



July 2025 News

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Supes Subpoena SF Parks Alliance Leaders - Follow the money

By Thomas K. Pendergast, [richmondsunsetnews](#) - excerpt



La Playa Village volunteers

Subpoenas are on the way to former leaders of the San Francisco Parks Alliance (SFPA) after they found themselves in hot water once again. This time, instead of responding with defiance, the private non-profit completely dissolved itself, leaving about 80 community groups high and dry.

The SFPA was like a bank for community groups to park and manage their money, but by the SFPA's own admission, money supposed to be restricted for funding these respective projects was instead being used to cover operating expenses.

The San Francisco City Attorney's Office is also launching its own separate investigation.

At a June 5 meeting of the San Francisco Board of Supervisor's Government Audit and Oversight Committee, District 10 Supervisor Shaman Walton said he requested information and the presence of the nonprofit's leadership before the committee.

"I want this body and the public to know that none of the requested documentation from the Parks Alliance was ever submitted to my office

and none of the staff or leadership of the Parks Alliance is here today," Walton told the committee. "Again, the Parks Alliance has not been forthcoming or transparent, not only with this body but also with the public. We have no other choice than to call for the full use of this board's power of inquiry."

The committee chair, District 9 Supervisor Jackie Fielder, backed Walton on issuing subpoenas... [\(more\)](#)

Connie Chan, Jackie Fielder and Shamann Walton are conducting hearings and writing legislation to stop the abuses we see between city departments and nonprofits.

GUEST SPEAKER



In June SF City Controller Greg Wagner brought a report on the City Budget and the public process under way for hiring the new Inspector General. Greg brought slides to describe the various elements of the city budget. He explained that parts of the budget are allocated to particular expenditures and the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors are limited in what they can allocate. Details are on the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwsMI4nsgFs>

Or you may request a copy of the slides by email: greg.wagner@sfgov.org
The Controller's office will work on hiring the Inspector General and two staff assistants after the budget is finalized.

Greg then answered questions about the Inspector General position. His department put out a public survey for suggestions and requests on what people expect the Inspector General will do. They are analyzing the surveys and looking into how other cities work with Inspector Generals.

About the structure, he described the whistleblower program, audits team and IG being "combined and aligned." The IG will report to the controller. The IG will have new investigation tools, new legal powers. The controller's office has reactive powers now; the IG will allow them to be more proactive.

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

CSFN President Deborah Murphy



This last month the bylaws committee had a dinner meeting and the change we all agreed on was allowing any member to attend committee meetings. Committee members are the only ones allowed to vote but everyone agreed that transparency is important. Our Executive Committee meets online on the 4th Wednesday of the month. If you would like to attend and get more involved let me know and I'll send you the zoom link. Other committees meet on an as needed basis.

I'm looking forward to attending more neighborhood meetings. Please email me at president@csfn.net or bridgelady@earthlink.net and let me know when and where your neighborhood organization is meeting. I'll be out of town July 20-30 but will be here all of August. I'm happy to bring homemade chocolate chip cookies to your meeting if you invite me!

Out of Nowhere A Neckdown Appears on Kirkham Street



Picture from the [Neckdown Flyer](#)

We have reason to believe that various departments at City Hall are using invoicing between departments to create the illusion of debt that does not exist to raise their budgets year after year by claiming more debt that they actually have.

Most departments do not fulfill all of the work that needs to be done to produce the products their departments are responsible for, therefore they fill out work orders or work with other departments and they receive invoices from those departments which are never paid. If there is no money changing hands between the departments there was only the invoices and the debt only exist on paper. The money doesn't exist when the workers carried out between departments.

SFMTA uses DPW, PUC, legal departments and others to finalize their projects. They may even fill out work orders between different divisions of their own department.

Each of these departments writes invokes to SFMTA and at the end of the year the invoices are added up as unpaid debt.

We believe that Jackie Fielder has discovered some of this activity and is perhaps holding hearings based on her findings.

We are in the process of gathering facts and data through sunshine request for documents. We started investigating Neckdown on Kirkham after we were told by the supervisor's aide that her office was not aware of plans to place in on Kirkham prior to their turning up on the street. The neighbors claim that they were not noticed either. This lead us to believe that the

proper process and protocol was not followed. The question is who knew about it and how did it slip through without going through proper channels.

