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SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, DISTRICT 8

November/December 2014 Newsletter

Office Phone: 415-554-6968

Email: scott.wiener@sfgov.org

Website: www.scottwiener.com

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Announcements

Call for Volunteers!

We're looking for volunteers! If you have a few hours during the workweek and are interested in a volunteer position/internship at City Hall, please contact Adam Taylor at adam.taylor@sfgov.org

In this Newsletter

Policy Work

[Clean Energy Legislation](#)
[MTA Hearing & Operators](#)
[Streetlight Reform](#)
[Improving Street Safety](#)
[Urban Forest Fund](#)
[Carshare Op-Ed](#)
[Imperial Council](#)
[Towing Stolen Vehicles](#)
[HIV and Disability](#)
[Housing Video by Planning](#)

Community Updates

[Noe Valley Real Food](#)
[Dolores Park](#)
[Duboce Triangle Murder](#)
[Glen Park Streetscape](#)
[Walter Haas Park](#)
[George Christopher](#)
[Playground](#)

Policy Work

Clean Energy Legislation Passes Unanimously

This week, the Board of Supervisors passed my legislation to [expand clean energy use](#) in San Francisco. To create a more sustainable future, we must expand the use of clean power. For many years, our public power agency - the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission - has been powering municipal agencies like the Airport, Muni, and San Francisco General Hospital with hydroelectric, greenhouse-gas free power from Hetch Hetchy. Hetch Hetchy produces far more power than city agencies use, and the large surplus is then sold on the wholesale market at very low prices. At the same time, the PUC has massive infrastructure needs, including our deteriorated streetlight system, for which it lacks the resources to adequately invest. My legislation provides the PUC with the authority to sell its clean hydro power to retail customers in new developments, thus increasing clean energy in San Francisco, while generating more revenue - retail rates are significantly higher than wholesale rates - for infrastructure investment. The legislation was supported by the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters. This is a great win for our environment and our City.

[24th Street Improvements](#)

[Community Calendar](#)

[Office Hours](#)

Friday, January 9th
10:00am-12:00pm
City Hall, Room 274

Saturday, January 10th
11:00am-1:00pm
Bello Coffee & Tea
2885 Diamond Street
Glen Park

NOTE: Occasionally, we need to reschedule office hours. To ensure that you learn of any changes before making the effort to attend, please check with the office a day or two before or alternatively call the office to put your name on the office hours list so that we can notify you if any changes occur.



Scott with Mayor Ed Lee and Castro community and small business leaders at Cliff's Variety Store for the "Shop & Dine in the 49" local business kick-off event.

MTA Light Rail Vehicle Hearing and Fixing the Operator Shortage

The Board of Supervisors recently approved the purchase of a new generation of light-rail vehicles to be built by Siemens, which will eventually double the number of vehicles we have and replace our troublesome fleet with more reliable vehicles. This is great news for the future of Muni, but we still need to focus on providing better Muni service with our current fleet until those new vehicles arrive over the next 15 years. To keep focused on today's needs, I held an oversight hearing at the Land Use and Economic Development Committee on [the state of Muni's light-rail vehicles](#). Muni presented its plan for improving the current fleet's performance in order to maximize passenger capacity.

One important step MTA can take to improve Muni's performance is to fix the agency's nagging driver shortage, which reduces the number of vehicles we have in our system every day. MTA has stepped up its training of new operators, and expects that by February or March, we will have enough operators to continually meet the voter-mandated goal of providing 98.5% of scheduled service. This is particularly important for lines like the 48 and 52, which often are impacted by these shortages due to missed runs. Increasing the number of operators is a crucial step towards making our system more reliable.

Streetlights Reform Legislation Passed

Last week, the Board passed my reform legislation to set basic standards and policy objectives for improving our streetlight system. For years, our antiquated and deteriorated streetlights have frustrated residents and left our streets and sidewalks with inadequate lighting. The system has huge deferred maintenance, and burned out lights aren't fixed quickly enough. Lack of lighting leads to public safety and quality of life challenges. Improving lighting in our neighborhoods has been a high priority for me. The legislation I authored requires that burned out streetlights be fixed within 48 of being reported, requires that we move toward LED lighting and pedestrian-scale lights, and makes it city policy for the city to own all streetlights, as opposed to only owning 60% of them (PG&E owns the other 40%). Implementing the ordinance will require funding, and I will continue to fight for more resources for streetlights, as I did when I worked earlier this year with the Mayor's Office and the PUC to [secure a \\$9 million streetlight investment](#) and to include our streetlights in the City's ten-year capital plan.



