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Supervisor Carmen Chu

Message from the Supervisor



Pedestrian safety continues to be one of my top concerns as your district Supervisor.

Recently at the Board of Supervisors, I

called for a public hearing to review citywide trends for pedestrian fatalities and to examine what the city is doing to improve pedestrian safety so we can begin to address what areas need improvement.

Some of the statistics are alarming, as highlighted by members of the Police Department, Municipal Transportation Agency, and Department of Public Health – who reported on pedestrian fatality trends at the hearing on February 14.

Among the more concerning statistics is the increase in fatalities and deaths among pedestrians older than 65 years of age. According to the Police Department's Traffic Division, there was a 50 percent increase from 2006 to 2007.

After hearing concerns from residents about 19th Avenue in particular and the need for increased enforcement along this busy corridor, we raised those concerns with the Police Department. As a result, there are two additional officers enforcing the speed limits along 19th Avenue.

Taraval Police Station Captain Paul Chignell and his officers have also been very active by deploying plain clothed officers on the streets and making sure that drivers don't put pedestrians in harm's way.

At the urging of the Judah merchants, I asked MTA's Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) to install crosswalks at 44th & 45th Ave at Judah Street. Those crosswalks will be installed in the coming weeks. We also worked with DPT to repaint many of the crosswalks along Sunset Boulevard that were faded.

My office will continue to work with city and state agencies to ensure that our most dangerous intersections receive the upgrades and improvements needed to help pedestrians feel safe on our streets.



PUBLIC SAFETY



Captain Paul Chignell of the Taraval Police Station alerted my office of numerous communities around the Bay Area that have been impacted with cases where individuals pose as employees of PG&E or other utility companies, then enter victims' homes and commit burglaries.

There were several reports of these crimes being committed in the Sunset District. In January, officers from the Taraval and Richmond stations made arrests for three suspects based on surveillance of major thoroughfares and possible locations where the suspects had frequented.

On January 22, we held a press conference with Captain Chignell, Sgt. Steve Quon, and David Chan from SF SAFE to inform our residents of public safety precautions they can take to avoid becoming victims and to commend Officers Oshita, Biggs, Carrasco, Fergus and Dharmani – whose fine work led to the arrest of the suspects.

Safety tips:

- Always verify whether a utility worker is actually from PG&E or SFPUC (water)
- PG&E hotline: 1-800-743-5000 (24-hr service)
- SFPUC hotline: (415) 554-3444 (24-hr service)
- Utility meters are visible from outside the house – meter readers are never allowed inside the house without an arranged appointment with the resident
- Meter readers always carry photo IDs. Residents can ask to see their photo ID if ever in doubt

- Be a good neighbor and report any suspicious activity around your neighborhood to the police department
- For any emergency requiring immediate police service, do not hesitate to call 911

TRANSPORTATION

Frequently listed as one of the main complaints among residents is the need for a reliable transportation system. The Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) is in the process of evaluating the city's transit routes through the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP). This is the first time in 25 years that the MTA has reevaluating San Francisco's transportation system.

Supervisor Chu pressed to ensure that our district residents had a forum for providing input before MTA



officials came out with a set of recommendations for transportation route changes and thus asked MUNI to come out to the district at the end of January to hear their concerns. Dozens of residents participated and we heard many great suggestions that the MTA will take into consideration in their planning.



Our office will be hosting another MUNI forum in April, where the MTA will be presenting their recommendations for route changes to District 4 residents. We encourage everyone to review MTA's recommendations at www.sftep.com prior to the meeting and see if your commute route will be affected by the changes.

NERT TRAINING

San Francisco's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training program is a great way to learn how to prepare for and recover from natural disasters. The training courses are offered free to the public. Here is some information on upcoming disaster preparedness courses taking place in the Sunset:

WHEN: Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 PM
February 28 & March 6, 13, 20, 27

WHERE: Dianne Feinstein Elem. School Cafeteria
2550 – 25th Avenue @ Vicente

HOW: RSVP to sffdnert@sfgov.org
Call (415) 970-2024
Visit www.sfgov.org/sffdnert

Training Course Outline

Class Session #1

Earthquake Awareness,
Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation

Class Session #2

Basic Disaster Skills; Fire Extinguishers; Hazardous
Materials; Utilities Shut-offs

Class Session #3

Disaster Medicine

Class Session #4

Light Search and Rescue

Class Session # 5

Team Organization and Management
Terrorism & NERT

Class Session # 6

Hands-On Training
Skills Development and Application

SUNSET RESERVOIR

As the Sunset Reservoir undergoes a seismic retrofit, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will also be engaging the community on improved lighting surrounding the reservoir.



Many residents who frequent the area have brought up public safety concerns and expressed the need for more lighting. The PUC also sent out surveys to residents who live around the reservoir, and the majority of neighbors responded with a desire for additional lighting along the paths.

