

From: [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: In Support of Open Space
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 8:25:33 PM
Attachments: [LOS TLCBD Parks Open Space.pdf](#)

For the file.

Thank you,
Eileen

From: Kate Robinson <kate@tlcbd.org>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:00 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>; Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; Alisa.Somerra@sfgov.org
Subject: In Support of Open Space

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Dear Supervisors,

See the attached letter in reference to File No. 230278.

We urge the Recreation and Parks Department to adopt immediate changes to its acquisition strategies to serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill Neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Kate Robinson | Executive Director
Pronouns: She | Her | Hers | [why pronouns matter](#)
Tenderloin Community Benefit District
512 Ellis St. | 415.292.4812 | [tlcbd.org](#)
....A Vibrant Community For All



March 13, 2023

Board of Supervisors

C/O Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

Suite #244

SF, CA 94102

Board of Supervisors,

Tenderloin Community Benefit District (TLCBD) is in full support of the Resolution introduced by Supervisor Aaron Peskin which urges the Recreation and Parks Department and its Commission to immediately adopt flexible criteria for its acquisition of potential open space and green recreation, parklet and pocket park sites in Lower Nob Hill, the Tenderloin, and other densely populated neighborhoods. This Resolution calls for *prioritizing smaller parcels* of 2,000 sq. ft. to 5,000 sq. ft. in order to create open space, green recreation, parklet and pocket park sites which are so desperately needed for San Francisco residents.

The pandemic taught us that open space is vital - particularly in densely populated neighborhoods - where seniors are prone to higher levels of isolation and where children need safe outdoor greenspace. We have seen the great success of Turk/Hyde mini park and know that hundreds of residents benefit from even a small pocket park. We need more of these everywhere!

St. Francis Hospital Foundation once shared a statistic that Tenderloin and neighboring residents are walking distance from only $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a yoga mat's worth of space. We can do better. Everyone benefits from safe, clean open spaces for themselves, their dogs, and for the betterment of the immediate community.

TLCBD strongly supports this resolution and will stand ready to support whatever it takes to bring small parcels of green space into our beloved communities.

CC: bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org

Cc: Angela.Calvillo@sfgov.org and Alisa.Somerra@sfgov.org

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Entezari, Mehran \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: LPCBD Support Resolution 230278 (Parks-Peskin) Adoption w/o Committee Reference
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 8:24:14 PM
Attachments: [LPCBD Parks Letter BOS Peskin Res.pdf](#)

From: Chris Schulman <cschulman@lowerpolkcbd.org>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:28 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>; Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>
Cc: Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Angulo, Sunny (BOS) <sunny.angulo@sfgov.org>
Subject: LPCBD Support Resolution 230278 (Parks-Peskin) Adoption w/o Committee Reference

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Clerk Calvillo and Honorable Board of Supervisors,

Please see the attached letter of support from the Lower Polk Community Benefit District in support of Resolution 230238 [Urging the Recreation and Parks Department to Adopt Immediate Changes to its Acquisition Strategies to Serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill Neighborhoods.]

Regards,

Chris Schulman
Executive Director
Lower Polk Community Benefit District
www.lowerpolkcbd.org
415-827-0650 cell



March 13, 2023

Board of Supervisors
C/O Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Suite #244
SF, CA 94102

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

The Lower Polk Community Benefit District is writing to express our strong support for Resolution 230278 [Urging the Recreation and Parks Department to Adopt Immediate Changes to its Acquisition Strategies to Serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill Neighborhoods.]

The Tenderloin, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill areas are densely populated neighborhoods that lack adequate open space and green recreation areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of outdoor spaces for mental and physical health, and the lack of such spaces in these neighborhoods has become even more pressing.

These neighborhoods are populated with low income residents, seniors, persons with disabilities and others who will benefit mentally and physical from parks and open space nearby. At the same time, many of these individuals are unable to travel distances to parks in neighboring areas and nearby parks and open space are a necessity, not a luxury.

The resolution calls for the Recreation and Parks Department and its Commission to adopt flexible criteria for the acquisition of potential open space and green recreation areas in these neighborhoods. Specifically, the resolution prioritizes smaller parcels of 2,000 square feet to 5,000 square feet that would not require years of demolition and construction. This approach would allow for a more strategic and holistic approach to open space acquisition that maximizes the number of parcels available, even if they must be necessarily smaller by design. The community supports this approach.

