

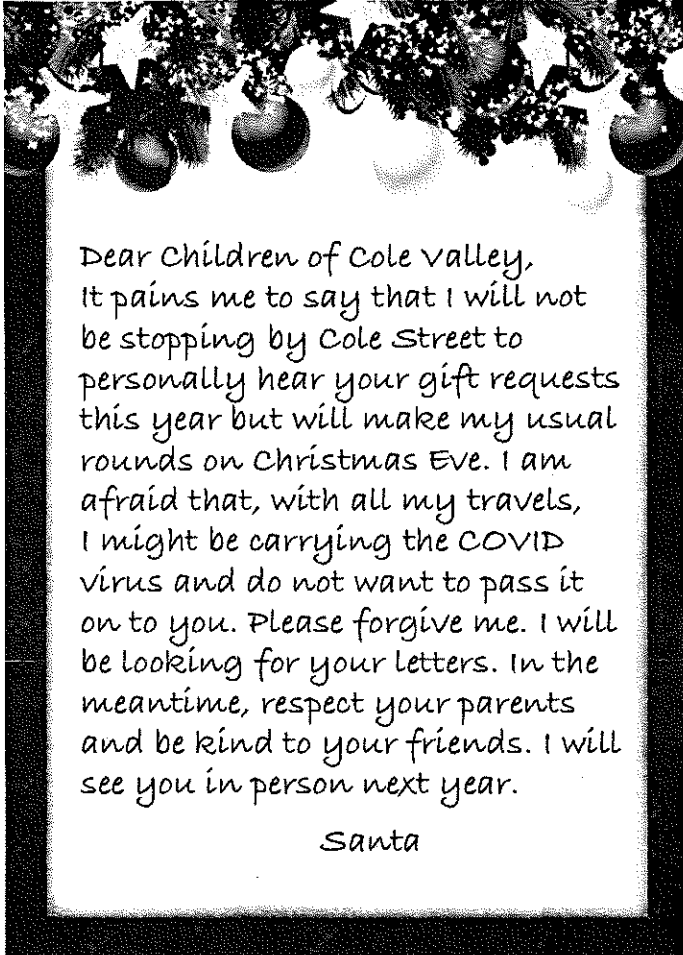
CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXVII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2021



Dear Children of Cole valley,
It pains me to say that I will not be stopping by Cole Street to personally hear your gift requests this year but will make my usual rounds on Christmas Eve. I am afraid that, with all my travels, I might be carrying the COVID virus and do not want to pass it on to you. Please forgive me. I will be looking for your letters. In the meantime, respect your parents and be kind to your friends. I will see you in person next year.

Santa

“It’s Not Going to Happen,” Says Mayor London Breed

When the developers of the affordable housing—approved for the former McDonald’s site—announced prematurely in August that the interim use of 730 Stanyan would be a Drop-In Center for homeless people, residents felt the City had crossed a line. After spending months on an interim-use proposal for an outdoor community center with food and family activities was delayed so long that main sponsor “Off the Grid” pulled out, we were told by proj-



For over an hour Mayor Breed listened intently to residents’ objections to the drop-in center and the City’s allowance of seriously mentally ill people to live out their lives on Haight sidewalks. (Screen shot: Chris Hock)

ect manager Bo Han, without any neighborhood notification or discussion, that “The Mayor had decided that the interim use would be a service center focusing on youth and using a “harm reduction approach,” (code for assisting clients in safe use of illegal drugs).

In response, CVIA president Carole Glosenger set up a virtual meeting between Mayor London Breed and Haight / Cole Valley neighbors. Included were members of the Safe Healthy Haight ad hoc group lead by John Logan and including Constance Denise, Gnaritty Burke, Stacie Johnson, Marc Lambros and others who had circulated an on-line pe-

Second Shootout in 2 Weeks

With helicopters circling the Haight on the afternoon of November 4, neighbors were alerted to news of another shooting, this time involving two people near Haight and



Police cordon off Haight Street.

Masonic. As we go to press details are not available excepting that one person was wounded and the other killed.

