

CAC poised to be back in business

Panel endorses 7 members now awaiting final OK

By MARK HEDIN

THE CITIZENS ADVISORY Committee, the 11-member panel that represents the neighborhood's interests in the city's dealings with companies that take advantage of the payroll tax break, is on its way back to full strength.

The committee was gutted by the city administrator on May 1. Four of its remaining eight members were purged and it has not had an official meeting since April. At a hearing on June 20, five newcomers and two returning members won the endorsement of the supervisors' Rules Committee, and, if they're accepted by the full board July 9, the CAC will be back in business.

The three supes on Rules basically rubber-stamped colleague Jane Kim's recommendations for the seven CAC seats.

At the Rules hearing, Kim asked each candidate: What goals or priorities would you push for as a CAC member?

Rules Committee Chair Norman Yee also asked a single question of each candidate: What would you do to mitigate the impact of a large new development in the neighborhood?

Each seat comes with specific requirements to ensure that diverse groups within the community are represented. Here's a description of each

seat, who occupies it, and how the six successful applicants who attended the Rules hearing responded to the supes' questions:

SEAT 1: Health care worker Eva Piring, the incumbent, is a representative of low-income families living in the central Market area. A member in good standing, her CAC tenure expires in August 2015.

SEATS 2-3: Occupants must have expertise in job creation and one of the seats must represent labor. Peter Masiak was tapped for Seat 2 and Steven Suzuki, 30 years with Asian Neighborhood De-

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PHOTO BY MARK DONEZA

Julian Dash of Holy Stitch makes his pitch to the supervisors Rules Committee.

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

MARKET STREET



PHOTO BY MARK DONEZA

From the 24th story of UC Hastings' student housing, Market Street's place as San Francisco's main boulevard is seen darkly bisecting the central city. A closer view would show the changes.

BLIGHT TO BOOM

Huge chunks of blocks are being rebuilt

By MARK HEDIN AND GEOFF LINK

A NEW RUSH FOR GOLD is turning one of San Francisco's seediest stretches into tony, well-kept centers of commerce and civic pride, much in the way that Third Street, once Skid Row, was transformed into today's museum district.

Mid-Market clearly has become tech central, but it's more than that. Thousands of market-rate housing units on the street are a year or so away. Nearly 1 in 5 properties from Fifth to Eighth has turned over in the past year, and there are active planning permits on more than a third of the 57 addresses on those blocks.

At the height of the Market Street blight three years ago, those three blocks were the worst, and, if the sheer amount of construction means much, they're coming back among the strongest.

The Extra surveyed Market Street from Fifth to Eighth in February 2010, and dubbed the three blocks "the plywood parade" for the boarded-up windows on 27 vacant storefronts — nearly half — we found on both sides of the street. Today, long stretches of storefronts are boarded-up, but many of these buildings aren't empty behind the plywood; crews are busy transforming them.

The boomtown vibe resonates right on up the boulevard to South Van Ness where

Cushman & Wakefield is leasing the million-square-foot 1455 Market St. to skyrocketing Square plus a cadre of local and federal tenants taking up large portions.

While drug sellers hustle at the convergence of Jones, McAllister and Market streets, and chess players gamble and carry on amid the chaos, squalor and still-boarded-up storefronts on the Warfield Theater block, a dozen construction sites are bustling. Over \$170 million in construction is under way on the blocks — nearly half of the total assessed value of all the addresses two years ago.

And that's just now. Every day new deals are being cut. This stretch hasn't seen so much activity in more than 40 years with all the construction, property changing hands and office occupancy rising. Longtime observers see critical mass coming with the 4,000 or so new housing units in the works tipping the balance.

If — and when — the residential units fill up, gentrification will be old news.

A short stroll down the street is revealing — for the amount of new activity and how much remains the same.

At Fifth and Market, where Marshalls operated recently, the construction giant Fisher Development, which has been working on the Golden Gate Bridge approach and built the Sephora store on Powell, is at work at the site, 901 Market. A Nordstrom Rack will be leasing ground and first-floor space.

Next door are three tidy, diminutive buildings two to four stories high, all built after 1906. Two display "available for lease" signs. Leasing agent George Ju reports that the upper three floors of 923 Market are rented to "computer people, all startup groups," but that the ground floor will soon be available.

Transforming right before our eyes are 931-61 Market. It's the biggest makeover on all three blocks. At what were, in 2010, four

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