Furthermore, the resolution urges the Recreation and Parks Department to make considerable progress by the end of this calendar year on the voter-mandated equity priorities in its Open Space Acquisition plan. This is an important step towards ensuring that these neighborhoods receive the necessary resources to create more equitable and accessible open spaces.

We strongly believe that adopting these flexible criteria and prioritizing smaller parcels is



a critical step towards addressing the lack of open space in these neighborhoods. We urge you to vote YES on this on this resolution as soon as possible to urge to the department to make considerable progress towards the voter-mandated plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Chris Schulman
Executive Director



From: [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation. \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Note in support of Item #29
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 3:35:29 PM

Hello,

For the file.

Thank you!!!

Eileen

From: Brian Gerrity <brian@lowernobhill.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 2:15 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>; Alisa.Somerra@sfgov.org; Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>
Subject: Note in support of Item #29

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

Good Afternoon Board of Supervisors,

My name is Brian Gerrity and I live in Lower Nob Hill. I am writing in support of the resolution urging the Recreation and Parks Department to adopt the flexible criteria for acquisition of open space for smaller parcels. The Tenderloin, Lower Nob Hill and Lower Polk districts are all densely populated and projected to grow its population even more in the coming years. The little park space we have is not sufficient for our population. As we learned during covid, having outdoor space for recreation, meeting with neighbors, dog walking etc is very important. Many folks now permanently work from home in this neighborhood, myself included. I love living in an urban environment but the apartment sizes here are smaller than adjacent suburbs so the ability to have park space for breaks during the workday is very important. I love walking to a local coffeeshop and sitting in Huntington Park for lunch breaks for example. However, I am able-bodied so the steep walk up the hill is fortunately not an issue but for many of my neighbors in the lower slope of the neighborhood they do not have the same accessibility.

For the above reasons, I urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt this resolution.

Thank you!

Brian Gerrity



Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Juanita MORE!
1035 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Aaron Peskin, President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisor Aaron Peskin,

I fully support the Board of Supervisors Resolution urging the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to adopt immediate changes to its acquisition strategies to serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk, and Lower Nob Hill neighborhoods.

I support access to open space and playgrounds for all San Franciscans and ask the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to adopt immediate changes to its acquisition strategies to serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk, and Lower Nob Hill neighborhoods, specifically securing as many or more parcels as the more significant RPD acquisitions have invested in wealthier neighborhoods.

I have been a D3 resident in San Francisco for over 30 years as a drag queen, philanthropist, and activist.

Sincerely,

Juanita MORE!

Juanita MORE!

From: [Angulo, Sunny \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: PESKIN - Resolution - Open Space Plan
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 8:11:37 AM

Good morning-

Can you please include the following correspondence in the file for Item 29 on today's agenda? Thanks so much.

Best,
Sunny

From: Therese Oxford <terry.oxford@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 7:41 AM
To: Angulo, Sunny (BOS) <sunny.angulo@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: FW: PESKIN - Resolution - Open Space Plan

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

Hi Sunny, please include my letter for public comments at today's meeting. Thank you!

Re: Item 29 on the Adoption Without Reference to Committee calendar (File No. 230278) -

[Urging the Recreation and Parks Department to Adopt Immediate Changes to its Acquisition Strategies to Serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill Neighborhoods]

March 13, 2023

To: President Peskin and the Board of Supervisors,

As a long time resident of Lower Nob Hill on Post Street, a D3 PROSAC rep and one who considers this an investment-worthy neighborhood, the city's lack of equity toward us is discouraging at best. The lack of longterm infrastructure planning and coordination by Departments, including RPD, has been destructive to the Tenderloin, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill neighborhoods. My neighborhood desperately needs more green space. In order to experience any nature, I have to leave District 3 and drive to, well, pretty much anywhere else in town. Please show some fairness to LNH by putting some money into greening our neighborhood as you're doing for District 2 (which compared to District 3's least amount of open green space enjoys the most green space per capita) and elsewhere.