The PUC will be holding two community meetings where they will discuss:

- Options for new lights on the paths at the reservoir
- Future installation of solar panels on the roof
- Update on reservoir retrofit – completion expected in Fall 2008

Meeting information:

Wednesday, March 12 • 11:00 AM – Noon
24th Avenue & Quintara
Mini playground

Tuesday, March 18 • 7:00 PM
Taraval Police Community Relations Forum
Taraval Police Station – 24th Ave & Taraval Street

SPRING RECREATION ACTIVITIES

San Francisco Recreation and Parks Day Camp and spring activity registration begins:

Saturday, March 8 at 10:00 AM

New! Now you can register online for Day Camps and spring activities. To learn more about Rec and Parks registration process and how to register online visit www.sfRecOnline.org or call (415) 831-6800.

Financial assistance is available for eligible San Francisco Residents. You can visit www.sfRecOnline to learn more about our Recreation Scholarships, the registration process and how to register online or call (415) 831-6800.



Musician Tom Lander set the mood with his smooth tunes at the artist reception.

Artist Rosiland Solomon (r) chatting with guests.



IN REVIEW



Flower Mart • Supervisor Chu joined Senator Leland Yee, Board President Aaron Peskin, Small Business Commissioner David Chiu and San Francisco Flower Mart merchants at a press conference on Jan. 18, announcing her support of small business owners and saving the Flower Mart from being purchased by the Academy of Art University. On Feb. 26, the Academy of Art formally announced its decision not to purchase the Flower Mart. Countless small businesses and hundreds of jobs will be saved as a result.



Sculpture (l) by artist Tachina Rudman

We currently have a new display of artwork in our office, with an opening reception scheduled for March 26 (Wed) at 5:30 – 7:00 PM in room 260 at City Hall.



Parks Bond
On February 8, Supervisor Chu joined Mayor Gavin Newsom and Recreation & Parks Department staff in announcing the passage of Prop A, a city bond measure that would provide \$185 million for San Francisco parks. Sunset Recreation



Artist Reception

Artist Jennifer Wasson (l) and guest (r) at our first Sunset Artist reception on Jan. 30.

Center will receive \$13 million and McCoppin will receive \$5 million.



Doggie Diner Head

Supervisor Chu joined the Department of Public Works (DPW) in celebration of a local community icon, the Doggie Diner Head on Sloat Blvd. Second grade students from Ulloa Elementary School also participated in the fun by sharing their animal stories and learning about respecting animals from members of Animal Care & Control. DPW helped restore the Doggie Diner Head when it was damaged by strong winds and has held a celebration each year on Valentine's Day at 45th Ave & Sloat Blvd to commemorate the good times had at the beloved Doggie Diner.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Streamlining City Contracting

Supervisor Chu introduced legislation February 26 to streamline the City's contracting process, an important step in saving taxpayer dollars. Due to a cumbersome city contracting and payment process, companies are frequently discouraged from bidding on projects with the City. This drives up project costs. It is not uncommon for a City project to receive no bidders, causing project delays as well as cost increases. Supervisor Chu's legislation, developed in concert with contractors and many City departments, addresses these issues.

Traffic Safety Along 19th Avenue

Supervisor Chu also introduced legislation supporting SB 1419, State legislation by Senator Leland Yee, which imposes a double-fine zone along State Highway Route 1 (19th Avenue) from Junipero Serra Boulevard to Lake Street. Between 2000 and 2005, there were over 1000 traffic-related injuries and 12 deaths. This legislation, along with the intersection and traffic signal improvements in process on 19th Avenue, community outreach and education will help to make it a much safer corridor.

Upcoming Events

Sat, March 1

10 AM – 12 PM, AP Giannini M.S.

Mural Painting

Join the Supervisor and students from AP Giannini in beautifying their school.

Fri, March 7

7 PM – 9 PM, 3925 Noriega St

Community Film Festival

The Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center is holding its 4th Annual Community Film Festival, showcasing local talent.

Wed, March 12

11 AM – 12 PM, 24th Ave & Quintara

Community Meeting - Sunset Reservoir Lighting and Project Update

PUC will discuss options for new lights on paths at Sunset Reservoir, future installation of solar panels on reservoir roof, update on reservoir retrofit

Sat, March 15

11:30 AM – 1 PM, Island Café

901 Taraval St & 19th Ave

Supervisor Chu District Office Hours

Stop by to meet Supervisor Chu, say hello or share concerns.

Tue, March 18

7 PM, Taraval Police Station

Police Community Relations Forum

Discuss public safety with Taraval Station Police Officers. The PUC will also discuss lighting options for the Sunset Reservoir project and provide a project update.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Our office can always use the help of volunteers/interns who can provide time for office work. Volunteers with a desire to help district residents and with clerical or office administrative skills needed. Volunteers would be asked to help during normal business hours (9:00am – 5:30pm). Please call Katy Tang at 554-7460 or email chustaff@sfgov.org.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please email chustaff@sfgov.org.