Scott at the Rainbow Crosswalk at 18th and Castro during the Castro Streetscape Ribbon Cutting

Improving Street Safety: Vision Zero Oversight

2014 has been a terrible year for pedestrian and traffic-related deaths on our streets, despite increased focus by City Hall on prioritizing street safety. One of the problems we encounter is that despite a professed desire to move street safety projects forward under the banner of Vision Zero, it is often a struggle to deliver these projects in a timely manner. I've previously focused on streamlining city processes for project approvals and to reduce the stumbling blocks that arise, and now I've called for a recurring oversight hearing - to be held every 60 days - on the progress and delivery of street safety projects. Vision Zero isn't just a promise and a policy - there are concrete steps we must take, and these hearings will ensure that we are moving projects forward to make our streets safer for everyone.

Creating an Urban Forest Fund

A healthy and expansive urban forest is essential to the environmental health, quality of life, and beauty of our city. Yet, for years the City has neglected our street trees and park trees and, even worse, pursued a counter-productive and unfair policy of dumping street-tree ownership and maintenance responsibility on property owners. Trees never compete well in the budget process, so it's time that we create a lockbox dedicated funding stream to take care of our trees in a responsible and sustainable manner. I've asked the City Attorney to draft legislation [creating an Urban Forest Fund](#), and I will be convening a working group to determine what the funding source should be for this fund. Options include a parcel tax or a budget baseline, or a combination of both. Either of these would be conditioned on the city taking on full responsibility for street tree maintenance, including fixing sidewalks damaged by trees.

My On-Street Car Sharing Op Ed

Car sharing is a key part of San Francisco's transportation future, yet we aren't providing nearly enough access. The MTA is implementing an on-street car sharing pilot program, in an effort to expand access, and I recently authored an [opinion piece](#) in the San Francisco Chronicle on the subject.

Imperial Council Resolution

[The Imperial Council of San Francisco](#) is celebrating its 50th Anniversary next year, and last week the Board of Supervisors passed [my resolution to allow the Council to use the official city seal](#) on its materials during next year's celebration. The Council is an essential part of our LGBT community's cultural fabric, and I'm proud to have helped them secure this rare honor, which has only been granted by the Board of Supervisors 22 times since 1979. I look forward to celebrating with the Imperial Council next year.



Scott with the members and supporters of the Imperial Court in City Hall; Scott holding up the Imperial Court medal he received as Castro Imperial Prince for Life of Justice, Prosperity and Faith in 2012

Towed Stolen Vehicles Resolution

When a car reported stolen is found on San Francisco's streets, the owner only has twenty minutes to retrieve the car before it is towed. The owner of the car then has to pay substantial towing and storage fees in order to retrieve the car - at times, greater than the value of the vehicle - which effectively treats victims of car theft as if they had simply parked their car in a tow away zone. I [held a hearing](#) on this unfair practice at the Board to explore how we can modify the city's contract with Auto Return - the private towing company contracted by the city - during upcoming negotiations. I also authored a resolution, passed by the Board, urging the MTA to negotiate a provision that either significantly reduces or waives all towing fees imposed on victims of vehicle theft. We shouldn't be doubly punishing the victims of auto theft.

HIV and Disability

San Francisco has been a national leader in providing access to care for people living with HIV. As a result, more and more people with HIV are living full lives and growing older. For the first time, a majority of San Franciscans with HIV are 50 or older. This is excellent news, but it requires us to focus on the needs of those aging with the virus. One challenge is that long-term survivors on private disability insurance will transition to social security when they turn 65, resulting in a significant income drop. This could lead to housing instability. To get a handle on the scope of this challenge, I asked our Budget and Legislative Analyst to prepare a report, which you can [read here](#), to quantify what we're facing and what we need to do to protect these seniors.



Scott, along with Supervisor Katy Tang, awarding a Certificate of Honor to Mayor Frida, honorary Mayor of San Francisco for the day. Frida was named Mayor as part of a fundraiser for San Francisco Animal Care & Control.

Planning Department Video on Housing

[This short video](#) by the San Francisco Planning Department outlines the roots of our housing affordability crisis and what the city is currently doing to address the problem. The video does a good job presenting the actual facts around housing in San Francisco - including comparing our population growth to our anemic housing production - as opposed to the non-fact-based rhetoric we

sometimes hear.

Community Spotlight

Carmela Clendening

We celebrated Filipino Heritage Month at the Board of Supervisors last month, where I honored Carmela Clending for her work in the community. Carmela formerly worked in Nancy Pelosi's office and is actively involved in organizations all over the city.