Many in D3 don't have the means to get out to see a tree or a park, and feel its

beauty from wildlife, birds and butterflies who also desperately need green spaces. All Lower Nob Hill residents should have these experiences. We just need the city to step up, make us important and spend some money here.

You say you want to support biodiversity in San Francisco? Most people don't know that trees and plants are critical **housing and food** to birds and important insects. Flowering trees and plants provide thousands of pounds of healthy nutrition (nectar is carbohydrate and pollen is protein) to bumblebees, butterflies, birds (beneficials) and other important winged species. Trees and green space also provide nesting opportunities and safe harbor from traffic, people and predators. Our neighborhood needs more trees, more parks, **more green** so we can attract nature while also providing humans with hope and joy. This is a real thing and not just a feel good issue! A recent NYT article spelled out in great detail the benefits to quality of life that green spaces can provide to a city plus help fight against climate change. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/19/nyregion/trees-plants-air-quality-nyc.html?searchResultPosition=1>

Just seeing green improves people's mental health, so please provide us with the means to improve the lives of Lower Nob Hill. Our neighborhood has sacrificed a lot during the Pandemic so please help us soften our hardscape. It's past time the city recognized our importance and spent money on the streets that lead residents and tourists Downtown, to Union Square and FIDI. Beautify us to make us better than ever before.

Allow the purchase of smaller lots, parklets and tinier spaces so we can take advantage of what we have for any greening opportunities in our District. Because nothing translates hope for the future more than trees and parks. Please honor Lower Nob Hill and give us some green!

Thank you and please include my letter in the public record for File No. 230278.

Therese Oxford

Pollinator Advocate

PROSAC D3 Representative

Resident of Lower Nob Hill



1525 Grant Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94133
TEL 415.984.1450
FAX 415.362.7992
TTY 415.984.9910
www.chinatowncdc.org

March 13, 2023

Board of Supervisors
C/O Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Suite #244
SF, CA 94102

Re: Item 29 on Adoption Without Reference to Committee Calendar: File No. 230278 –
Urging the Recreation and Parks Department to Adopt Immediate Changes to its Acquisition
Strategies to Serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk and the Lower Nob Hill Neighborhoods

To the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC), I am writing to urge the Board of Supervisors and the Recreation and Parks Department and its Commission to adopt flexible criteria for its acquisition of potential open space and green recreation, parklet and pocket park sites in the Tenderloin, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill, including the prioritization of smaller parcels between 2,000 and 5,000 square feet. IF parcels must be smaller, the Board, Recreation and Parks Department, and the Commission should also ensure that they are thinking about a holistic approach that maximizes more parcels. CCDC also urges that considerable and progress be made by the end of the calendar year on the voter-mandated equity priorities in the Open Space Acquisition Plan.

CCDC is a place-based community development organization serving the Chinatown and North Beach neighborhoods but also the Tenderloin. We serve many roles: neighborhood advocates, organizer and planners, and crucially, developers and managers of affordable housing. Importantly, CCDC is proud to manage Tenderloin Family Housing (TFH) at 201 Turk St, a diverse community of 175 family apartments with over 500 residents. TFH includes people from all backgrounds: refugees, immigrants, Middle Eastern, Eastern European, Vietnamese, Chinese, Latinx, etc. **The adoption of this item reflects the overwhelming sentiment of many of our TFH residents: parks in the Tenderloin are the only consistently safe, clean, vibrant and family friendly open spaces in the neighborhood.**

Residents enjoy opportunities to engage with nature, but find it difficult to go to big parks in other parts of SF for various reasons, such as transportation difficulties, childcare needs, cost, or language barriers. Identifying small parcels in the Tenderloin and surrounding Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill are even more important to raise the quality of life and address equity in our densest areas. The criteria as it currently stands needs to be more flexible and incorporate more metrics that are inclusive of the many of the working class, senior and family residents living in the included areas. Current metrics as they stand do not accurately represent the urgent need for open space in the community.

