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12-feet to 25-by-15. All have kitchenettes. Bathrooms are down the hall. Rents will be \$485 but may dip to \$430 with additional subsidies, according to Diego Sanchez, a TODCO project engineer. The ground floor will have a restaurant, the Veterans Equity Center and the Bayanihan Filipino-American Community Center. The basement will be a common use television room, kitchen and laundry.

Bayanihan is Tagalog for community spirit and mutual help.

CHICO'S ADDS SPICE TO STREET

Sharing the optimism of the street are the brothers Moe and Hani Hakim. They own Chico's Pizza next to The Rose, the spiffy, low-income hotel sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy and a development of Mercy Housing California.

For 10 years, the brothers ran Chico's on Mission around the corner, until they lost their lease.

"We didn't want to lose our customers, so we came here," says Moe. "And it's totally different."

Which is to say business has never been better. Foot traffic is heavier and by staying open until 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, Chico's catches crowds from Anu bar. "Hey, he has a different DJ every time," Moe says. "That's cool."

"And Sixth Street is good for business. We need more of it and not so many (boarded-up) places to hang out. We have big hopes for the street. We tell our friends and try to get them interested in investing. It's improving, you know? The more businesses we have the more people won't be hanging out. But not liquor stores—open them and it will stay the same."

Another "phoenix from the ashes," as Gordon refers to it, is the Dudley Hotel at Natoma and Sixth. The \$1.4 million rehabilitation by Mercy Housing California began in February and is to be finished in August. A fire in 1996 closed the 1913 structure that might well have been a part of the neighborhood's happy nightlife scene.

"We're really happy that these 75 rooms will now be restored," says Jeff White, Redevelopment Agency housing specialist. "Things are changing."

The Dudley will have 25 studios, 25 one-bedrooms, and 25 SROs, with 25% (18 rooms) designated Section 8, with renters paying 30% of their income. Eight units are set aside for those who are HIV positive. The two commercial spaces at the ground floor, one on Natoma and one on Sixth, Smith says, do not yet have tenants, although Gordon says that a grocery will go in there.

Still, despite the street cleanings, the promise of handsome sidewalks and store face-lifts, blight persists. "I want to go down



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Sixth Street in a cherry picker and take out every decrepit hotel sign," Gordon says. "We need to start to manage the visual environment."

PALM TREES WILL LINE SIXTH

By 2004, the sidewalks are scheduled to be done and the fill-in work underneath them complete. Palms and other trees are planned to line Sixth along with new street lights. Gordon says he doesn't want to master plan the neighborhood, but he'd love to see the mix of ethnic restaurants expand, the appearance of a homeopathy shop, and an herbal pharmacy.

"That resonates well—people trying to get better," he says. "And an alternative healing center would be great."

For the short term, Sixth Street is a happening place. The 35-piece wall sculpture, Defenestration, is still the street's jocular eye candy, with furniture and appliances looming over the Howard intersection. Many have forgotten that it was the boarded-up Hugo Hotel in 1987 that allowed artist Brian Goggin to get his friends and street pals together 10 years later to anchor this community art project. Goggin will change the color of the lights this summer for night viewing.

In May, Anu bar features the art work of



PHOTO BY CARL ANGEL

Tej Dattani (above) is running his father's Haveli Indian restaurant while he recuperates. Left: Roger Gordon got the Six on Sixth program moving.

Michael Roman, who does album covers for Santana. On Saturday, June 21, the Sixth Street Fair will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The street will have a float in the Gay Pride Parade on June 29. Call 553-4433 ext. 10 to get involved. Meanwhile, Gordon is holding his first annual idea contest. To enter, a resident writes up or says what he or she would like to see on the street. Call the number above. "The winner," he says, "gets to present it to the mayor."

For the long term, Anu bar has a 10-year lease and Chico's Pizza lease will run 15 years. And redevelopment marches on in a place that, at the very least, will not stay the same. ■

— ADVERTISEMENT —

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, COORDINATION AND OUTREACH SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE MID-MARKET PROJECT AREA COMMITTEE

The Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco ("Agency") is seeking Statements of Qualifications from qualified individuals or organizations to provide administrative, coordination and outreach services to support the Mid-Market Project Area Committee ("PAC") through a Personal Services Contract between the Agency and the Consultant. Services will generally include coordination of all PAC meetings; serving as a point of contact for information requests; representing PAC positions at non-PAC meetings; implementing discrete PAC projects; maintaining, developing and implementing a public information program; and drafting reports, letters, memoranda, etc.

The RFQ is available at the 3rd floor Reception Desk, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, 770 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 and on the City's website at www.sfgov.org. A pre-submission meeting will be held at the Agency, Friday, May 16, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. All questions, clarifications and requests for additional information regarding this RFQ must be received in writing by the Agency, by delivery, mail, fax, or e-mail no later than Wednesday, May 28, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. and should be submitted to: Lisa M. King, Senior Planner. Telephone: 415/749-2504. Fax: 415/749-2590. E-Mail: Lisa.King@sfgov.org. Statements of Qualifications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 2003 at the Agency.

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