Scott with Carmela during Filipino Heritage Month at the Board of Supervisors

Community Updates



Scott at the NAACP Gala with Reverend Aurelius Walker and Senator Mark Leno

Noe Valley Real Food

For over 11 years Real Food Organic Grocery has sat vacant on 24th Street in Noe Valley, creating significant frustration in the neighborhood. Last year, I flew to Utah with several neighborhood residents to meet with the CEO of Real Food's owner, Nutraceutical International, and ask that they take steps to fill the space. [Nutraceutical is now moving forward](#) with a project to remove the dilapidated building and build a retail space with housing above it. There will be a community meeting on January 22nd at 7:00pm at St. Philip Parish, 725 Diamond Street for the company to present its plan. This is an important step, and I look forward to working with the community to reactivate this key space along 24th Street.

Dolores Park Improvements

Exciting progress is occurring at Mission Dolores Park, including:

- The Dolores Street sidewalk has reopened. This is the first new section of the park reopened to the public & it looks great! Come by the park to get a sense for how the new paving and walls will look across the entire site.

- The north restroom and operations buildings are moving forward quickly. The restroom's plumbing and tile is complete and the toilets and sinks will be installed soon.

- The soccer field has a brand new drainage system and it's working great - the recent storms have shown the water to quickly drain off the surface of the field.

- Work at the 18th and Church entrances has recently started. This section of the park will see a wider path into the site and new steps for the Muni platform.

The Recreation & Park Department's website has the latest construction progress and photos.

Check out the project's "What's New" section for updates:

<http://sfrecpark.org/project/mission-dolores-park-improvements/>

Murder in Duboce Triangle

Two weeks ago, a young man named Michael Marquez was murdered during the course of a robbery at Noe and Henry Street in Duboce Triangle. I adjourned our November 25th Board of Supervisors Meeting in memory of Michael. This tragic murder was the second in Duboce Triangle this year, which is two too many. I've been working closely with SFPD to increase police presence in the neighborhood. We as a city must do better protecting our public spaces, including increasing the department's inadequate staffing so that we have more community policing and beat officers. This is an unacceptable level of violence on our streets.



Scott swearing in Demetri Moshoyannis to the Entertainment Commission

Glen Park Streetscape Improvements

The intersection at Diamond Street & Bosworth Street is the busiest in Glen Park. This area serves as a key gateway to the Glen Park neighborhood and its commercial district. My office is working with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency on pedestrian and streetscape improvements that will reduce vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, strengthen neighborhood identity, improve pedestrian access to transit (particularly the Glen Park BART Station) and make walking around Glen Park more inviting. Please contact Kelly McCoy of the SFMTA for more information at kelly.mccoy@sfmta.com or (415) 701-5428, or [click here](#) for the project website.

Walter Haas Park

In October, my office held a community meeting with Recreation and Park Department staff to discuss potential improvements to the dog play area at Walter Haas Park. The main topic of the meeting was the potential replacement of the decomposed granite in the dog play area with organic artificial turf made from natural materials. Upon receiving positive feedback at the meeting, I asked RPD to come up with a proposal to install the turf at Walter Haas Park dog play area. That proposal is now complete, and I am working with the Friends of Walter Haas and other neighborhood groups to organize a follow-up community meeting. Please email Adam Taylor in my office at adam.taylor@sfgov.org to be included on future updates.

George Christopher Playground

George Christopher Playground was designated for a \$2.8 million makeover as part of the 2012 Parks Bond. Located near Duncan Street and Diamond Heights Boulevard, this neighborhood park has tennis courts, baseball fields, a clubhouse, and playgrounds. The project may include improvements to the children's play area, exterior clubhouse restrooms, park access, and related amenities. Starting in February 2015, the Recreation and Parks Department will start the planning and community outreach process with construction slated to begin in April 2017. Please email Adam Taylor in my office at adam.taylor@sfgov.org to be included on future updates.



Scott on the set of HBO show *Looking* with Film Commission Executive Director Susannah Greason Robbins

24th Street Urban Village Streetscape Project

The 24th Street Urban Village Streetscape Project will improve pedestrian safety and transit efficiency along the corridor. Focused on the commercial hub of Noe Valley, the streetscape project combines the goals of the “Noe Valley’s 24th Street - An Urban Village” plan completed in 2006 and the priorities of the community today. The project will add bus bulb-outs and high-visibility decorative crosswalks to reduce pedestrian crossing times, improve bus loading, increase safety, and emphasize the corridor as a spotlight commercial district. The project scope has been determined to include bulb-outs along 24th Street on Noe Street and Castro Street, and decorative crosswalks on Noe Street intersection and Church Street intersection. In addition, new street furnishings such as benches, planter boxes, and brick trim, will center these new bulb-outs as community transit hubs. Please contact John Dennis of the Department of Public Works for more information at john.dennis@sfdpw.org or (415) 558-4495, or [click here](#) for the project website.

