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The Neighborhood Empowerment Summit September 8th, 2007 at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium 99 Grove St., in the City's Civic Center area, one block east of Van Ness Ave

Join fellow San Franciscans for this first of its kind event, an all day summit that will offer a "one stop shop" for people who want make their neighborhood a better place to live. The Summit will feature a resource fair and break out sessions that are designed to not only raise awareness of great programs, but also explain with real life examples how to implement them to improve your community. The key areas of focus for the summit are *Public Safety, Clean and Green, Community Building, and Disaster Preparedness*. To learn more about the NEN Summit, and to register for the event, please click [HERE](#) or contact nen@sfgov.org or call 554-7111

Please Sign the Petition to Bring On-Street Bike Parking to Mission Street

There's still time to sign to sign the petition! We have over 150 signatures but we need more to show DPT that we have support for this project. Petitions are available at Nervous Dog Coffee 3438 Mission Street. Joe Belen, owner and operator of NDC is requesting the removal of one parking space in front of his business in exchange for safe, on-street bike parking. Let's support Joe by signing the petition. DPT will write the grant proposal to provide the funding for the construction of the bike parking zone. Our job is to document support for the grant application. Please sign the petition before the end of September. If you'd like to get copies of the petition to circulate, please write to **northwestbernal@aol.com** and we'll deliver them to you. If you are a Mission Street merchant and are interested in having petitions available to your customers to sign, please email or call us. Thanks for supporting safe bike parking on Mission Street in Bernal.



Mayor's Office of
Neighborhood Services
Liaison to District 9

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Our Police Station:
Ingleside

Captain
Paul Chignell

If you'd like to receive the
Captain's daily report
please email him and ask
him to put your name on
his list.
Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org

Merchants' Corner

Welcome SoCha! Andre and Jennifer Larzul are opening their 4th neighborhood restaurant in Bernal at 3235 Mission St. near Valencia. They hope that SoCha (south of Chavez) becomes a neighborhood gathering place. Andre and Jennifer will show the work of local artists on the walls in the front section of the café and films on the back wall. And from what we understand, bread lovers will be blessed with freshly made breads and croissants. Thank you Andre and Jennifer for making Bernal home to your next venture. We love it! The Larzul's hope to open SoCha Tuesday morning September 4th.



Bella Venezia benvenuto! What was formerly known as Don Balon's is now Bella Venezia, owned and operated by Eduardo Reina. Diners enjoy excellent service and ample portions. The sauces are delicate, well-balanced, and flavorful (once you've tasted them you'll be hooked). Eduardo aims to please. He goes all to make sure that your visit is an enjoyable one. If you're sharing a dish, the kitchen splits the order onto 2 plates but the portions are still huge. The word is that the Tiramisu is out of this world. If you're in the mood for Southern Italian food, make Bella Venezia your destination. Lunch is served from 12:00 noon - 3:30 pm and Dinner, between 5:00 pm - 10:30pm.



CHUCK is BACK!

Chuck Lama and his wife, Vera, along with their children, Tony, Antoinette, Claudia, Mauricio (Moe), Alex and Nadia have been serving the Bernal heights community since 1973 through a variety of businesses. They are best known for Chuck's at 249 Cortland Avenue, "where the red headed children were raised" (The Lama children).

Chuck and Vera were both born and raised in Palestine. They met and married in Santiago, Chile where all 6 of their children were born. Chuck brought his family to San Francisco in 1973 and they settled in Bernal Heights.

The Lama Family is very proud to back in their original store which they have remodeled. They carry a large selection of award winning California and international wines (under \$20 if you can believe it) as well as fine spirits, imported and micro beers and of course groceries. They also carry an assortment of fine chocolates ready for gift giving or just when the mood strikes. If they don't have your favorite product they will do their best to get it. So don't delay. While you're out on Cortland Avenue be sure to stop by and say hi.

Important City Numbers and Website links

City Website sfgov.org

311 City Service Number

For further information about the Customer Service Center please visit their web site @ www.sfgov.org/311

911 Emergency

Police Non-emergency

415 553-1667

City Online Services

www.sfgov.org/site/online_services_index.asp

City & County of SF

Departments and Agencies

www.sfgov.org/site/mainpages_index.asp?id=7695

SF Rec Centers' Registration Goes High Tech

Play. Learn. Rejuvenate.



