

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Operations](#)
Subject: FW: Support of "Love Our Neighborhoods" Legislation
Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 12:08:41 PM

From: Board of Supervisors (BOS)
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 12:07 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>; BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>
Cc: Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; De Asis, Edward (BOS) <edward.deasis@sfgov.org>; Entezari, Mehran (BOS) <mehran.entezari@sfgov.org>; Mchugh, Eileen (BOS) <eileen.e.mchugh@sfgov.org>; Ng, Wilson (BOS) <wilson.l.ng@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>
Subject: FW: Support of "Love Our Neighborhoods" Legislation

Hello,

Please see below message regarding **File No. 230768:**

-

Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to streamline and authorize the approval of certain neighborhood amenities, also known as Love Our Neighborhoods Projects, in sidewalks and other public right-of-ways within the Department of Public Works' jurisdiction, to reduce fees for certain minor encroachment permits, to waive certain annual encroachment assessments, to clarify the approval process for commemorative plaques, and to clarify the permitting, revocation, and restoration requirements for all minor encroachment permits; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Regards,

John Bullock
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisor
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5184
BOS@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

Disclosures: *Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar*

information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.

From: nd <crdimmi@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 6:15 PM

To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: Low, Jen (BOS) <jen.low@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org>; Farrah, Michael (BOS) <michael.farrah@sfgov.org>

Subject: Support of "Love Our Neighborhoods" Legislation

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

Dear Supervisors,

Today you have the opportunity to pass the "Love Our Neighborhoods" legislation which is a small but important step that supports people working to improve their neighborhood.

This legislation supports the renovation of small neighborhood open spaces that have fallen into disrepair by providing relief from some of the costly, unnecessary regulations that stall projects and discourage people from becoming involved.

I personally encountered some of these roadblocks while working on small open space projects in my neighborhood of West Portal and it took all of my skill and determination to navigate the cumbersome process we now face. This legislation makes it easier for people like me to collaborate with city agencies on neighborhood projects. Show us you recognize and appreciate our hard work.

Carol Dimmick, 30+ year resident, collaborator with SFDPW on 5 West Portal projects (Dewey Circle, Dorchester Median, West Portal Walkway, Triangle Park and Kensington Bridge)

From: [alec.hawley](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Kilgore, Preston \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Groth, Kelly \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Love Your Neighborhood legislation
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:46:59 PM

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Hi SF gov supervisors & clerk,

Alec Hawley, d1 representative, and landscape professional.

I am emailing my comment for today's meeting regarding the revised legislation for the Love Your Neighborhood modifications which makes good changes to minor encroachment permits.

I am very much in favor of this legislation, and the idea that many more San Franciscans could easily participate in improving the public realm without an immense amount of work and finances.

However, I do want to stipulate that I find the sole discretion of SFDPW director problematic not just for San Francisco, but for the director as well.

Numerous public reports have come out highlighting discrepancies in material placed in minor encroachment zones on sidewalks that jeopardize ADA accessibility and allow the use of planters and fencing to displace unhoused populations in San Francisco. I do not believe this will reflect well on SFDPW, or the effort to green our cities, and potentially backfire leading to its undoing.

The ability of SFDPW director's sole discretion could potentially allow "bad actors" to place items in the right of way while targeting "good actors" from completing projects under the Love Your Neighborhood legislation, and lead to this effort's undoing and investigation fees for well meaning neighbors.

I also believe limitations on percentage of total street frontage should be placed on the Tier 1 projects which only allow 50% of street to have planters maximum for property owners who own entire blocks.

I believe in this way you may encourage people to obtain a very simple tier 1 application while ensuring that sfdpw, the supervisors & the community of san francisco can be assured of a more streamlined / even process for what was once a heavy burden to improve conditions on the public right of way for all San Franciscans.

Warm regards, al
A l e c H a w l e y
(415)418-9073

From: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Michael Smith](#)
Cc: [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Smeallie, Kyle \(BOS\)](#); [Angulo, Sunny \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Urgent amendment for Neighborhood Amenities legislation - BOS File No. 230768
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:46:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for your comment letter.

I will include your comments in the file for this ordinance matter.

I invite you to review the entire matter on our [Legislative Research Center](#) by following the link below:

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[Board of Supervisors File No. 230768](#)

John Carroll

Assistant Clerk

Board of Supervisors

San Francisco City Hall, Room 244

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415)554-4445



Click [here](#) to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form.