When the 2017 Controller Performance Audit on the voter-mandated Prop B charter amendment created the “equity metrics” requirement for the property tax-set aside for Open Space Acquisition, it found that the department’s use of a single equity zone for all metrics completely obscured differences in access to resources between low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods. While



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Recreation and Parks uses several equity metrics for the zone as whole, different areas in the zone like Chinatown and the Mission have different levels of need. They do not distinguish between important criteria, like the density of low income seniors vs. transient workers or tourists. Consider that Chinatown Community Development Center has residents, many of whom are seniors, in the Larkin Pine Senior Building located at 1303 Larkin Street and 1370 California, and are not able to walk all the way up to Huntington Park, nor go to Sgt. Macaulay or Hyde/Turk Mini Park because those parks are targeted for kids instead of seniors. The COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted the immense need for neutral open space for convening safely with other community members, and emphasizes just how much these spaces are needed.

The Recreation and Parks Commission needs to implement metrics that take into account the needs and circumstances of the community on a granular level, including neighborhoods with zero parks. Consider that the Broker Contract actually does not allow the City to look at sites less than 10,000 square feet, which removes the ability to invest in many of the potential smaller pocket parks and community gardens crucial for our communities, like the Tenderloin National Forest in Cohen Alley.

In closing, CCDC urges the Board of Supervisors and the Recreation and Parks Department and its Commission to adopt flexible criteria for its acquisition of potential open space and green recreation, parklet and pocket park sites in the Tenderloin, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill, including the prioritization of smaller parcels between 2,000 and 5,000 square feet in addition to thinking more strategically about the parcels if they must be smaller by design, and to make measurable and considerable progress on voter-mandated equity priorities in its Open Space Acquisition plan.

Yours Sincerely,

Amy Zhou

Amy Zhou
Senior Planner, Chinatown Community Development Center

CC: bos-legislativeaides@sfgov.org
Cc: Angela.Calvillo@sfgov.org and Alisa.Somerra@sfgov.org

From: [Angulo, Sunny \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter in Support of BOS Resolution for Acquisition of Open Space in the TL, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill Neighborhoods ***COMMITTEE FOR BETTER PARKS AND RECREATION IN CHINATOWN***
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 7:35:55 AM

Would you please include in the file for Item 29 on tomorrow's agenda?

From: Tan Chow <tandchow@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 7:28 AM

To: supervisors <supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>; Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; Alisa Somerra <Alisa.Somerra@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Angulo, Sunny (BOS) <sunny.angulo@sfgov.org>; Allan Low <ALow@perkinscoie.com>; myeung@chinatowncdc.org <myeung@chinatowncdc.org>

Subject: Letter in Support of BOS Resolution for Acquisition of Open Space in the TL, Lower Polk and Lower Nob Hill Neighborhoods ***COMMITTEE FOR BETTER PARKS AND RECREATION IN CHINATOWN***

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華埠公園康樂會

Committee for Better Parks and Recreation in Chinatown

VIA EMAIL

March 13, 2023

President Aaron Peskin
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
City Hall
San Francisco, California 94102

Re: **Letter in Support of Board of Supervisors Resolution for Acquisition of Open Space in the Tenderloin, Lower Polk, and Lower Nob Hill Neighborhoods**

Dear President Peskin,

The **Committee for Better Parks and Recreation in Chinatown (CBPRC)** supports the Board of Supervisors Resolution "Urging the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to Adopt Immediate Changes to its Acquisition Strategies to Serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk, and Lower Nob Hill neighborhoods."

Founded in 1969, Committee for Better Parks and Recreation in Chinatown (CBPRC) has advocated for open space and recreation areas in Chinatown. Because of Chinatown's high density, open space and parks are an especially important and a limited resource to our community. Our committee members have a long history of being engaged and active in the community processes in Chinatown including the renovation of many San Francisco Recreation and Park facilities and open spaces. Our members include volunteer architects, district council staff, community youth organizations, community childcare providers, and community members, as well as staff from neighborhood service providers like Chinatown Community Development Center, Community Youth Center, and Self-Help for the Elderly.

CBPRC believes every resident in San Francisco should have access to parks and space and that access should be within a 15-minute walk from where they live. Guided by Recreation and Park's Equity Metrics and Analysis, the Tenderloin, Lower Polk, and Lower Nob neighborhoods

are Equity Zones. These neighborhoods are some of the densest neighborhoods in San Francisco where open space is very limited creating one of the areas in San Francisco with the fewest parks per person. These neighborhoods are also one of the high need areas with residents of limited financial resources and priority should be given to the Tenderloin, Lower Polk, and Lower Nob Hill neighborhoods for equitable access to open space areas.

