



District of extremes is driving the city

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

STEP up, ladies and gentlemen. Today's tour of the dynamic, the diverse and the problem-filled — District 6 in the heart of San Francisco — is about to begin.

District 6 is not the biggest election enclave in the city — District 10 holds that distinction — but of the 11 city supervisorial boundaries, District 6 is home to a populace with the very poor and very rich citizens at its edges — all trying to balance the contrasts between long unsolved social ills and promises of sky-high growth and unending technological advance.

On Nov. 2 some portion of the district's 43,000 registered voters will select a successor to termed-out Supervisor Chris Daly. You think you've got it tough? That successor must respond to resident concerns ranging from crime, homelessness, affordable housing, public transportation and land development to day care, public parks and street beautification — the gamut of wants and dreams as old as government itself.

Right now in District 6 you can rent a single room (bath not included) at the newly renovated Civic Center Residence on McAllister for \$435 a month, or you can bid to buy the penthouse at The Millennium Tower 60 stories above the corner of Fremont and Mission for double-digit millions. At Sixth Street's Tu Lan you can get full on Julia Child-touted Vietnamese food for \$6; a block away a prix fixe tasting menu at Fifth Floor in the Hotel Palomar starts at \$72, wine extra. Tonight, some of the district's citizens will stay behind their locked doors in fear of street rats with guns, others will complain their favorite cafe doesn't have enough sidewalk seating.

Census tract figures for 2000 show a population of about 93,000, making District 6 one of, if not the largest in the city. In the Tenderloin were 28,480 people, more than a third of them disabled; more than 15,000 in Hayes Valley and 50,170 South of Market. Tenderloin residents had a per capita income of \$17,634 a year, with nearly 63% of them

living in single rooms. In Hayes Valley, the annual per capita income was \$31,913, South of Market it was \$37,115. Those money numbers will be changing, don't you think? Some of us got poorer than we were, some richer.

In the past 10 years nearly 9,500 new housing units have gone up in District 6. The Planning Department projects nearly 20,000 more housing units coming online in the district, including 8,000 on Treasure Island alone. Look closely, ladies and gentlemen, a city within the city is rising before your eyes.

Now, as we approach central Market Street, you might want to take a break. Not much to observe unless you're enthralled by vacant buildings, empty storefronts and public misbehavior in the middle of stalled renovation projects. There's life here, though, and beneath that temporary eyesore a glimpse of a revived arts and theater district might be had.

At Civic Center, watch out for bureaucrats. This part of the district is home to three federal office buildings, two state buildings, a county courthouse and the dome of City Hall, not to mention the Main Library, the Asian Art Museum and dozens of lesser Civic Center offices. No wonder Seventh and Market is the city transportation hub, shuttling commuters and government workers in the tens of thousands each weekday.

Hayes Valley — you oldtimers remember it as a dead zone under the freeway — is alive again. If you're noshing or shopping or snapping pictures of how the city creates thoroughfares disguised by trees, plants and boulevard divides, this is your place. Look stylish, blend in and, if you've got a snap brim hat with a

stingy brim, wear it as we pass along Valencia Street, a hipster haven with new bike lanes.

That November election? Fourteen politicians are running for one spot. Like the district, the candidate roster has something for everyone. You can vote for champions of more affordable housing and more public nudity, zealots for less crime and more jobs, advocates of community development, less parking spaces and better public transportation. All that's sure is that someone will win and we'll do it all again in four years. See you later. ■

— MARJORIE BEGGS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

Purloining her Tenderloins

Everyone knew
that the T-Lo
had something unique
vibrant bleak
a shabby chic
where the flag of the freak
flies high and proud
where vindication of the meek
electrifies fiery loud
the last frontier of sf where it's not yet a crime to be poor
skidrow's past masks hidden paths to time's door
now everyone who's anyone
knows that the T-Lo's got "it"
but they know that they can't buy "it"
(not even at the farmer's market)
cuz that "it" is the spirit of free spirits who resist
so they try and take "it"
and pray like hell
that no one can tell
that they're so fakin' it.
Guess I'd better strike it rich
before I become too poor
to afford to live in the Tenderloin anymore.

— D.V. ATRIA

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES FOR THE MID-MARKET PROJECT AREA COMMITTEE MID-MARKET REDEVELOPMENT SURVEY AREA

The Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco is seeking Statements of Qualifications from qualified individuals or entities to provide administrative, coordination and outreach services to support the Mid-Market Project Area Committee ("PAC") through a Personal Services Contract. Services will generally include coordination of all PAC meetings; serving as a point of contact for information requests; implementing discrete PAC projects; maintaining, developing and implementing a public information program; and drafting reports, letters, memoranda, etc. This opportunity is open to all businesses, both for-profit and non-profit. Responses to the Request for Qualifications will be accepted until Monday, September 20, 2010, 4:00 p.m. To obtain a copy of the Request for Qualifications packet go to www.sfgov.org/sfra or if you have questions, please contact Lisa Zayas-Chien, Project Manager, Telephone: (415) 749-2504 or Lisa.Zayas-Chien@sfgov.org.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR MID-MARKET PLAN ADOPTION CONSULTING SERVICES MID-MARKET REDEVELOPMENT SURVEY AREA

The Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco seeks a consultant to assist and consult in preparing redevelopment plan adoption documents for the proposed Mid-Market Redevelopment Project Area as required and detailed by California Redevelopment Law. This generally includes, but is not limited to, the preparation of blight findings, boundary analyses, fiscal feasibility analyses, and other analyses in support of the creation of required Redevelopment documents. This opportunity is open to all businesses, both for-profit and non-profit. Responses to the Request for Qualifications will be accepted until Monday, September 20, 2010, 4:00 p.m. To obtain a copy of the Request for Qualifications packet go to www.sfgov.org/sfra or if you have questions, please contact Lisa Zayas-Chien, Project Manager, Telephone: (415) 749-2504 or Lisa.Zayas-Chien@sfgov.org.