

# Closed-down Pink Diamonds quickly reopens

Ex-D.A. Hallinan  
stalls city injunction

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN  
AND TOM CARTER

**T**ROUBLED strip club Pink Diamonds reopened at 220 Jones St. on New Year's Eve, a month after the building's owner, Terrance Alan, a member of the Entertainment Commission, shuttered the business in response to neighborhood complaints and police actions against noise, unruly patrons, and at least three incidents of gun play.

Less than two weeks later, City Attorney Dennis Herrera filed a complaint for injunctive relief, naming Damone H. Smith, the current club operator, and a list of others, including Club Paree, Pink Diamonds' earlier incarnation, as defendants.

The complaint now winding through Superior Court cites past violations of police, fire, health and building inspection codes at the club. It asks the court to order club operators to bring it into compliance with a laundry list of requirements that include how many guards to hire and posting signs about noise over the front and back doors.

Meanwhile, the litany of troubles outside Pink Diamonds' door swelled in the new year. Police visited the club twice in January because of fighting and unruly crowds. After one visit the manager closed down a private party.

**"...a disorderly and disruptive nightclub... a public nuisance."**

City attorney injunction

Deputy City Attorney Jerry Threet states in the injunctive complaint that the defendants maintained "a disorderly and disruptive nightclub that repeatedly operates as a public nuisance ... in violation of the required State and local permits." The 19-page complaint demands that the club's operators provide adequate security, control patrons, limit noise and obtain valid entertainment and late-night permits from the city Entertainment Commission.

The complaint catalogs a string of fruitless attempts by the city attorney to get the club operators to

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

**Pink Diamonds** reopened a month after being shut down.

NO. 87

PUBLISHED  
BY THE  
SAN FRANCISCO  
STUDY CENTER

MARCH  
2009

## ECONOMY STALLS HOUSING

3 projects  
by nonprofits  
on hold

PAGE 2

## BANNER YEAR FOR TENDERLOIN

Contest for  
flags to line  
the streets

PAGE 5



## OBITUARIES

PAGE 6

# CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

## 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL'



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

**Five-year Seneca Hotel** resident David L. Green Jr. says that since the Sixth Street SRO installed individually locked mailboxes he has felt "more secure and independent."

# SRO mail call

City poised to sue  
Post Office over  
delivery policy

BY TOM CARTER

**S**AN FRANCISCO plans to sue the U.S. Postal Service in federal court for not delivering mail properly to SRO hotels, deputy city attorneys announced recently at a community meeting in the Tenderloin.

The Central City SRO Collaborative, a tenants'-rights group, had called the meeting Feb. 11 so city officials could hear firsthand about erratic mail delivery.

The attorneys listened to an hour of SRO residents' complaints and lack of individual mail service, and took names for follow-up interviews to build their case. They asked for help in finding more neighborhood witnesses to come forward and planned to record their stories the next week.

Compounding the problem is a new postal policy that further diminishes deliveries. Tenderloin Housing Clinic lawyer Paul Hogarth said that in reply to his inquiries a Postal Service spokesman said in a Dec. 22 email that a new policy was coming that restored old regulations.

San Francisco postal spokesman Jim Wigdel confirmed the change. The Postal Service sent a letter Dec. 24 to SROs announcing that service would stop to individually locked mailboxes installed in the

last 90 days, but service would continue for those installed before that. Wigdel said the change came after a management review of postal regulations that call for bulk mail drops at hotels.

Wigdel said he didn't know what prompted the policy review. The regulations, he added, are national in scope, not just centered on San Francisco, and supersede city and state laws, passed in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

He had no comment on the city's pending suit.

Dozens of SROs have installed individually locked boxes in recent years following pressure from activists on the post office to allow them, and later, from the city and state laws requiring them. However, the post office made exceptions for SROs to its bulk drops, or centralized delivery for hotels (see sidebar). Now, that agreement will be disregarded.

Supervisor Chris Daly, author of the mailbox ordinance, said the Postal Service's actions did not surprise him.

"I've talked to the city attorney and I feel good about this course," Daly told The Extra. "And I support (anything) that brings attention to this." He said he hoped Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had threatened a congressional inquiry over the controversial SRO mail delivery four years ago, would get involved as "an interested party."

Pelosi's office did not respond to requests for comment.

Meanwhile, residents have recourse to "enforcement provisions" in the ordinance, Daly said. They allow SRO residents to seek lower rents by petitioning the Stabilization

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4