San Francisco Business Portal

The Department of Technology has launched the San Francisco Business Portal, the ultimate online resource for starting, running, and growing a business in our City:
<http://businessportal.sfgov.org/>

With comprehensive information and tailored tools, the Portal helps business owners navigate the complex processes and access resources that can help them every step of the way. The San Francisco Business Portal has been a joint project of the Mayor’s Office, Department of Technology, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and Office of Small Business, in partnership with the design firm, Tomorrow Partners.



Scott at the San Francisco Veterans Day Parade with Wallace Levin

Community Calendar

San Francisco Firefighters Toy Drive

Wednesday, December 3rd

6:00-9:00pm

Caffe Trieste, 601 Vallejo Street

Join the San Francisco Firefighters at their annual toy drive. Bring an unwrapped toy for the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program. Entertainment, raffle drawing, and live painting. [Click here](#) for more information

Santa Skivvies Run

Saturday, December 6th

7:30-10:00am

START: United Nations Plaza at 8:00am / END: Market & Noe Streets

The Santa Skivvies Run is a festive romp through San Francisco benefiting San Francisco AIDS Foundation. The route begins at UN Plaza and follows Market Street to the Castro. In just five short years, Santa Skivvies Run has become one of the city's most beloved holiday events. Everyone is welcome to participate: Naughty or nice, young or old, fresh-faced newbie or long-time Skivvies veteran. Don we now our gay apparel, or a favorite festive costume, or strip down to your undies to raise awareness and fight HIV/AIDS in our community. [Click here](#) for more information.

Buena Vista Park's Annual Planting Day

Saturday, December 6th

9:00am-12:00pm

Children's Playground above Buena Vista West at Waller Street

Join us for some fun as volunteer neighbors and Rec & Park gardening staff will team up to do a large planting of shrubs and groundcovers on the west side of park. This area was initially prepared by a big group of volunteers and gardening staff earlier this year in May 2014. We will meet at 9am next to the Children's Playground above Buena Vista West at Waller Street. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeved shirt, bring gloves if you have them, and don't forget a rain jacket if raining. It's not necessary but it helps if you can email neighbor David Burke at info@bvna.org if you are able to make this Saturday and/or if you are interested in joining the BVNA landscape committee. See you Saturday! [Click here](#) for more information

Kinderhaus First Annual German Holiday Festival

Saturday, December 6th

3:00-10:00pm

St. Matthews, 3281 16th Street (at Dolores)

Kinderhaus is hosting their first annual traditional German Holiday Festival! We will offer a selection of delicious traditional German food, pretzels and cakes, hearty sausages & beer, Glühwein, and more. Fun family activities (e.g. pony rides), so grab your loved ones and come hungry, come thirsty! Also shop for traditional Christmas tree ornaments and other craft items as you ring in the season in good cheer and good company. All proceeds will benefit Kinderhaus, San Francisco's non-profit German immersion preschool. [Click here](#) for more information.

3rd Annual Fillmore Holiday Marketplace

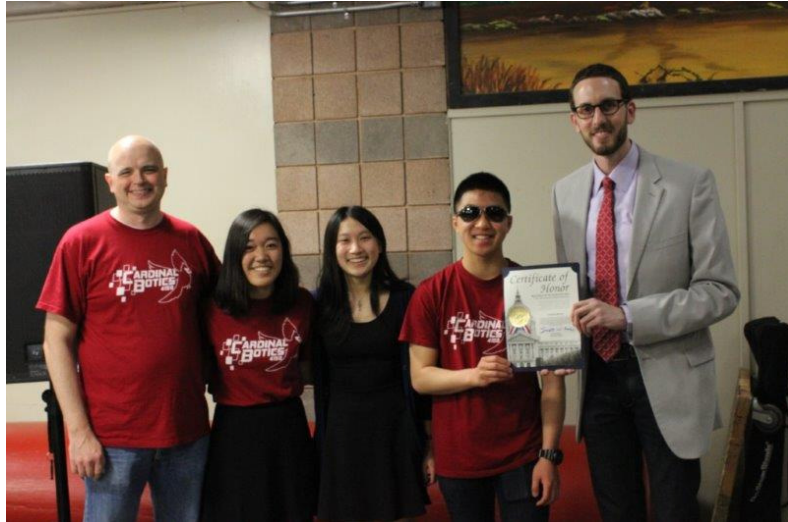
Thursday, December 11th

4:00-9:00pm

West Bay Conference Center, 1290 Fillmore Street

Join San Francisco Supervisor London Breed and the Lower Fillmore Merchants Association to shop unique gifts,

new works from local artists, fantastic eats, and get your photo with Santa. [Click here](#) for more information.



