

Community benefit district cleans, patrols Central Market

BY SONYA SVOBODA

CENTRAL Market Community Benefit District began providing services in February, more than a year after the CBD was formed.

Clean Streets and Community Guides began sweeping and patrolling Market, Stevenson and Jessie streets from Fifth to Ninth and a few strategic blocks north of Market.

By contrast, the Tenderloin CBD, started in October 2005, is huge — 29 square blocks, mostly residential. Central Market is largely commercial.

The CBDs have the same street sweeper service, the Clean City Coalition, which hires low-income and homeless people. Clean City, however, contracts with a two-person team to clean Central Market streets during the week and has a separate contract with MJM Management Group to clean on weekends.

MJM Management also contracts with the CBD to provide its Community Guides, a pair of brown-uniformed, police-trained men who patrol Central Market streets from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

The guides are CBD's response to its survey last spring of property owners' concerns, said Daniel Hurtado, executive director of the Central Market CBD. The respondents' chief complaints, he said, were alcohol and aggressive panhandling, along with

urine and feces on the streets. So, the Guides patrol the area, armed with a list of social services to refer miscreants to for help.

They also have been "trained on how to recognize criminal behavior and activities that warrant contacting the police," said Hurtado.

It's a different attitude in the Tenderloin.

"We do not have people on the streets," said Elaine Zamora, manager of the Tenderloin/North of Market CBD, "because it is a commitment to the neighborhood that we would not be a police to the neighborhood."

The Central Market CBD's annual budget is \$535,000. The North of Market CBD's budget is nearly \$1 million.

Not everyone within Central Market CBD's boundaries is aware of what the new organization is up to or convinced it can make changes.

"[The area] is definitely better than before, but the police need to do more work during business hours," said an employee of Oxford Street Men's Clothing & Accessories, located on Market between Fifth and Sixth streets. "Right outside are the homeless and people selling dope."

He said he'd never heard of the CBD.

At Café 36 on Fifth Street, employee Cony Judah agrees the streets are cleaner. "But homelessness hasn't improved — it will take more than the Central CBD." ■

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West Portal Elementary, 5 Lenox Way at Taraval St. Wheelchair access through Claremont St. school yard. *Nearby Muni routes: 17, 48, K, L & M to West Portal Station*

Thursday, April 24th at 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. at Presidio Ave. *Nearby Muni routes: 1, 1BX, 2, 3, 4 & 43*

Sat., April 26th at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Dianne Feinstein Elementary, 2550 25th Ave. at Vicente St. *Nearby Muni routes: L, 28 & 66*

Monday, April 28th at 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Southeast Community Facility, 1800 Oakdale Ave. at Phelps St. *Nearby Muni routes: T, 23, 24, 44 & 54*

Wed., April 30 at 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

City College Mission Campus, 1125 Valencia St. at 22nd St. *Nearby Muni routes: 14, 26, 48, 49 & 67*

Sat., May 3 at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Jean Parker Elementary, 840 Broadway St. at Powell St. *Nearby Muni routes: 9X, 12, 30, 45, Powell & Mason Cable Car*

Monday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Visitacion Valley Elementary, 55 Schwerin St. at Visitacion Ave. *Nearby Muni routes: 9X, 9BX, & 56*

Sat., May 10 at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. at Diamond St. *Nearby Muni routes: F, K, L, M, 24, 33 & 35*

Monday, May 12 at 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

West Bay Conference Center, 1290 Fillmore St. at Eddy St. *Nearby Muni routes: 5, 22, 31 & 38*

Wed., May 14 at 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Bessie Carmichael Elementary, 375 Seventh St. at Harrison St. *Nearby Muni routes: 9X, 12, 14X, 19 & 47*

Sat., May 17th at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Mission YMCA, 4080 Mission Street at Bosworth St. *Nearby Muni routes: 14, 23 & 49*

For more information, go online www.sftep.com or call 311



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Interpretation in Cantonese and Spanish will be provided. There will be a FastPass raffle at each meeting.