We also saw many contradictions in how the neckdown was described.

There is so far as we can tell no mention of the knockdown online on the SFMTA web site. Upon request for information, we received two conflicting pieces of information on the purpose for neckdown. This contradiction, along with the lack of notice lead us to investigate further.

We put in a sunshine request for documents. We requested documents from the controllers office and were told there were no responsive documents to the request to that office.

Our next department request were made to SFMTA. We for a lot of data on June 30.

Depending on the information we get from SFMTA we may also send a request for documents to SFCTA and other departments. We are curious as to how many departments were involved in this project and how it was financed.

If what we are hearing so far is true, there appears to have been some violation of the proper protocol in terms of going through meetings required public notice and communications with the supervisor and her office. We are also concerned about how a department that claims to be in debt and is cutting public service is spending funds. Where is the money coming from? So far we haven't fund that information only people who are looking for funds or who know nothing about it.

Some people may be curious as to why we are making such a big deal over such a small seemingly meaningless public nuisance. We see this small issue as an easy way to investigate loopholes in the system that may point to much larger problems in a more complicated system.

We are seeing a lot of disregard for legal proceedings by governing bodies and officials lately, at the local, state and federal level. That disregard for the law is infecting the citizens who no longer trust the government. They are ignoring the laws now.

We may not be able to fix the road rage or the subway stabbings overnight, but, we can start by closing a few legal loopholes that are allowing government officials and public servants to take advantage of their positions by pointing them out.

See more here: <https://metermadness.wordpress.com/about/kirkham-street-neckdown/>

**UPDATES ON STREET CALMING:
SFMTA IS HALTING THE PROGRAM!
MUCH ACTIVITY RE: SUNSHINE REQUESTS AND OTHER ISSUES
ARE COMING OUT OF OUR WORK ON THE NECKDOWNS
AND A LOT OF OTHER COMPLAINTS.**

GOVERNMENT



City Administrator: Learn more about the Commission Streamlining Task Force

Last November, San Francisco voters approved Proposition E, creating the Commission Streamlining Task Force. The Task Force is charged with reviewing the City's many appointive boards and commissions and making recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on how to modify, eliminate, or consolidate them for more effective, efficient, and economical governance.

The Task Force meets every first and third Wednesday at 1 PM in City Hall room 408 to discuss potential improvements to the structure of City government.

Learn more about the Commission Streamlining Task Force today on [our website](#). Interested members of the public can join our mailing list or share feedback by emailing commissionstreamlining@sfgov.org.

PermitSF initiative launches major reform efforts

Mayor Daniel Lurie, the Permit Center, DataSF and City permitting agencies have reached key milestones on [PermitSF](#), a comprehensive initiative to make San Francisco's permitting process customer-centric, fast, and predictable. The reforms include transparent performance targets, expanded hours at the Permit Center, and [legislative changes](#) before the Board of Supervisors to make it faster and easier to seek permits that businesses need. *PermitSF* is a critical component of the City's strategy to drive economic recovery and make it easier to build and do business in San Francisco.

As part of this initiative, DataSF led an effort with the Permit Center, Departments of Building Inspection and Planning to launch a [new online dashboard](#) and published the underlying datasets (via Open Data) designed to provide residents, developers, and stakeholders with up-to-date insights into the City's permit processing performance. This is the first time the City has combined data from all departments involved in reviewing planning applications and building permits in one platform. Learn more about [PermitSF on SF.gov](#).

STATE AND FEDERAL

State and Federal Legislative Liaison report: *By Eileen Boken*

The CSFN sent an opposition comment to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which is part of the Department of the Interior.

The Trump Administration head of the Department of Interior is Doug Burgum.

His policy is to establish the U.S. energy dominance.

The current policy is to open all U.S. coastal waters for new oil and gas leasing even if some of these areas could be in National Marine Sanctuaries.

CSFN, in coordination with ExComm, submitted a comment in opposition.

Since the Trump Administration has stated that it wants to run the government like a business, the CSFN comment focused on how new oil and gas leases off the coast of California were not based on a viable business model.