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Letter in Support of
Board of Supervisors Resolution No. t
March 13, 2023
Page 2

CBPRC supports access to open space and playgrounds for all San Franciscans and asks the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to adopt immediate changes to its acquisition strategies to serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk, and Lower Nob Hill neighborhoods, specifically securing as many or more parcels as the larger RPD acquisitions invested in wealthier neighborhoods, even if it means acquiring small pocket park parcels.t

CBPRC strongly requests the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to adopt the Resolution “Urging the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to Adopt Immediate Changes to its Acquisition Strategies to Serve the Tenderloin, Lower Polk, and Lower Nob Hill neighborhoods”.

Sincerely,



Allan Low
on behalf of **Committee for Better Parks and Recreation in Chinatown**

About CBPRC:

Founded in 1969, CBPRC is a community and volunteer based parks, recreational and community development advocacy group. Our mission is to protect, preserve and create open space, recreational programs and facilities for Chinatown. Our value is based in social and environmental justice and empowerment of our grassroot residents and community in shaping our open space needs and agenda. In the last decade, we have led the community effort and partner with the city and designers in rebuilding the Betty Ann Ong Chinese Rec Center, a new restroom at Portsmouth Square, a new park at St Mary's Square, a new plaza park at the new Chinatown central subway station, rebuilding of the Willie Woo Wong Playground as well as advocating for CBPRC member organizations to operate and programming at Woh Hei Yuen, Willie Woo Wong Chinese Playground and Portsmouth Square clubhouses. The current Portsmouth Square redesign and visioning is the last piece yet most ambitious of our

decade old Chinatown parks and recreation master plan.

160328533.2

Sent from my iPhone



3/10/2023

Board of Supervisors

C/O Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

Suite #244

SF, CA 94102

Board of Supervisors,

The Lower Nob Hill Neighborhood Association (LNHNA) is in full support of the Resolution put forth by Supervisor Aaron Peskin which urges the Recreation and Parks Department and its Commission to immediately adopt flexible criteria for its acquisition of potential open space and green recreation, parklet and pocket park sites in Lower Nob Hill. This Resolution calls for *prioritizing smaller parcels* of 2,000 sq. ft. to 5,000 sq. ft in order to create open space, green recreation, parklet and pocket park sites which we so desperately need in our corner of San Francisco.

Lower Nob Hill is literally a concrete jungle in many respects with very little “green space” available to create any parks moreover parks greater than 5,000 square feet. This particular resolution, which directly addresses prioritizing smaller parcels (2,000 to 5,000 sq. feet), is integral to the much needed “greening” of our community. Our neighborhood is a close-packed district of residential buildings with a height of three to seven stories high. For blockfront after blockfront the apartments and hotels march along at nearly even cornice lines, breasting similar bay windows and fire escapes above the sidewalk steps and storefronts. It is on the National Register of Historic Places as an Apartment & Hotel District. But alas....it has no parks because it is a concrete jungle. Our residents need places to relax, breathe in fresh air, take the children to play, enjoy peace and quiet. Currently we have very little if any.

Lower Nob Hill includes the Post and Geary Street Corridors which both serve as the gateways, both in and out, of Union Square. While cars bustle by in and out, pedestrians likewise walk this gateway as they stroll from Van Ness to Powell. The addition of green spaces and parklets along the way would provide opportunities for pedestrians and strollers alike to stop, rest, take in the views, enjoy the beauty of our Historic and Unique corner of our City on their way into downtown. Everyone wins!

The Lower Nob Hill Neighborhood Alliance strongly supports this resolution and will stand ready to support whatever it takes to bring small parcels of green space into our beloved community.

Leadership Team of Lower Nob Hill Neighborhood Alliance: Susan Walsh, Thao Jones-Hill, Brian Gerrity, Shelby Fabianac

CC: bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org

Cc: Angela.Calvillo@sfgov.org and Alisa.Somerra@sfgov.org