



## September 2023 Newsletter

CSFN.net / csfninfo@gmail.com

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 6:30 PM GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Program - Former Ethics Commissioner Larry Bush

Register for zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8888888888>

***Please support efforts to Keep the Waterfront Open: Send a one-click email to voice your opposition***

You can edit the text of the email or send it as is <https://form.jotform.com/232360622593151> or click button below. The letter goes to RPD Project Manager Monica Scott, RPD Commissioners, SF Board of Supervisors and Mayor London Breed. 51<sup>st</sup> Year Celebration. **Thursday, 10/19/23, 10 am at City Hall**, Commissioners will be taking public comment.

### **Neighborhood News and Views:**

## **You Made A Difference! The Appellate Judges Heard Our Call**

By Carolyn Kenady, (DHIC) via email - [rescuesf.org](mailto:rescuesf.org)



*Photo By Carol Kenady*

Thank you to all of the residents, community leaders, and small business owners from across San Francisco who rallied at the federal courthouse on Wednesday, August 23.

The appellate judges heard our call to overturn Judge Donna Ryu's injunction prohibiting San Francisco from enforcing its laws against public lodging or camping. Thanks to your efforts, Mayor Breed and four supervisors joined the rally and declared that the injunction is hurting everyone – both housed and unhoused.

In December, Federal Judge Ryu issued an injunction prohibiting the City of San Francisco from enforcing its no-camping and related laws - except for public health, safety or access reasons. Since then, most encampments cannot be moved. However, the City continues to offer shelter to those sleeping on our streets. Many on the streets refuse shelter as the City cannot require them to move.

The City appealed that injunction. At the August 23 hearing both the pro- and anti-injunction adherents rallied outside the Courthouse -- with those opposing the injunction outnumbering the injunction supporters 5:1. RescueSF supported the call to end the injunction and also called on the Mayor and Supervisors to provide sufficient shelter (including treatment facilities) to end street sleeping.

Lifting the injunction is necessary for getting the City's homelessness response back on track, but lifting the injunction is not enough. Even without the injunction, City Hall's response to our homelessness crisis will continue to be inadequate. We believe that homelessness is not a normal urban problem, and the City must act with more urgency to end the suffering on our streets.

The feel the City should commit to:

- ending open-air drug markets,
- bringing thousands of homeless people inside,
- providing health and behavioral health services to those who need it, and
- restoring clean and safe streets for our residents and businesses.
- We will make sure that City Hall continues to hear our voices demanding these solutions!

For those who want to know more, this article from Mission Local is balanced and very informative.

<https://missionlocal.org/2023/09/san-francisco-injunction-homeless-sweep-donna-ryu-london-breed-gavin-newsom/>

**Fighting Crime** By Frank Noto, (GGHNA) : [stopcrimesf.com](https://stopcrimesf.com)



photo by Hatun Noguera

Stop Crime SF is a grassroots non-profit dedicated to reducing crime and supporting victims in our city. Perhaps the group's most consequential program is an upcoming Judge Report Card on the performance of the 13 Superior Court judges up for election next March. Most recently, the group focused on actions by the un-elected San Francisco Police Commission threatening public safety. Over the past year, the Commission tried to circumvent state law by ordering officers to ignore 13 different traffic safety violations, including running stop lights, failure to signal turns, broken rear lights, etc. Eventually, the Commission backed down due to resistance from Police Chief Bill Scott and spirited opposition from Stop Crime SF members and others. Just last month, several Police Commissioners denounced their own police for breaking up a riot that resulted in \$70,000 in vandalism damage to MUNI vehicles. Previous skateboarding event "bombs" on Dolores Hill had resulted in paralysis and even death. This time, SFPD confiscated four firearms (including two loaded guns), six knives, and backpacks filled with spray paint, etchers and fireworks. Stop Crime forcefully spoke out in support of police enforcing the law (including an officer violently attacked by rioters and sent to the hospital). To join Stop Crime SF or volunteer, click on this link: <https://stopcrimesf.com/sign-up>

## Message from President Charles Head



Photo by

Hope you all had a good, long relaxing Labor Day weekend! Now that Summer is ended, what lies ahead this Fall?

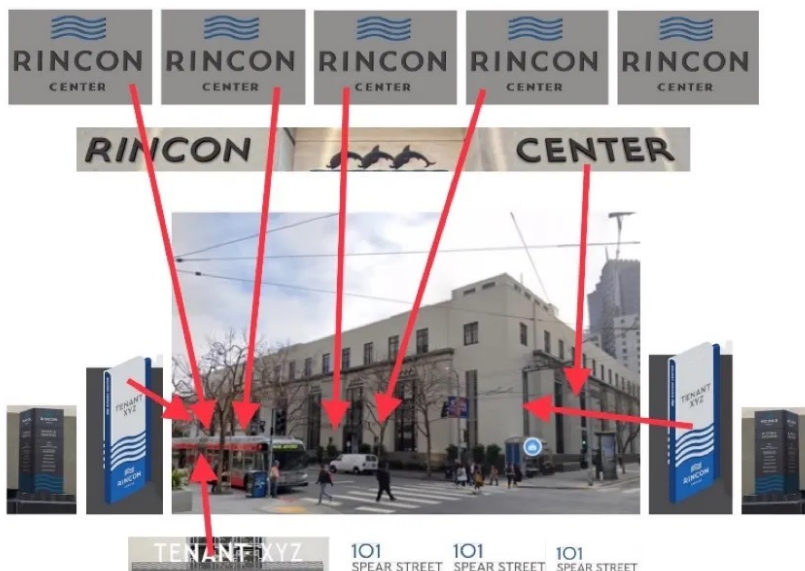
We hope to go back to face-to-face meetings sooner rather than later. This is easier with committee meetings that were used to being in community rooms of Police stations: their chairs can easily check on availability, or find an acceptable non-public spot (meeting rooms can be reserved in local libraries)