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From: Michael Smith <msmithtransit@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, December 2, 2023 5:31 PM

To: Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>

Cc: Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>

Subject: Urgent amendment for Neighborhood Amenities legislation

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

Land Use & Transportation Committee,

The important Neighborhood Amenities legislation will all be for naught unless you amend it to not give the Department (DPW) “sole discretion” on safety enforcement in 723.2(b)(2)(iii) on page 8.

The DPW has continued to not follow existing legislation and rulings. Multiple recent 311 complaints on planters that block sidewalks have either been ignored or have been closed as not being an issue because “planters are allowed”. Giving the DPW sole discretion would allow them to continue this behavior, which will mean that parts of our sidewalks will continue to not be accessible.

The Neighborhood Amenities legislation is an important step forward, but you need to not facilitate the DPW to ignore its intent. Please amend this one small section to make the legislation effective.

Michael Smith

From: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Scott Feeney](#)
Cc: [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Smeallie, Kyle \(BOS\)](#); [Angulo, Sunny \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Further amendments needed to "Love Our Neighborhoods" - BOS File No. 230768
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:45:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for your comment letter.

I will include your comments in the file for this ordinance matter.

I invite you to review the entire matter on our [Legislative Research Center](#) by following the link below:

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[Board of Supervisors File No. 230768](#)

John Carroll

Assistant Clerk

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San Francisco City Hall, Room 244

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From: Scott Feeney <scott@oceanbase.org>

Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:48 PM

To: Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>

Cc: RonenStaff (BOS) <ronenstaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Further amendments needed to "Love Our Neighborhoods"

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

Hello Land Use & Transportation Committee members,

I am writing to ask for further amendments to the Love Our Neighborhoods legislation, file #230768, to prevent the abuse of "planter boxes" as anti-homeless hostile architecture.

It's good that the legislation refers to both ADA protections and dimensional restrictions in a Department of Public Works order on sidewalk landscaping containers (order 179,231) that, if consistently enforced, would prevent the most egregious abuses of planters.

However, recent revelations in the press demonstrate that DPW is knowingly failing to enforce that order, and is even collaborating with individuals who misuse planters in hostile ways that violate the order. This shows that there is a need for more accountability and less discretion for DPW to ignore or override these rules that protect our sidewalks.

On November 17, the [SF Standard reported](#) that a DPW employee acknowledged in August that planters on Larch Street violated both the 72" path of travel required by DPW's order and the looser 48" requirement in the ADA. Director Short responded that the neighbors should be encouraged to "place [the planters] more strategically." As of the publication of that article three months later, the planters were still there and continuing to violate both DPW's own order and the ADA. [A 311 complaint](#) about that planter installation, filed on July 14, was ignored until November 2 when it was closed without an explanation.

Besides showing a lack of concern for access, Director Short's response suggests agreement with the goal of misusing so-called planters as a way to displace homeless people from block to block, which is an obvious non-solution, waste of resources, and not what the guidelines were designed for. Instead of encouraging property owners to place containers "strategically" to function as hostile architecture that is as counterproductive as it is cruel, the City should require that planters either be placed in a way that's consistent with a genuine desire for responsible urban gardening or not be placed on public sidewalks at all.

And on November 28, [KQED reported](#) even more explicit collaboration. A DPW staffer wrote to a group placing large metal tanks on Van Ness near North Point, "Do you have a target date for installation? ... Generally, folks are allowed to return to a sidewalk location after cleaning, so we'll want to schedule this within a tight window." In other words, DPW acknowledged and supported the hostile intent behind placing these planters, which also appear to violate the order by being more than 36" wide and due to the extreme weight (over 1,000 lbs) of their contents, immovable without specialized equipment and therefore fixed in place. DPW also seemed unconcerned that this action may violate the injunction the City is under relating to homeless sweeps, as well as leaving the City liable for this obstruction, since the adjacent property owner, the US federal government (Fort Mason, part of GGNRA), likely did not authorize the planters.

These are not isolated examples. On Fern Street, a [July 14 complaint](#) of planters obstructing required access has not been acted upon. On Cesar Chavez at Valencia, an [October 19 complaint](#) of planters blocking access to a 27-Bryant Muni bus stop was closed four days later saying the planters are "not impeding the path of travel" — any bus rider boarding here would likely disagree, as do DPW's own guidelines.

On Shotwell, an [October 30 complaint](#) of planters violating the rule that requires access from the curb to the throughway zone — the very rule Director Short had just cited as an example to your Committee of guidelines she vowed her department would enforce — was closed the

next day with no action. On Hayes, [another October 30 complaint](#) about a violation of that same rule — an example that commenter Aaron Breetwor showed your Committee in public comment that day — has not been acted upon.

