

**From:** [Donald Bird](#)  
**To:** [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Permits for 617 Sanchez Street  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 10:49:07 AM

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

August 7, 2020

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

The construction plans for the 617 Sanchez Street building must abide by the Dolores Heights Special Use District Guidelines, especially the 35 feet height limit and 45% of the property for garden or open space. Our residential environment must be maintained and protected.

Authorities need to thoroughly investigate John Fusco's suspicious death and the present ownership of the 617 Sanchez Street property.

Sincerely,

Donald Bird  
Past Dolores Heights Improvement Club Board Member  
3970 - 20th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

**From:** [Joerg Rathenberg](#)  
**To:** [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Sue Hestor](#); [Wong, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [BH](#); [Brian Higginbotham](#)  
**Subject:** 617 Sanchez CATEX Appeal date of hearing August 18, 2020 - Brian Higginbotham Letter for Submission  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 10:46:34 AM  
**Attachments:** [617 Sanchez\\_CATEX Appeal\\_Higginbotham letter.pdf](#)

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Good morning Supervisor Norman Yee, President, Board of Supervisors,

Please find attached a letter from Brian Higginbotham to be included for CATEX Appeal scheduled for hearing on August 18, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Joerg Rathenberg  
619 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco CA 94114

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** BH <brian@bayplan.onmicrosoft.com>  
**To:** Joerg Rathenberg <jrathenberg@yahoo.com>;  
**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2020, 10:18:25 AM PDT  
**Subject:** 617 Sanchez\_CATEX Appeal\_Higginbotham letter.pdf

August 7, 2020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

**SUBJECT: 617 Sanchez Street CATEX Appeal date of Hearing Aug 18, 2020**

Dear Members of the Board,

I live at 616 Sanchez Street opposite 617 Sanchez Street, the previous home of John Fusco.

John Fusco came from Modesto wanting to start a new life in San Francisco as an openly gay man. His mother gave him the money to buy his home in the 1970s. He lived at 617 Sanchez Street until the last year of his life when he surprisingly married a woman who was 30 years younger.

Shockingly, John died just months after his marriage and his house was transferred to his wife and then to an anonymous corporation.

John had told me that in his will he wanted to leave his house to the church to help gay homeless people in San Francisco. Now it seems that he did not get his wish. This is happening more and more in our neighborhood and frankly it is scary to imagine what might happen to other elderly people's homes in the neighborhood.

Neighbors have mentioned that the owners of 615 Sanchez Street and 617 Sanchez Street are connected, and I worry that developers will try to buy out the entire hill. Real estate agents have been circling our neighborhood for a long time, trying to buy out whomever they can. As the money flows in from tech companies, our traditional neighborhood is torn down and huge houses are built (e.g. on Cumberland street), which have been under construction for years on end.

Please stop this project, which perfectly represents the disruption and the uprooting of our modest working-class environment in one of the most historic neighborhoods of San Francisco.

Sincerely yours,



Brian Higginbotham

**From:** [Joerg Rathenberg](#)  
**To:** [Sue Hestor](#); [Ralph Higgs](#); [BOS Legislation \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** 617 Sanchez Street CATEX Appeal Date of Hearing August 18, 2020: Ralph E. Higgs Letter for Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:01:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [Demolition and Build Proposal, 617 Sanchez Street, San Francisco.pdf](#)

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Good evening Supervisor Norman Yee, President, Board of Supervisors,

Please find attached a letter from Mr. Ralph E. Higgs, resident at 621 Sanchez Street, San Francisco CA 94114, for CATEX Appeal for 617 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, scheduled for hearing on August 18, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Joerg Rathenberg  
619 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco CA 94114

On Thursday, August 6, 2020, 07:28:18 PM PDT, Ralph Higgs <[higgs@compuserve.com](mailto:higgs@compuserve.com)> wrote:

See attached file for S.F. BOS.

## **Demolition-and-Build Proposal for 617 Sanchez Street, San Francisco**

My partner and I have lived on Sanchez Street for 40+ years, two lots from the subject property located at 617 Sanchez. We remember watching as they bulldozed the smaller adjacent house at 615 Sanchez and built a 4,000+ sq ft replacement. Now, the proposal is to do the same next door, at 617 Sanchez. The construction activity on our hill has gone to a level that is almost intolerable, and plain unhealthy for our neighbors and ourselves. We are faced with constant noise, traffic, dirt and an influx of construction crews who park trucks all over our area, often in the middle of the road.

One year ago, in August 2019, we and our neighbors received letters from the contractor on the huge, nearby 660 Sanchez/Cumberland combined project saying they had taken over the job after 2 1/2 years of construction and that they estimated approximately two additional years of construction; and so continues the mansion-ization of our once-quiet and diverse hillside.

Speaking of diversity – according to an Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE), the Harvey A. Scott family, who lived in the little house which is now subject to proposed demolition, was the only African American family in the area until 1940 (having moved there in 1913). “[The area] was basically off-limits to African Americans unless they were live-in domestic help.” It seems now that the unaffordability of mega-houses is becoming the new enemy of diversity in an otherwise progressive community.

My bi-racial nephew, the adopted son of my partner, has many fond memories of playing with the neighborhood kids on our quiet dead-end street. I feel very fortunate living in this unique community for the last 40 years. It has been a wonderful era. I just wish the Dolores Heights Planning Code requirements were adhered to.

Regards,

Ralph E. Higgs

621 Sanchez Street

**From:** [Joerg Rathenberg](#)  
**To:** [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [arathenberg@gmail.com](mailto:arathenberg@gmail.com); [Sue Hestor](#); [Wong, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** 617 Sanchez Street CATEX Appeal date of hearing August 18, 2020 - Ava Rathenberg - Letter for Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 5:02:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [Ava Rathenberg Letter.pdf](#)

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good afternoon Supervisor Norman Yee, President, Board of Supervisors,

Please find attached a letter from Ava Rathenberg, 15 year old, who was born at 619 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 to be included for CATEX Appeal scheduled for hearing on August 18, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Joerg Rathenberg  
619 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

7/3/2020

Ref: CAPEX Hearing 617 Sanchez Street, San Francisco CA 94114

I was born in San Francisco at 619 Sanchez Street, to a diverse and friendly neighborhood. I loved to go on walks in Dolores park, and play with my friends. Our neighborhood celebrated Halloween, and everyone in the area is like a family member. My neighbor John Fusco, who lived on 617 Sanchez Street, had a beautiful traditional house like ours. I used to go to his house and we would practice piano together. The memories that I made in that house because of John's kindness have caused me to play piano to this day. The memories of John are kept alive, but our neighborhood might not if builders continue to destroy our homes. San Francisco is one of the most beautiful and diverse cities in the world, so please help save our neighborhood.

Ava I. Rathenberg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ava I. Rathenberg', with a stylized, cursive script.