Registration for programs and classes held at any public San Francisco Recreation Center can now be completed online. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during open registration. [Click here for more information](#) . To register click the "Programs" tab to view Fall 2007 course offerings. You will find the course description, times, dates and cost. Login to your account by using your Login ID and PIN which will allow you to view your current registrations, and where available, register for new courses! If you don't have a Family Account or need your PIN number go to [sfRecOnline FAQ](#) to learn how to set one up.

Bernal Heights CarShare POD

There's a movement afoot to use cars on an "as needed" basis. [CITY CARSHARE](#) is providing this service right here in Bernal Heights!

The CarShare spaces are in the parking lot behind Blockbuster on Mission Street (near Cesar Chavez Street). To find the vehicles, please enter the lot from Mission Street and walk behind the Blockbuster store. You will find the vehicles in spaces: 94 & 95. In addition, you may access the lot from Precita Avenue. To exit the lot with the vehicle, please exit via Mission Street. You may return the vehicle to the lot either through Precita Avenue or Mission Street.



Restricted Parking Supporting Mechanical Street Sweeping on the 100, 200, 300 Block of Virginia



In July, neighbors along Virginia Ave. learned that the city had scheduled a hearing to consider restricting parking on the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Virginia Avenue in order to implement Mechanical Street Sweeping on alternate sides of the street twice a week. DPW was also proposing a similar program on Gates above Cortland. Only two notices announcing the July hearing had been posted. Residents of both Virginia and Gates immediately made phone calls and sent e-mails to request

postponement of the hearing because DPW had not posted a sufficient number of notices in both areas. And further, they requested the postponement to allow residents to return from vacation in September before they had to attend the hearing.

The city declined to postpone the hearing, but two days later had posted notices on virtually every pole along the block. Kareem Kaddah of Gates took the early lead representing Gates neighbors and requested to know why the city was proposing to restrict parking for weekly mechanical street sweeping on our narrow streets. He argued that our street curbs are not that dirty and there are not enough parking places on the streets now. Restricted parking would only make matters worse and add the cost of \$50.00 parking fines. Vail Shulman on Virginia Ave walked Virginia to get neighbors to sign a petition opposing the city's plan and to distribute flyers to get residents to the hearing. In effect the neighbors only had a 6 day notice of the city hearing. Charles Bolton, a resident of Virginia Ave, said that the neighbors want clean streets, but the city needs to work with neighbors to find ways that do not penalize residents with \$50.00 parking fines every week. And one neighbor, who used to live on a mechanical cleaning restricted parking street in Noe Valley, reported that he got an average of two parking tickets per month.



Twenty-one neighbors from Gates and Virginia attended the hearing with 161 signatures on a petition opposing DPW's plan to restrict parking for scheduled mechanical street sweeping. No one in favor of the plan attended the hearing. When asked why DPW decided to restrict parking for mechanized cleaning, the DPW representative, Harry Hetzer reported that 15 people had signed an internet petition for Gates and two people from Virginia had

called to request the program. DPW heard the testimony from the residents on the following issues:

- Restricted parking would be a hardship because of the narrow streets, limited existing curb side parking spaces, many houses without garages and the lack of off street parking.
- Street curbs were not full of litter, but leaves and plant material. Neighbors

requested that the city clean the streets after the fall leaves had fallen and before the rainy season.

- The city does not clean out the storm drains and when the first heavy rain comes, the drains overflow.
- The city is imposing the restricted parking to increase parking tickets to raise monies for the city.

The hearing officer at the end of the hearing announced that the hearing would be rescheduled for September 5th. When asked why he was continuing the hearing when everyone in attendance was opposed to the plan and the neighbors had submitted petitions from both streets with 161 signatures opposing the plan, the hearing officer reported that he wanted to allow the proponents of the plan to attend the hearing and present their testimony.