With current DPW leadership showing this level of disdain for people who rely on sidewalks and for planter guidelines that protect that access, the public needs stronger accountability. The legislation should be amended to:

1. Incorporate the dimensional limits and access protections of DPW order 179,231, as well as weight limits, directly into the definition of Front Yard Planters, so they can't be overridden unilaterally by DPW in the future.
2. Require DPW to investigate documented and credible complaints rather than ignoring them "in its sole discretion."
3. Limit the number of Front Yard Planters a single property can have to four, so that a single property owner with a frontage spanning the entire block cannot abuse the use of Tier 1 to effectively barricade an entire block without a permit.
4. Require DPW to make Tier 1 project registrations public on a website, so neighbors can look up whether a planter is registered and therefore understand how to ask for enforcement of abusive installations.

Let's keep it about neighborhood love and not hate by making these amendments while also working to get accountability from DPW.

Thank you,
Scott Feeney
District 9 resident
646-662-0841

From: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
To: [alec.hawley](#)
Cc: [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Kilgore, Preston \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Love your neighborhood legislation - BOS File No. 230768
Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:15:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for your comment letter.

I am adding your commentary to the file for this ordinance matter, on agenda for consideration during the October 30, 2023 regular meeting.

I invite you to review the entire matter on our [Legislative Research Center](#) by following the link below:

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[Board of Supervisors File No. 230768](#)

John Carroll
Assistant Clerk

Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415)554-4445



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From: alec.hawley <ahawleyla@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 12:20 PM
To: Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; asha.safai@sfgov.org; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Kilgore, Preston (BOS) <preston.kilgore@sfgov.org>
Subject: Love your neighborhood legislation

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

To SF supervisors & clerk John Carroll,

I am writing to discourage support for the current legislative changes entitled 'Love your Neighborhood' regarding allowing free placement of planters, seating & libraries. I do believe neighbors should be able to improve their streets to gather, green and learn for free.

I am a huge advocate for allowing this type of tactical improvement to neighborhoods, but fear that this legislation as it stands will allow corruption through SFDPW review process to target individuals while ignoring their own process.

The placement of planters to deter homeless encampments is abounding throughout San Francisco & instead of adding to community vibrancy, allowing a clear channel for a gathering space for folks to meet, share and grow from knowledge of each other this legislation with sole discretion by SFDPW and investigation fees of 100\$ or more is ill placed.

Trust me, I yearn for this type of work and I laud Myrna for bringing it forwards. However, this legislation needs further work and the removal of sole discretion from SFDPW to avoid potential corruption. This means that all of the planters currently placed which do not meet SFDPW's own guidelines could be ignored while well meaning individuals could be targeted by sf311 reports leading to a fine (investigation fee) of at minimum of 100\$. This seems fraught and needs revision.

I look forwards to revised legislation which provides a free o super low cost route for individuals to add green, amenity and rest to their neighborhoods without the potential for more corruption in city hall.

Warm regards, al

Alec Hawley



(415)418-9073

ahawleyla@gmail.com

<http://www.fauvescraperstudio.com/>

From: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Sara Barz](#)
Cc: [SNA Board](#); [Slow Hearst](#); [Rosaura Valle](#); [Rosaura Valle](#); [Mike Fleming](#); [Jennifer Bauer](#); [Patrick Linehan](#); [Heiken, Emma \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Letter of Support for Love Our Neighborhoods Legislation - BOS File No. 230768
Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:15:00 PM
Attachments: [Love Our Neighborhoods - Support Letter Slow Hearst.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Thank you for your comment letter.

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[Board of Supervisors File No. 230768](#)

John Carroll
Assistant Clerk

Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall, Room 244
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(415)554-4445



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From: Sara Barz <skbarz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:15 AM
To: MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>
Cc: SNA Board <board@sunnysideassociation.org>; Slow Hearst <info@slowhearst.org>; Rosaura Valle <detroitstepsproject@gmail.com>; Rosaura Valle <rpcvalle@gmail.com>; Mike Fleming <mikef@warble.org>; Jennifer Bauer <bauer.jennifer.ann@gmail.com>; Patrick Linehan <plinehan@gmail.com>; Heiken, Emma (BOS) <emma.heiken@sfgov.org>

Subject: Letter of Support for Love Our Neighborhoods Legislation

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

Hello,

Please find attached Slow Hearst's letter of support for the Love Our Neighborhood Legislation, which will be reviewed in today's Board of Supervisors Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sara Barz

--

Sara K. Barz

skbarz@gmail.com

+1 (415) 935-0738

[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)



Attn: MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org,
John.Carroll@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org,
ChanStaff@sfgov.org

October 30th, 2023

Subject: Support for Love Our Neighborhood

To Whom It May Concern at the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

Slow Hearst is a group of neighborhood volunteers who activate and care for Hearst Avenue, our local Slow Street. Slow Hearst volunteers produce 6-8 public events per year with the goal of using our street to connect the Sunnyside neighborhood and provide a space that puts people first.

