A person in the neighborhood heard the screaming, looked out the door and yelled at the suspect to leave the victim alone. The suspect then ran eastbound on 23rd toward Valencia Street.

The suspect is described as an Asian or Hispanic male, 25 years of age, 5'10", 160lbs, with a buzz haircut and slight beard growth. He was wearing a dark hooded shirt and dark pants. A forensic sketch of the suspect is posted on the police department's Web site, www.sanfranciscopolice.org. Anyone with any information is urged to contact San Francisco Police anonymously at (415) 575-4444, or text a tip to TIP411 with SFPD typed in at the beginning of the message.

Upcoming Events to Remember

Castro Tree-Planting with Friends of the Urban Forest

Sign-Up January 23

Planting February 23

Want to get a new street tree in front of your home or business? Sign up for FUF's 2/23/13 Castro Community Tree Planting! We cover most of the cost, and make the planting process fun and easy. Click [here](#) to sign up. The deadline to sign up is 1/23/13. Contact Dougly@fuf.net or (415) 268-0773 if you have additional questions.

Dear Harvey

January 18-February 14

New Conservatory Theater

25 Van Ness Avenue (at Market)

A new play marking the 35th anniversary of his assassination and as told by the people who knew

him best, this is the recounting of the life and the lasting impact of groundbreaking queer activist and politician Harvey Milk. Click [here](#) for more details.

Mission High's Cash for College

Wednesday, January 23

5:30 PM

Mission High School library

3750 18th Street

Mission High School is hosting Cash for College, an event to inform high school seniors and their parents how to apply for financial aid. There will be a presentation on financial aid by Ms. Nancy Jodaitis from San Francisco State University as well as a workshop for students to get the one-on-one help completing their FAFSA. Food as well as translation services in Spanish and Cantonese will be provided. Please join in the library of Mission High School at 5:30 if you are interested in learning more about how to fund your child's future.

Tu B'Shavat: Jewish New Year for Trees

Sunday, January 27

10:00am-12:00pm

Buena Vista Park (Buena Vista East/West at Upper Terrace)

Again this year, Chabad of Cole Valley will sponsor a special event in Buena Vista Park to commemorate Tu B'Shavat, The Jewish New Year for Trees. Meet at the base of the Park's Service Road, Buena Vista East/West at Upper Terrace. For more information go to chabadcv.org or contact Rabbi Nosson Potash at 415/598-8718.



Scott at the Laborers Local 261 Holiday Party

Seminar: Start Off the New Year Debt Free

Wednesday, January 30

12:00pm-1:00pm

San Francisco Law Library

401 Van Ness Avenue Room 400

Many people have taken a financial hit during recent economic instability. Bankruptcy attorneys Jeena Cho and Jeff Curl of JC Law Group PC will explain options for dealing with debt, including: consumer counseling, debt settlement, and bankruptcy. Take the time to better understand your financial situation, your options, and to restore a sense of control. Admission is free. Questions? Please call 415-554-6821.

Citizens Action Plan for Seismic Safety Program

Wednesday, January 30th

6:30PM to 8:30PM

County Fair Building (Just inside GG Park @ 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way)

Join Lt. Erica Arteseros, the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) along with SF City Administrators office, Patrick Otelinni, Director of Earthquake Safety, to look at seismic safety of SF buildings. Learn the most current information on the Citizens Action Plan for Seismic Safety program (CAPSS) including an introduction of the proposed Pilot Program of 'Soft Story' Projects to implement seismic upgrade in those most vulnerable of residential/small commercial buildings and how neighborhood community preparedness plays an integral role in our ability to remain resilient before and after a major earthquake. Refreshments, Displays, Handouts, will be available. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Tech Search Party

Saturday, February 2nd

5:15pm-6:00pm Check-in

James Lick Middle School Auditorium (Noe and 25th Street)

Tech Search Party, San Francisco's premiere smart phone scavenger hunt, is scheduled for February 2, 2013. This will be the fourth annual event. All money raised goes toward improving technology for students at three San Francisco public school: Alvarado Elementary, James Lick Middle School, and Marshall Elementary. Click [here](#) to register or go to <http://techsearchparty.com> to find out more details. Potential sponsors or anyone with other questions about Tech Search Party can contact Tim Smith at tsmith@elementpr.com

Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association Meeting

Monday, February 11th

7:00 PM

CPMC Davies Campus at Castro and Duboce Streets

Gazebo Room, Plaza Level between North and South Towers

The Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA) represents residents, businesses and property owners in San Francisco's Duboce Triangle neighborhood, bordered by Market St., Castro St., Divisadero St., Waller St., Webster St. and Duboce Avenue. Their goal is to protect, maintain and improve neighborhood quality of life, and ensure that the Duboce Triangle continues to be San Francisco's very best neighborhood in which to live, work and play. [Click here for more information.](#)

Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association Meeting

Wednesday, February 13th

7:00pm

Castro Community Room, 501 Castro Street

The Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association (EVNA), formed in 1881 as the Eureka Valley Promotion Association (EVPA) provides a public form for the people who live, work and play in

the great Eureka Valley area to discuss common issues and concerns, and help develop solutions to improve the neighborhood. [Click here for more information.](#)



Scott at the 21st Annual Hand to Hand Luncheon with Thomas Durein

SFFD NERT Training Updates

Various locations (see website)

SFFD Neighborhood Emergency Response Team is holding several new classes in 2013 in various parts of the City: To enroll, please call 415-970-2024 or Register on-Line [here](#).

Family and Adult Bicycling Classes

On-Going

Locations TBD

Learn how to ride a bike, practice road safety, develop good traffic skills, bike while pregnant, bike with your child/toddler and much more. Workshops fill up quickly and are offered throughout the year.

[Click here for more information](#)

LGBT Drop-In Club Weekly Workgroup at The Center

Weekly on Tuesdays

10:00-11:30am

The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street

The Center's Workforce Development Program is pleased to provide a free workgroup open to all job seekers. Come network and get support with your job search. The Job Club is a peer to peer discussion group where you can share experiences / best practices and receive ongoing direction and advice from a career coach to help manage a productive job search. One-On-One drop-in is the best first step before attending the workgroup. If you have question regarding the group please contact Clair Farley, clairf@sfcenter.org. If you are interested in One-on-One job search and coaching please contact christinar@sfcenter.org or (415) 865-5614. Please note the building does

not open to public until noon. Job Club attendees please wait at the Center's main door and someone will let you in by 10:00am. [Click here for more information](#)

ADA Merchant Committee

1st and 3rd Thursdays

9:30am

Sally Brunn Library (Noe Valley Branch), 451 Jersey Street

For merchants who are struggling with ADA compliance issues, please attend a meeting hosted by the ADA Merchant Committee. They are seeking the active participation of all merchants and all agencies city-wide to assist small business in coping with this very complex situation. The library is closed at that time, so please knock on the door to enter. Any questions, please contact Gwen Sanderson, Video Wave, nvgwen@gmail.com, 415-509-6261 or Susan Walia, Castro Computer Services, susan@modcore.com, 415-826-6678.

Open Gyms

Every Sunday

5:00-8:00pm

Eureka Valley Recreation Center (100 Collingwood at 18th Street)

Basketball players of all skill-levels and ages are invited to Open Gyms every Sunday. For \$5, the San Francisco Gay Basketball Association hosts these open-court style games. All are welcome. Bring a dark t-shirt and a white t-shirt to signify which team you are on. [Click here for more information](#)

Free Rapid HIV Testing for Youth

Weekly on Tuesdays

5:00-7:00pm

The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street

Free Rapid HIV testing for youth 24 and under offered by Larkin Street Youth Services. [Click here for more information](#)

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Weekly on Saturdays

8:00am-1:00pm

24th Street (between Sanchez and Vicksburg Streets)

The Noe Valley Farmers' Market is a year-round California certified farmers' market operated primarily by community volunteers and run in partnership with the Noe Valley Ministry. [Click here for more information](#)

Upcoming Office Hours

My upcoming office hours are listed below:

Friday, February 1st

10:00am-12:00pm

San Francisco City Hall, Room 274

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Saturday, February 2nd

10:00am-12:00pm

Martha and Brothers Coffee Company

3868 24th Street

San Francisco, CA 94114

***Please check with my office before attending office hours,
since they occasionally need to be rescheduled.**

Paid for by Scott Wiener for Supervisor 2010, FPPC # 1319353.