See the letter submitted: [Oil and Gas Lease](#) and [No on SB 606](#)

LAND USE

Land Use and Transportation Report: *By Mari Eliza*

THANKS TO EVERYONE ELSE WHO SENT LETTERS TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE NOT REALLY DOING A GOOD JOB OF REPRESENTING US. AND THANKS TO EILEEN FOR KEEPING US INFORMED.

Numerous letters were also sent to the State Legislature and SF City Hall re: the many state bills on CEQA matters and upzoning and density decontrol by both Eileen and the LUTC Chair Mari Eliza as the ball kept rolling over us and we kept having to change the pace and the direction to keep up with it.

Thousands of one click comments went out and a lot of new media has been somewhat effective in watering down some of the worst bills, before Newsom and Wiener threw us under the bus with a threat from Newsom to NOT SIGN HIS OWN BUDGET if the legislature failed to pass the Wiener bills. WHAT MORE CAN THEY DO TO US?

THE SOMEWHAT GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE ARE CONNECTING WITH A FEW MORE ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR EFFORTS TO REAC THE PUBLIC.

Between Deborah's efforts to line up more city groups to join CSFN, and or efforts to ad more affiliates, we are starting to get a lot more press on our side.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO INFORM YOUR MEMBERS ABOUT OUR ACTIONS.
And send us your dates for the events page.

ARTICLES

[Lawmakers Wanted to Make a New Infrastructure Agency to Operate in Secret. Why They Backed Down.](#)

[Separation of funds flowing between 501\(c\)\(3\) and 501\(c\)\(4\) For everyone who has ever felt betrayed by Bicycle Coalition Factor...Actions at the Rules Committee.](#)
<https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/44788>

[City Hall: Connie Chan – Summer Traffic in the Richmond](#)

[SF Passes New Law to Let Homeowners Sell New In-Law Units as Condos](#)

[S.F. to suspend program that allows residents to request ‘traffic calming’ tactics on city streets](#)

[SF’s 10 Wildest Nonprofit Spending Scandals of the Last Five Years, Ranked](#)

CSFN AGENDA

Tentative Assembly Agenda for July 15, 2025: [Zoom Registration](#)

- Call to Order
- Spotlight: Albert Chow, POPS
- Program: The Demise of SF Parks Alliance: Consequences and Remedies.
Send questions to President Deborah Murphy president@csfn.net

Brief Recess

- Officers Reports; President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretaries
- Committee Reports: EXCOM, Bylaws, Government & Election, Land Use, Liaison
- Approve Minutes:
- Unfinished Business:
- New Business: Plans for Celebration 2025
- For the Good of the Order
- Adjournment

CSFN Meetings: 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.

Send articles and other materials you want to share to: secretary@csfn.net

CSFN Officers were voted in at the May General Assembly for a two year term:

- President Deborah Murphy president@csfn.net
- First Vice President - Charles Head
- Second Vice President - Steve Ward
- Recording Secretary - Mari Eliza secretary@csfn.net
- Corresponding Secretary - Dave Osgood
- Treasurer - Gregory L. Scott treasurer@csfn.net
- State and Federal Liaison - Eileen Boken
- Officers at Large - Mary Harris, Tomasita Medal, Lee Ann Prifti

Website has regular updates on the media and news pages.

Please follow the site or subscribe for updates on news.

Media: [Subscribe to CSFN Video Channel on Youtube](#)

News: <https://csfn.net/news/>

Events: <https://csfn.net/news/>

OUR AFFILIATES

Please send us your suggestions for other groups to consider as well as publications, and social media sites of interest. We shall add to our affiliates page: <https://csfn.net/affiliates/>



FROM THE PARKS ALLIANCE SITE THAT WAS TAKEN DOWN:

From the WAYBACK MACHINE. JUNE 6, 2025 BACK:

1970's: Friends of Recreation and Parks (FRP) emerges to bring more resources and attention to San Francisco parks. Their primary function to San Francisco parks. Their primary function is to serve as the philanthropic partner and fiscal agent for the San Francisco Reaction and Park Department (SF Rec and Parks)...

2010's: The 2010s brought a merger, a greater appreciation for parks as critical for mental and physical health, expanded programming, and an increased emphasis on all public spaces to receive the same attention as urban green spaces.