The Love Our Neighborhoods legislation will go a long way toward helping our group contribute to our neighborhood. Simplifying the permitting process will enable more neighbors to improve their communities by creating amenities ranging from little free libraries and tiled stairways, to murals and rain gardens.

For far too long it has been a burden to contribute to the spaces outside of our front doors. While many neighbors like ourselves desire to do so, the challenges presented by the encroachment permit process are daunting, demoralizing, and in many cases, they have only prevented community-supported projects from happening. This legislation is a huge step forward to addressing these challenges, and we strongly support it.

Beautifying our communities should be celebrated and encouraged, not mired in a bureaucratic quagmire. Groups like ours are often improving spaces that have been abandoned and neglected, and by making it easier for us to do so, our entire city benefits.

With all of this in mind, Slow Hearst strongly urges you to support the Love Our Neighborhoods legislation.

Thank you,

Sara Barz

Slow Hearst "Mayor"

Slowhearst.org

From: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Scott Feeney](#)
Cc: [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Amendments needed to "Love Our Neighborhoods Projects" - BOS File No. 230768
Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:15:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for your comment letter.

I am adding your commentary to the file for this ordinance matter, on agenda for consideration during the October 30, 2023 regular meeting.

I invite you to review the entire matter on our [Legislative Research Center](#) by following the link below:

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[Board of Supervisors File No. 230768](#)

John Carroll

Assistant Clerk

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From: Scott Feeney <scott@oceanbase.org>

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 12:55 PM

To: Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>

Cc: RonenStaff (BOS) <ronenstaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Amendments needed to "Love Our Neighborhoods Projects"

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

Hello Land Use & Transportation Committee members,

I'm asking you to please not pass the "Love Our Neighborhood Projects" legislation out of committee today, file #230768, but rather, please continue it and give time to make needed amendments.

It's great that this helps with pro-social projects like benches, libraries, murals, art, and sidewalk gardens. But it doesn't do enough to curtail increasing abuse of so-called "planter boxes" as hostile architecture that obstructs sidewalks and is more of a barricade than a planter. Proliferating all over the city, but especially my own neighborhood the Mission, as well as along the Van Ness corridor, these planters-as-barricades are hurting walkability, accessibility, and transit ridership by obstructing far more space on the sidewalk than the tents they are intended to deter ever did.

Here is a bus stop almost completely blocked by a recently placed barricade:



This is no way to help Muni recover and promote transit and walking in our city, nor is it respectful to senior and disabled pedestrians who especially struggle to get around these obstacles. We need more assurance that DPW, which is already not enforcing its own order #179,231 (under which the above installation is illegal for being in a bus zone), is not going to facilitate more abusive obstruction of public space as we see in the above scene.

It's great that this legislation makes the adjacent property owner explicitly responsible for planters -- that should increase accountability, if enforced. But that's a big if. So here are the amendments I suggest:

1. Incorporate the requirements of DPW order 179,231 directly into the legislation's definition of

planters, and apply them to *both* Tier 1 "Front Yard Planters" *and* Tier 2 "minor landscaping infrastructure." Putting these access, walkability, and public safety protections in code will ensure they can't be removed unilaterally by DPW in the future.