We are planning a holiday Celebration with a twist. Last year was our Semicentennial (fiftieth), so this year can be our **Semicentennial Plus One** ! We will have it on **Wednesday Dec. 6, beginning at 6 pm**, again at the Flood Mansion just like last year with heavy hors d'oeuvres, choices of wines or waters, and live music. *The twist is the Plus One*: there will be a charge per person, but if you invite a member of a non-CSFN organization he or she will attend for free. And if later in the New Year that organization becomes a member of our Coalition, you will get a rebate of your own admission!

### TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR CSFN GA SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 ON [ZOOM](#)

1. Call to order
2. Spotlight: New Members
3. Program: Larry Bush, former Ethics Commissioner, is our speaker
4. Officers Reports
5. Committee Reports
6. Approval of Draft Minutes
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business

### One Victory For Historic Preservation, *By Dave Osgood, Rincon Neighbors*



14 Signs Approved

8 Signs Being Appealed

The building owners agreed to cancel all four permits the morning before the Appeals Board voted and the owners have even agreed to reimburse us the \$700 in filing fees.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Government and Elections *By George Wooding (MTHIA)*

**These two initiatives will be collecting signatures for the November 2024 ballot.**



#### **1. Our Neighborhood voices Initiative - STATUS: pending**

The [Our Neighborhood Voices Initiative](#) does not let cities or counties undo the broader laws such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Coastal Act, or Housing Element Law.

If the Our Neighborhood Voices initiative is approved by voters in Nov. 2024, it will give each city council the power to override state land-use and zoning laws by adopting approaches that actually serve local needs. (In the unincorporated areas, county boards of supervisors will be empowered to set local zoning and land-use law.)

Amending the state constitution with an initiative to put local communities in charge of land use and zoning laws will send a clear and powerful message that the recent state housing laws that damage our community without providing any affordable housing do not solve our problem – in fact, they are making our affordable housing crisis even worse. **1.3 million Signatures must be collected by the Spring 2024 to place this initiative on the ballot.**

#### **2. The Government Transparency Act - STATUS: pending - The Government Transparency Act**

In the past few months alone, a former employee of the San Jose mayor's office [sued the city](#) for “perpetually extending its own deadline” for responding to records requests, while Mendocino County, facing the threat of litigation, repealed an ordinance to charge as much as \$150 per hour to locate, review and redact documents.

These “loopholes” have prompted a [new initiative](#) that proponents say would give the law much-needed teeth and dramatically overhaul access to public information in California. It was filed Wednesday by Consumer Watchdog, a nonprofit advocacy group heavily involved in legislative and political fights over issues such as insurance rates, medical malpractice and oil drilling.

### **The Practical Implications of Affiliated 501(c)(3)s and 501(c)(4)s**



"It is not uncommon for a 501(c)(3) to establish an affiliated 501(c)(4).

Unquestionably, during a long- term lobbying campaign to change public policy, affiliated organizations enjoy many advantages. There are issues an affiliated organization needs to watch for. Above all, the 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) must be separate legal entities and the 501(c)(3) must be able to demonstrate that it is not subsidizing, directly or indirectly, the partisan electoral work of the affiliated 501(c)(4)."

Janet Li, the current Bart director was either too confused, too stupid or too inexperienced to understand that she was acting as a lobbyist and in what capacity she was soliciting funds from the SFMT. "In a stipulation reached last week and coming up for review Friday before the San Francisco Ethics Commission, Li and Wiedenmeier agreed to pay the fine for failing to disclose how they lobbied city officials as representatives of the 501(c)(4) bicycle advocacy nonprofit. The two qualified as "contact lobbyists" under local law because they reached out to city officials about coalition business at least five times a month.

From April 2017 through the end of 2021, Li lobbied city officials 219 times without reporting it, according to the agreement; Wiedenmeier made 170 unreported contacts between January 2017 through 2021." Li was soliciting funds for the bicycle coalition. Jeffrey Tumlin--the SFMA director is a member of the Bicycle Coalition, SFMTA Project Director Matt Laskey was a member of the Coalition and four of the SFMTA Board of Directors are members of the Bike Coalition

Mayor Breed loves Tumlin. and appointed him. Breed also appoints all seven of the SFMTA Board of Directors. The SFMTA financial budget has no financial oversight committee. The SFMTA gives the Bicycle Coalition an estimated \$4M annually for "teaching" SF bicycle safety. This financial largess gives the Bike Coalition tremendous clout. The Bicycle Coalition has become the tip of the spear for SFMTA advocacy. By acting as an independent group, the Bicycle Coalition supports all of SFMTA's political activities. They are essentially a paid lobbyist group. With over 14,000 members, the bicycle Coalition can pack any public meeting and act on behalf of the SFMTA's interests.