Scott with members of Cardinalbotics, a Lowell High School robotics team that works to develop student interest and participation in STEM -- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

Connecting Walter Haas Park to Billy Goat Hill Community Meeting

Wednesday, December 10th

7:00-8:30pm

Upper Noe Recreation Center, Intersection of Sanchez and Day Streets

A heavily used informal path exists between Walter Haas Park and Billy Goat Hill. Rec and Park is considering making improvements to this path area, but needs your input. Please join us to review and provide feedback on potential improvements. [Click here](#) for more information.

Holiday Crafts Day

Saturday, December 13th

10:00am-2:00pm

Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way

Tired of nothing but buy, buy, buy for the winter holidays? Come to the Randall Museum for relief from consumer mania with a day of creative, inexpensive gifts and decorations you can make yourself. Enjoy live, family-friendly entertainment and tasty sandwiches or piping hot chili in our Holiday Cafe. Roll-your-own beeswax candles, make handmade candle holders, scented soaps, candy houses and more!

[Click here](#) for more information.

Kimochi Silver Bells Arts & Crafts Faire

Saturday, December 13th

10:00am-4:00pm

The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street

Don't miss this arts & crafts fair featuring Asian Pacific Islander themed arts and crafts and foods from over 90 vendors. Admission is free. [Click here](#) for more information.

SF Ready Workshop

Tuesday, January 6th

6:00-8:00pm

SFFD Division of Training, 2310 Folsom St (enter on 19th through gate)

One time workshop for you and your neighbors! You will learn the basics to take care of yourself and others. SFFD, NERT and SF SAFE want you to have skills to be prepared for emergencies big or small, and get to know your neighbors on your block to maximize resiliency after a disaster. Training will cover: risk awareness, disaster supplies, personal/family disaster planning, NERT overview and disaster pre-planning - building community one block at a time. [Click here](#) for more information

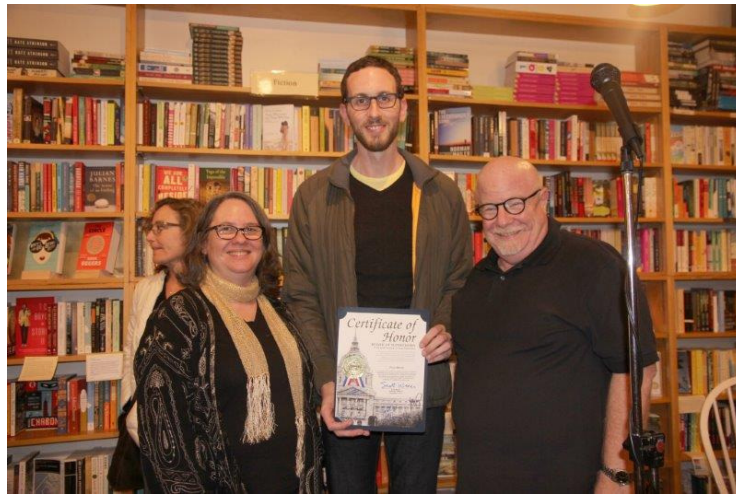
Real Food Community Meeting

Thursday, January 22nd

7:00pm

St. Phillip Parish, 725 Diamond Street

Join me for a community meeting as Nutraceuticals presents its plan to remove the Real Food building and build a retail space with housing above it.



Scott at the one year anniversary of Folio Books on 24th Street

Castro Farmers' Market

Weekly on Wednesdays

4:00-8:00pm

Noe Street at Market Street

The Castro Farmers Market runs every Wednesday from March 31st to December 18th. For more information, [click here](#).

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.

Diamond Dinners

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

First Wednesdays of every month

8:00am-3:00 pm

101 Gold Mine Drive

Monthly free lunch is offered on the first Wednesday of every month to any seniors (55+) that live in the 94131 and 94114 zip codes. For more information, [click here](#).

30th Street Senior Center

Mondays - Fridays

12:00pm and 1:00pm

225 30th Street

Lunch for seniors 60+. They ask for a donation of \$2.00 for lunch. For more information, [click here](#).

Castro Senior Center

Mondays - Fridays

11:45am

110 Diamond Street

Lunch for seniors 60+. They ask for a donation of \$2.00 for lunch, and \$6.00 for caretakers.