

Topless

Bawdy plan
for Mason St. club

Extra

Central City

Published by San Francisco Study Center

Hangups

Telephone connections
gone bad, gone mad

Dread on the street

PHOTO: KAREN OBERDORFER



Joseph Robbins: "There will be more thievery, scamming."

As Prop N looms, homeless predict crime will rise

By Karen Oberdorfer

With the passage of Care Not Cash, many people on the street are predicting a spike in crime come July 1, when Proposition N takes effect.

"It's a scary situation," said Clarence Frazier, a homeless General Assistance recipient. "They just better be prepared for what's going to happen. All hell's going to break loose: robbery, murder, break-ins, you name it. People need money to survive." Frazier was sitting on a bench in the warehouse-like waiting room of the S.F. Department of Human Services.

He arrived from Texas a few months ago looking for work as an auto mechanic, but he hasn't found a job yet. If he's still homeless when Prop N takes effect, his check could be

cut to \$59 a month.

Two women listening to the conversation chimed in. They aren't homeless but expect that they'll still feel the change in July.

"It's not enough to live as it is, how they think [\$59] is going to cut it – you know there'll be more stuff – muggings ..." said one of the women.

Variations on this theme were repeated often during our interviews in words fueled by anger and frustration. But it's a point of view that also was expressed by Public Defender-elect Jeff Adachi during a pre-election Care Not Cash debate between Prop N author, Supervisor Gavin Newsom, and anti-Prop N Supervisor Matt Gonzalez. Adachi was in the audience and after hearing the arguments, Adachi said he still

didn't think Prop N was a wise move. He cited studies from New York City and Los Angeles after those cities similarly slashed cash benefits. "Almost every city that has done this has experienced a rise in crimes – a rise in petty crimes and crimes of survival. ... What's going to happen in San Francisco is anybody's guess," Adachi said.

He also said that Prop N does not adequately address drug addiction. "Just because you take away people's money doesn't mean they'll stop using drugs or stop using alcohol; the problem is much deeper than that," he said.

The morning after

On San Francisco's first cash assistance payday after Care Not Cash passed, a lunch-time queue was forming outside the

continued on page 4

Confident Daly settles in for 4 years

District 6 supe dodges a runoff, calls his re-election a huge win

By Karen Oberdorfer

The December 2000 runoff that vaulted community organizer Chris Daly into the marble chambers of City Hall as the youngest elected supervisor saw him win in a landslide with 81% of the vote. Now, almost two years later, he held onto his seat with a near-miss 51% win. Is there waning support for the now-30-year-old supervisor?

"No, we actually did better this time," said Daly. "You can't compare this election to a runoff election against one other candidate." Daly says last month's election results are more like the November 2000 race that pitted him against 16 candidates and sent him into the runoff with 33% of the vote. That's why this election's results top 2000's, he said.

"You're not supposed to get 50% of the vote with nine people in the field. ... If you think about it, I got 3, almost 3½ to 4½ times as many votes as my next closest competitor. It's a huge win," he said.

He attributes the victory to his two-year track record, and to the fact that, as an incumbent, he could concentrate on the issues during the campaign. "In 2000, we put up 2,000 signs; this time we only put up 600 or 700," he said. His competitors, on the other hand, had to run a first-timer's identity campaign, he said. In the first three months of the race, while the others were concentrating on becoming visible, his more-than-200 campaign workers were on the phones in six languages to all registered voters, he said.

There were the "predictable" character assassination attempts, he said, and the ABDC (Anybody But Chris Daly) phase. He said he printed up some ABCD stickers – but his read: Always Been a Chris Daly.

He spoke with this reporter while helping with cleanup at the end of a campaign celebration that he and his fiancée put on for supporters at Centro Del

Pueblo on Valencia Street near 16th.

During his first year and a half on the board, Daly spent his time making good on campaign promises, he said. But, this time, he changed tactics. "I didn't make any promises in this campaign except to keep doing what I've been doing," he said. Now, with twice as much time and without the promises, he'll be able to concentrate on getting to know his constituency, he said.

"I can work much more from a community-organizing perspective. I think that change happens outside of government first, and so with a four-year term I can focus much more on organizing out in the community and then bringing that into City Hall. I think it's going to be much stronger in that way," he said.

His first term in office didn't throw any wild cards his way, he said. "It's pretty much a lot like what I thought it was going to be, but you sort of have to experience it to (pause) gain a full appreciation for it ..." he said, chuckling. Citing the "corruption" in politics, which also turns off many would-be voters, he said, "I don't much care for politics."

What were the weaknesses of his campaign, we asked. "Weaknesses? It was a really strong campaign and an incredible team effort ..." he answered like a seasoned politician.

Although he is going into the next four years with the advantage of experience and few campaign promises to keep, a financial crisis threatens to engulf the entire Board of Supervisors. "It's going to be a horrendous budget year," he said of the enormous state deficit that will hit cities soon. "I had a plan called Proposition L, but it lost, so no, I don't have a plan. It's going to be really bad," he said.

But looking on the bright side, he said, "Well, you know, the budget's still a political



PHOTO: CARL ANGEL

Chris Daly: "We did better this time."

continued on page 5