Since the last hearing, we have learned that Mayor Newsom testified in Sacramento for AB-101 (Assemblywoman Ma) that would allow DPW to mount video cameras on the mechanical street sweepers to take pictures of illegally parked vehicles in the restricted street sweeping parking zones. This would automatically generate a parking ticket that would be mailed to the car owner to allow Parking Control Officers to be assigned to higher priority tasks.

The next hearing is scheduled for 9:00 AM September 5th, 2007 in Room 400 at city hall. Please take the time to attend. Neighbors are afraid if DPW is successful on Virginia and Gates, other streets will be included next time. Neighbors are asking for:

- Stop the Restricted Parking to support Mechanical Street Sweeping.
- Work with the neighborhood to solve our problems. Walk with us along the streets to see the conditions and meet with us to develop a long term solution to our concerns. Do not shove solutions down our throats. We need workable solutions that meet our neighborhood needs. We do not need more parking tickets. We want clean streets and storm drains that do not clog up. We want trees along the street trimmed. We want pot holes on our streets repaired.

If you can not attend the hearing, please contact the following city officials by e-mail and tell them what we want. Ask them to work with us and not design solutions in their offices.

<u>Mayor Gavin Newsom</u> gavin.newsom@sfgov.org	554-6141
<u>Fred Abadi, Director, Dept. of Public Works:</u> fred.abadi@sfdpw.org	554-6920
<u>Harry Hetzer, DPW, Mechanical Sweeping</u> Harry.Hetzer@sfdpw.org	695-2028
<u>Pilar Schiavo, Supervisor Tom Ammiano's Office</u> pillar.schiavo@sfgov.org	554-5144

Questions? E-mail CREBolton@earthlink.net

Elsie Street Neighborhoods Take Action to Reduce Fire Danger on Bernal Hill

Many residents along the West side of Elsie Street whose houses are adjacent to the hills' park lands have complained about burglaries to their homes from the rear, persons unknown throwing rocks at the rear of their houses, and concern about possible fire. On the 4th of July, residents who watched the fireworks were concerned about the possibility of the hill being set on fire by the firing of bottle rockets and other such devices.

Monica Stokes, Charles Bolton and Madline Flemate formed a sub-committee to work on the issue. They contacted the SF Fire Department and requested to meet with a fire official to walk the hill and indicate areas of dry grass that needed to be cut and dense tree groves that needed trimming and cleaning. The sub-committee met with and walked the hill with Barbara Schultheis, San Francisco Fire Marshall, to point out the areas that needed maintenance. Fire Marshal Barbara, who lives on Bernal, agreed to take the neighbors concerns back to the Fire Department. The group also contacted Pilar Schiavo, Supervisor Tom Ammiano's office to request assistance in getting DPW, Park and Recreation, the Mayor's Office, the Fire Department and the Police Department to take action on this problem. Laurel Muniz, North West Bernal Alliance, helped to mobilize the Mayor's office thru her contacts. By the middle of the following week, representatives of the Mayors office, DPW, Park and Recreation, the Police and Fire Departments and the Mayor's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) had walked the area and were working on an action plan. In the process of scouting the hill, the officials found 7 current or former homeless encampments. HOT worked with the homeless to get them places to live and needed medical and social services. A meeting was organized for August 15th at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center for residents of the area to meet with city representatives for a progress report and follow-up. Elsie Street Neighbors handed out and posted flyers for the meeting along the streets at the base of the hill. Over 70 residents showed up at the meeting.



DPW reported that half of the identified sites had been cleaned and they were working to clean up the remaining areas and remove potential fuel from the hill. The Fire Marshall attended and reported on her recommendations including having property owners clear their property for a 30 foot radius around their houses. The Fire Marshall also stated that the City could legally send notice to vacant lot owners requesting them to clean their lots and to have the work done if the owner did not take action within 60 days. The cost of the clean up would be billed to the owner and if the owner did not pay, the cost could be attached to the property as a lien. Residents of the area requested that the city survey the hill in the early spring on a yearly basis to identify critical problems that needed work to make the hill more fire safe.

In addition, representatives from the Alemany area attended the meeting because they experienced a number of fires over the 4th of July weekend caused by illegal fireworks. They requested that the city work with them to solve their problems. The Fire Marshall stated that this area was more dangerous than Bernal Hill. City officials agreed to work with the residents to address their concerns.