2. Require DPW to investigate complaints that credibly accuse a violation, instead of being able to ignore complaints "in its sole discretion" (723.2.(b)(2)(iii)). That discretion is being abused today.
3. Remove DPW director discretion over width/area limits of encroachments (723.2(b) as amended, "unless the Director of Public Works determines that such restrictions are not applicable due to the nature of the encroachment"). There shouldn't be exceptions to the clear-cut rule that puts reasonable limits on the width and area of encroachment, or any exceptions should be explicitly enumerated.
4. Require DPW to make Tier 1 project registrations (723.2(b)(2)(i)) public on a website, so neighbors can look up whether or not a planter is registered and therefore legal. Otherwise hard to see how enforcement can work in practice.
5. Improve on the requirements of DPW order 179,231 with additional clarifications:
 1. Clarify that small planters must be under 36" wide *or long*, so no one can try to use the excuse that they're 68" long but 24" wide and therefore qualify.
 2. Add an explicit maximum weight, such as "not over 75 pounds filled," so we don't have to litigate whether or not planters being 1,200 lbs. and immovable without specialized equipment makes them permanently affixed.
 3. Don't allow a planter within 10 feet of an existing sidewalk garden basin that is weedy and unmaintained or that contains no plants. In that case, people should care for the existing garden basin before adding redundant containers. Alternatively: no planters within 5 feet of any sidewalk garden basin or tree basin.
6. Technical fix: Clarify 723.2.(b)(2)(i), "the sidewalk preserves the greater of a minimum path of travel of four feet after the installation or placement of the Tier 1 Project or, with respect to sidewalks that are a minimum of twelve feet wide, a minimum path of travel of six feet after the installation" -- it's not clear that this means four or six feet *wide*, and it also doesn't specify whether the path of travel has to be in a straight line. It would be better to use the Better Streets Plan definition of "throughway zone."
7. Technical fix: The liability section looks like it has a loophole where it doesn't apply to Tier 1 projects including planters. 723.2(e)(1) begins, "For minor encroachment permits issued pursuant to Section 723.2...", but tier 1 projects don't require a permit. 723.2(b)(2)(i): "The owner of real property... shall not be required to obtain a permit..." Once registered, a tier 1 project is "authorized," but a permit isn't issued as such.

This is based on a quick reading, but this is complex legislation that's making major changes. So it would be ideal to continue this legislation and give time for more public input and a full discussion of the effects of this legislation. I'm hopeful that with amendments, this can both curtail abuses, *and* give SF neighbors more ways to build pro-social projects that truly do show our love for our neighborhoods. Please continue this legislation so we there's time to make those amendments and get it right.

Thank you,
Scott Feeney

District 9 resident
646-662-0841

From: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Michael Smith](#)
Cc: [Smeallie, Kyle \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Rubenstein, Beth \(DPW\)](#); [Gordon, Rachel \(DPW\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Support Neighbor Amenities legislation, with needed amendments - BOS File No. 230768
Date: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:40:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for your comment letter.

I am adding your commentary to the file for this ordinance matter, on agenda for consideration during the October 30, 2023 regular meeting.

I invite you to review the entire matter on our [Legislative Research Center](#) by following the link below:

-

[Board of Supervisors File No. 230768](#)

John Carroll
Assistant Clerk

Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415)554-4445



Click [here](#) to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form.

The [Legislative Research Center](#) provides 24-hour access to Board of Supervisors legislation and archived matters since August 1998.

***Disclosures:** Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

From: Michael Smith <msmithtransit@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 6:15:56 PM
To: Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>
Cc: Smeallie, Kyle (BOS) <kyle.smeallie@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>
Subject: Support Neighbor Amenities legislation, with needed amendments

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

Land Use and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for pushing forward legislation Authorizing and Permitting Neighborhood Amenities. My neighborhood already benefits greatly from nearby welcoming amenities such as sidewalk gardens, little libraries, murals, and benches. Proper ones should be further encouraged by the City while hostile ones, those that block accessibility, generate liability to the city, or are simply a blight, should be modified to instead provide a benefit to all.

The legislation is a great step forward but the current wording has several serious flaws, though ones that can be easily corrected. Please make these simple changes so that the legislation achieves our goals:

* 723.2(e)(1) appears to be a significant mistake. Tier 1 Projects will not require a permit. 723.2(b)(2)(i) states that liability for these projects without permits is defined in 723.2(e)(1), but that section incorrectly states it only applies for *permitted* projects. Simple fix is to change “For minor encroachment permits issued...” to “For minor encroachment permits **or registrations** issued...”. Only with this change will the City not be liable for Tier 1 Projects.

* The legislation should be amended to require Front Yard Planters to actually contain plants and to be maintained in order to be compliant. Far too often planters can be barren, resulting in them becoming trash receptacles. To address this important issue 723.2(b)(2) should be amended to require that Planters actually contain plants and are maintained, just as required by the legislation for other types of projects like murals.

* 723.2(b)(2)(i) does not sufficiently state the requirements for registration for Tier 1 Front Yard Planters. The 723.1(b) Definitions section states that Front Yard Planters must abide by DPW Order 179,231. Therefore to be registered Planters must both comply with the minimum width for path of travel requirements **and** DPW Order 179,231.

