

Miller, Alisa

From: Jonathan Bonato [jonathanbonato@att.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 05, 2014 8:41 PM
To: Miller, Alisa
Subject: Call to Investigate Termination of Midtown Park Corporation lease
Attachments: r0325-07.pdf

To the Deputy Director of the Board of Supervisors:

San Francisco Board of Supervisors Resolution 325-07 promised that the tenants would have a say in determining a new ownership structure at 1415 Scott Street, including opportunities to convert to a housing cooperative or condos, but the Mayor's Office of Housing suddenly terminated the master lease just before Christmas and ended all discussion, because the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee refuses to deal with the resident owned non profit Midtown Park Corporation.

I am writing to request the Board of Supervisors review and investigate the Mayor's Office of Housing termination of the longterm lease to Midtown Park Corporation, owned and controlled by the residents of 1415 Scott Street. The termination of the tenant's lease was done during the holidays, causing much distress to the residents, who rightly fear eviction and displacement, especially in view of comments made to the media by Teresa Yanga of MOH, and Supervisor London Breed, who sounds like she might have reversed the strong support residents previously enjoyed from former Supervisors Mirkarimi and Olague.

I am concerned the choice of former Mayor's Office of Housing Director Douglas Shoemaker who resigned to head up Mercy Housing to redevelop Midtown Park Apartments is a conflict of interest. The Mayor's Office should have disqualified Mr. Shoemaker from bidding on this project, and selected either Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center or the San Francisco Community Land Trust. I am asking the Board of Supervisors investigate this conflict of interest. It is wrong for the Director of Mayor's Office of Housing to resign his job, then assume control, development and possibly the ownership of City property which is already leased to the resident owned and controlled non profit corporation, a property the City has promised tenants over many years that someday they could become a resident owned and governed Coop.

The residents have a right to determine whether or not they can/should become a housing cooperative, whether or not they want to include market rate housing in the property, whether or not they can be displaced from San Francisco either temporarily or permanently. The residents have a right to have their voice and concerns heard about Mayor's Office of Housing imposing Tenant Income Certifications upon them, under threat of eviction or huge rent increases. Its wrong for Teresa Yanga and Supervisor Breed to intimidate the residents into compliance demanding Tenant income certifications, using threats of eviction or huge rent increases, and accusing residents of subletting. At least one of those low income families has lived without a lease in that property for thirty five years - they are just as much legal residents as anyone else. Given the horrendous history of displacement in the Western Addition, encouraged by SPUR, the former SF Redevelopment Agency (of which MOH was named as the successor agency) as well as the arrest and detention in concentration camps of Japanese American residents in World War II, it is urgently necessary that Midtown Park remain and truly become resident owned and controlled.

If the City doesn't listen to the tenants at Midtown Park Apartments and Freedom West Cooperative, the City and the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee could well have

hundreds residents protesting Mayor's Office of Housing, the Sisters of Mercy & Mercy Housing, and State of California Treasurers Office for terminating their lease and displacing them. Government must be responsive to the 99%, not just to Twitter, Google, Facebook, Larry Ellison and all the other billionaires and millionaires.

I pray the Board of Supervisors to reinstate the lease of Midtown Park Corporation, and require the Mayor's Office of Housing to fully follow the BOS resolution 325-07. I ask the Board investigate the conflict of interest created when MOH awarded the contract to Mercy Housing, shortly after Doug Shoemaker resigned from MOH to assume control of Mercy Housing.

Jonathan Bonato

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