Janice Li was hired in 2013 and first started as a community organizer for the Bicycle Coalition covering the western half of San Francisco. She was promoted to Advocacy Director in 2015, where she has led the team to "countless campaign victories over the years to win more protected bike lanes, billions of dollars for transit-first improvements, and better policies for biking, walking, and public transit." She joined the Bart board in 2018

Last, the SFMTA and BART work together in San Francisco. Janice Li is the president of the Bart Board and still maintains her ties to the Bicycle Coalition. A perfect circle.

## **Land Use and Transportation, by Mari Eliza (EMIA)**

### **Report on the Town Hall meeting on Successful Housing Assistance Programs**

Something came up and Sean Jennings from the Salvation Army was not able to join us. Steven Currier, co-chair of the Vehicle Triage Center at the Balboa Station was most enlightening and made us feel good about the projects he is involved in. He has a good relationship with neighborhood groups and is already working on a new project in District 11 at the Mission Inn.

The projects are set up and run by Emily Cohen and Dylan Schneider of HSH. They picked the people and ran the finances. Urban Alchemy was on site 24/7 management.

After a disastrous first meeting with the neighbors. Neighborhood groups set up an advisory board and things went much smoother.

The Vehicle Triage Center had showers, bathrooms, kitchen facilities and electricity. Laundry service and some meal were provided deliveries. Holidays the neighborhood brought treats and were very supportive. There was room for 50 vehicles but only 44 were filled. There were some rules of protocol that had to be followed, and all but one person followed them and had to be asked to leave. Although had to agree to accept homes as a condition for being in the center only twelve residents were placed in permanent homes.

**Marina Green changes are coming up and already. We have article coming in on that project for next month. Some links to get you started on this very complex program:**

- [Article on the Marina Green: https://medium.com/fourth-wave/who-owns-the-waterfront-d9f173e2d1ca](https://medium.com/fourth-wave/who-owns-the-waterfront-d9f173e2d1ca)
- Latitude38 article - [A word about San Francisco Marina](#) (p46), and letters that describe how Bay Sailing infrastructure sucks (p9).

## Letters and Resolutions: No resolutions. One letter sent.

[Oppose-SB-423.pdf, August 28, 2023, Senator Wiener's extension with enhancements of SB 35](#)

### Articles:

- [New Study Shows exactly how effective the famous Tenderloin Center was](#)
- [Evaluating oxygen monitoring and administration during overdose responses at a sanctioned overdose prevention site in San Francisco, California: A mixed-methods study](#)
- <https://westsideobserver.com/23/8-Dangerous-indications-from-Greenland-ice-melt-and-sea-level-rise.php>

### CSFN BUSINESS:

#### Draft Minutes For CSFN General Assembly Tuesday August 15, 2023

1. Call to order (6:40)
2. Spotlight: Save our Neighborhood SF, Announcement from Rescue SF
3. Program: Carmen Chu, City Administrator, City and County of SF
4. Officers' Reports: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Liaison
5. Committee Reports: Ex Comm, Land Use, G&E. There was NO Bylaws meeting.
6. Approval of Draft Minutes of July GA was unanimous
7. Unfinished Business: Dave Osgood (RPNA) introduced an emergency resolution supporting President Peskin's BOS one on signage, which was approved unanimously.
8. New Business: Mari Eliza (EMIA) *may introduce an emergency resolution about a new utility tax you may want to with your groups if there is time.*
9. The Conversation Continues: For the Good of the Order
10. Adjournment in memory of Nancy Wuerfel was at (9:20).

The public is always invited to our General Assemblies on the third Tuesday of each month, and to attend committee meetings and town halls. In addition to the members of our organizations we have many Friends of CSFN that contribute! We are transparent and cast a wide net to attract all those interested in improving San Francisco and all of its neighborhoods. Join us, help us and see us all prosper! United we stand divided we fall!

Web site: links:

- [Members](#)
- [Resolutions](#)
- [Download CSFN Flyer](#)
- [Sign up and renewal information](#)
- [CSFN on Youtube](#)

Send articles and other materials you want to share to: [csfninfo@gmail.com](mailto:csfninfo@gmail.com)

Please send us photos from the 50th Celebration if you have any: [csfninfo@gmail.com](mailto:csfninfo@gmail.com)

**We honored our beginnings at the Centennial Celebration 2022.  
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 we shall celebrate our Fifty Plus One.**



**We honor our Heroes:**



**Nancy Wuerfel was one of San Francisco's greatest citizen advocates.**

Nancy lead a life of service and outspoken advocacy.  
She died peacefully on August 5, 2023  
*Obit by George Wooding in the Westside Observer*

<https://westsideobserver.com/23/9-remembering-nancy-wuerfel-san-francisco-neighborhood-activist.php>