

# Violations are piling up at Pink Diamonds

## City attorney is 40 days from court showdown

BY TOM CARTER

**N**OTORIOUS Pink Diamonds continued to cavalierly rack up injunction violations as the city attorney's campaign to permanently shutter it moved closer to a court date after more than 70 neighbors signed complaints in July against the Jones Street strip club.

"We're about 40 days from going to court," Deputy City Attorney Jerry Threet told *The Extra* July 29. "We also have two investigations of the club going on that will be ready in two weeks and we will want to evaluate them."

More than 30 elderly Antonia Manor residents, mostly Chinese American women, were the first to give their stories to a city attorney investigator July 17. The TNDC building is next to Pink Diamonds. Most nodded agreement during an interpreter's brief orientation, acknowledging that they couldn't sleep because of noise Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights when the club is open.

The club has attracted after-hours noise and violence since it supplanted The Vixen strip club at 220 Jones St. in 2008. The worst fears of the neighborhood and police arrived June 27 at 3 a.m. when a 30-year-old man was shot and killed outside the club and two others were injured. City Attorney Dennis Herrera was quoted in a Chronicle story that he would "do everything in my power to shut

**"Hallinan... said they'd apply for a permit and follow the law."**

Jerry Threet  
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

this place down once and for all." The building is owned by Entertainment Commissioner Terrance Alan, who also has a minority stake in the management company that operates Pink Diamonds.

Three months before the homicide, the club had come under an injunction following scores of code violations and other shootings. Two victims of the 16 shootings outside the club that police have connected to Pink Diamonds had been paralyzed, police reported. Judge Peter Busch on March 24 signed an injunction that was also signed by the city attorney and Pink Diamonds majority owner Damone H. Smith, who agreed to put surveillance cameras outside by April 8 and add guards to control crowds along with more than 20 other requirements of operation.

But no cameras were operating the night of the homicide. Smith, at the police community meeting June 30, offered "condolences" to the slain man's family and explained that the cameras "failed" and he was "in the process of buying more." TL Code Officer Mike Torres reminded Smith the club had been promising for a year to install cameras outside.

"It was no accident they didn't have them [the cameras] up," said Threet of the fateful night. "It wouldn't

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# CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

## 99 YEARS



PHOTOS BY JOHN HERSHEY

Shown performing at the transition party are Y members Evelyn Liu, Chao Hua Huang, Qi Hua Li and Felice Cary of the Chinese Dance Performance Group.

# The Y's last waltz

## 600 partygoers say goodbye, face unsettled future

BY TOM CARTER

**T**HE Central YMCA showed a stiff upper lip June 30 when it staged "The Next 100 Years"—an invitation-only "transition" bash attended by about 600 of its members and supporters. The love-in offered hors d'oeuvres and entertainment to

assuage separation anxieties and shore up hope for the future.

The Y's fitness facilities — including its gyms and pool — closed July 1, and its memberships became good at any of the city's eight other Ys.

Sometime in late fall, a date undetermined, the Y will vacate and TNDC will take over the historic nine-story building at 220 Golden Gate Ave., its entrance dominated by four imposing columns. Eventually, TNDC will turn the place into housing for the formerly homeless and a health clinic. There's no start date for construction.

The Y opened Thanksgiving 1910 and has since offered recreational and social programs at admirably low rates, endearing thousands of thrifty "Y family" residents from the Tenderloin and beyond. It has been known as the Shih Yu-Lang Central Y since 2002, named after a Taiwanese math professor who believed in building strong families. He inspired his children to come to San Francisco, where they became avid Y members, so much so that one donated \$5 million to the Central Y and thus got naming rights.

The forward-looking party theme was emblazoned in red and white letters on black T-shirts given to the first 300 revelers. Painful nostalgia was palpable as scores waited in line outside to sign in and receive the shirt and a door prize coupon. Many readily rued the loss of the crumbling building and the healthy recreational programs and felt insecure about the undetermined immediate future.

The Y has almost cinched a temporary site to land its programs for four to five years until its new fitness center can be built

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Y members, from left, Erika Lopez, Christina Augello and Elgy Gillespie, are sorry to see it close and joined the celebration.