

New captain asked for TL — it's where she learned to be good cop

BY TOM CARTER

CAPT. Kathryn Brown, who learned her finest lessons policing grim Tenderloin streets in the early 1990s, returns as the neighborhood's top cop, just as tough, likely more sensitive and eager for the assignment she requested.

Brown had been assigned to the Tenderloin Task Force in 1991 and served a three-year stint.

"I'll be honest, when I worked here the first time I really started to listen to people I came in contact with on the street," she said in an Extra interview at her desk on her third day at work. "If you can take time to listen, you learn lessons you never forget."

Last month Acting Police Chief Heather Fong bumped TL Capt. David Shinn up to a five-district supervising job at 850 Bryant (commander of Field Operations Bureau, Golden Gate Division). The department shakeup

also included down-sizing that eliminated Brown's job as commander of the Administration Bureau, demoting her to the captain's rank she earned two years ago.

Fong gave Brown her choice of stations to command. Although she has 22 years with the department, and once supervised all 10 stations as night captain, Brown, 50,

had never had a district command.

"I don't think that's a problem because of my background," she said. "Chief Fong is adamant that we have the experience of commanding a district station. She asked me where I wanted to go and Tenderloin was my first choice. I know the drug issues are enormous. I'll be as aggressive as the law allows."

Shinn made drug dealing a priority and was proud of often getting out, as commander, to patrol streets that are the notorious turf of dealers.

In his 18 months as commander, Shinn tried to use more sting operations against drug dealers while increasing efforts to enforce the 1,000-foot rule for schools. The latter means that convictions for drug dealing within that radius from a school can carry an additional five-year sentence. He

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Capt. Kathryn Brown patrolled the streets of the Tenderloin from 1991-94.

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EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

MEETS THE PEOPLE



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Shirley Pounds (left) of City Team Ministries greets DA Kamala Harris on the walk.

DA does 6th

Walk on wild side: District attorney makes good on a campaign promise

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

ABOUT 20 members of the Sixth Street Corridor Safety Coalition — residents, service providers, a police officer and a Guardian Angel — met March 9 in the lounge of The Rose to prepare for their one hour with new District Attorney Kamala Harris.

The plan was she'd answer some questions — just a few — then be whisked out to see the street for herself.

Before she arrived, Coalition Chair Richard Silva, a Mercy Housing social worker stationed at The Rose, went around the room asking people to cite their biggest concerns. The litany was familiar — drug use and dealing, turnstile courtrooms, disrepair everywhere, persistent crime and street stench, and so on — and it was long, too long, said Denise Jackson, support services manager at The Rose, who helped organize the tour. "We have just one hour," she kept reminding everyone, "just one hour."

Harris got a round of applause when she arrived with two of her staff, Public Information Officer Debbie Mesloh and Director of Policy Tim Silard, and an under-

cover policeman.

A coalition member who lives at the Dudley Hotel, 172 Sixth, began by asking, "What can we do to change the face of Sixth Street, so kids can grow up as productive members of the community?"

"Kids are a real concern of mine, and I'd like to take a leadership role in this," Harris said. "Children and youth issues are neglected here. The crime level here [ranges] from low level to high, and the response has to fit the crime, but I will prosecute the drug dealers. Also, I'm supportive of community court."

Renee, a tenant at the Knox, told Harris, "I grew up on Sixth, and everything seems to be dumped here — porn to pawn. Is there any way to get rid of them?"

Harris said only a combination of tactics could turn that around. "One thing is to encourage small businesses to locate here — to do good business instead of bad business," she said. "And I do see this as a neighborhood, not a dumping ground."

"Is there any way to work with other Bay Area DAs so there's less incentive for out-of-towners to come to Sixth?" asked Antoinetta Stadlman, a resident at Baldwin House, 74 Sixth.

Harris said she's started a protocol with Alameda County. If people on probation are picked up here, they're sent back across the Bay.

"We're also talking with police about street crimes," Harris said, "and meeting with other officials about homelessness problems and child advocacy. I want to meet with each of the community courts to see what you're doing."

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