Meanwhile those living near Central and Haight were still wary over the aftermath of a shootout two

weeks earlier when two cars careened down Central firing what some witnesses say were as many as 33 shots aimed

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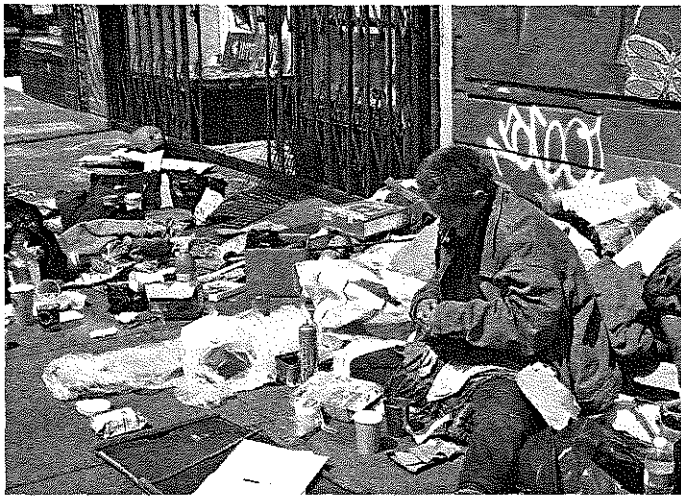
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tition asking for neighbors to protest this use of the space. As this goes to press, it has received nearly 700 signatures.

The question wasn't whether services were needed as much as the disastrous misuse of that corner in the face of the money and time spent in the last three years refurbishing the area. The City had purchased the 38,000 square foot space for \$15 million, occupying a full block of Stanyan Street frontage, precisely to mitigate a habitually problematic corner. This spurred Rec and Park to respond to longtime efforts of Susan Strolis and Ted Loewenberg to revive the Alvord Lake area (across the street) at the cost of \$5.5 million. Simultaneously DPW and SFMTA together carried out a two-year renovation of the Haight commercial corridor at the cost of \$22.3 million. In total some \$43 million taxpayer dollars had been invested in improving this part of our neighborhood.

Glosenger spent days jumping through the bureaucratic hoops to make this meeting possible. When the time fi-



The city has ten or more departments devoted to homelessness and spends \$850 million dollars annually, still this severely mentally ill woman sat on Haight Street for over two months.

nally arrived, Thursday, October 21 at 4:00 pm, the Mayor opened the meeting with, "Let me just say this before we start, it's not going to happen."

The group was stunned. Afterward came the feeling of relief. The Mayor continued, "I don't believe the group chosen to manage the drop-in center had the best interests of the neighborhood in mind. The Mayor then spoke directly to Captain Pedrini, "Let's be clear on my position, enforce the law in quality-of-life issues." She also said she had ordered Haight Street to be cleaned three times a week. She was surprisingly well informed about the community's many problems. She was even familiar with Lisa, the seriously mentally ill woman who sits in front of the boarded-up Michael Collin's bar in a pile of garbage and who apparently "cannot be moved." In case there was any doubt about this, Captain Chris Pedrini of Park Station and Commander Peter Walsh judiciously recited all the reasons the police cannot touch mentally ill people. However, the next day Lisa was gone and the garbage carted away. Will she return without having received custodial medical care? Probably.

-Karen Crommie

Shootout, continued from page 1, column 1.

at one another. Some penetrated a home on Central leaving shell casings all down the street.

Although police cannot divulge details because the case in ongoing, preliminary investigation suggested a



One random shot broke the front window of Ritual Coffee on the corner of Haight and Central. No customers were injured.

gang rivalry from outside the neighborhood. Police tracked one suspect to the Market Street Safeway store where he phoned his girlfriend saying he was shot. She called 911 but when responders arrived the man had fled. Later that night, there was a man with a gunshot wound seeking care at SF General Hospital.

An earlier homicide on Haight Street was reported near Happy Donuts in early September when a 65 year-old man died after repeated stabbing.

-Karen Crommie

What is CPAB?

The Community Police Advisory Board is a group of local residents who have been appointed by the Captain of each Police Station. Christopher Pedrini, the current Captain at Park Station, is very committed to community policing and the job of CPAB members is to assist in this effort.

In addition to the work of CPAB members, everyone is encouraged to attend Captain Pedrini's community meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. For the foreseeable future these are virtual events. The Cap-



Captain Chris Pedrini responds to questions from Haight Ashbury neighbors during "Coffee with a cop" on October 27. Of most concern was the recent shooting on Central. (Foreground: John Logan, Carole Glosenger.)

tain would like as many people as possible to subscribe to his weekly newsletter. Go to sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org to sign up. In it you'll find recent crime information, tips to stay safe inside your home, and instructions on joining the monthly meeting. Once you've registered, the newsletter will magically appear in your email each week, usually on Thursday.

Captain Pedrini also holds periodic "coffee with a cop" events at local cafes so that he can meet the officers who serve our community.

-Lena Emmery

Ed. note: Lena Emmery is CVIA's representative to the CPAB.