723.2(b)(2)(i) should therefore be amended to specify that Planters must abide by **both** sets of guidelines.

* 723.2(b)(2)(iii) gives DPW “sole discretion” for doing safety inspections, which is unworkable. The DPW has repeatedly been shown to not undertake its responsibilities. It has far too often been subject to corruption. We simply cannot trust it with “sole discretion”. Safety is important. The legislation needs to be amended to “require” the DPW to do safety inspections when called upon.

* 723.2(d)(1) appears to incorrectly state that encroachments should not occupy more than “10% of the **area**” of the sidewalk fronting the property. 10% of the area could still mean that a Tier 1 Project could extend 90% of the width of the sidewalk, which of course is not the intent. Should likely simply change the wording to “10% of the **width**”.

Thank you for trying to implement legislation that, once the details are addressed, will beautify our city while eliminating liability issues.

Michael Smith
Nopa/Western Addition

From: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Rosaura Valle](#)
Cc: [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Love our Neighborhoods-Letter of Support from DSP - BOS File No. 230768
Date: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:39:00 AM
Attachments: [Love Our Neighborhoods - Support Letter from DSP.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Thank you for your comment letter.

I am adding your commentary to the file for this ordinance matter, on agenda for consideration during the October 30, 2023 regular meeting.

I invite you to review the entire matter on our [Legislative Research Center](#) by following the link below:

-

[Board of Supervisors File No. 230768](#)

John Carroll

Assistant Clerk

Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415)554-4445



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From: Rosaura Valle <detroitstepsproject@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 8:11 PM

To: MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Love our Neighborhoods-Letter of Support from DSP

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

Please find attached the Letter of Support for the Love our Neighborhood legislation on behalf of the DETROIT STEPS PROJECT (DSP) and the Sunnyside community in District 7.

Please do not hesitate to reach out for any further questions you may have.
Thank you for your consideration and support in favor of this legislation.

Rosaura P.C. Valle,
DSP Project Lead
541 Hearst Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112 (District 7)
415-310-5480
detroitstepsproject@gmail.com
rpcvalle@gmail.com



Attn: MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org,
John.Carroll@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org,
ChanStaff@sfgov.org

October 29th, 2023

Subject: Support for Love Our Neighborhoods

To Whom It May Concern at the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

The DETROIT STEPS PROJECT is a multi-year multi-faceted project that aims at improving the infrastructure and beautifying with landscaping and tiling a 185 step stairway in Sunnyside (District 7). The project was launched within the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association in November 2018, and is fiscally sponsored by San Francisco Parks Alliance since November 2020.

The stairway is an unaccepted street under SFPW jurisdiction. We have transformed a neighborhood illegal dumping site into a California native plant garden, replaced chain link fences with decorative steel fences, worked with SFPW and SFPUC to install a water meter and backflow device at the site, and have engaged a diverse community around monthly maintenance days at the Steps.

We know first hand how the new Love our Neighborhoods legislation will be benefiting community groups volunteering their time to beautify their neighborhood, as we have been diligently working through the challenging process of a Major Encroachment Permit with SFPW since August 2022 in order to install a decorative archway at the steps.



This legislation will go a long way toward helping our group contribute to our neighborhood. Simplifying the permitting process will enable more neighbors to improve their communities by creating amenities ranging from little free libraries and tiled stairways, to murals and rain gardens.

For far too long it has been a burden to contribute to the spaces outside of our front doors. While many neighbors like ourselves desire to do so, the challenges presented by the encroachment permit process are daunting, demoralizing, and in many cases, they have only prevented community-supported projects from happening. This legislation is a huge step forward to addressing these challenges, and we strongly support it.

Beautifying our communities should be celebrated and encouraged, not mired in a bureaucratic quagmire. Groups like ours are often improving spaces that have been abandoned and neglected, and by making it easier for us to do so, our entire city benefits.

With all of this in mind, we strongly urge you to support Love Our Neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Rosaura P.C. Valle

DSP Project Lead

415-310-5480

detroitstepsproject@gmail.com

Please see attached signatures in the following pages.

DetroitStepsProject		List of signatures in support of the Love our Neighborhood Legislation and attached DETROIT STEPS PROJECT Support Letter. DATE: 10/29/23 • EVENT: MAINTENANCE DAY AT DETROIT STEPS			
#	First & Last Name	EMAIL- (please write LEGIBLY)	Sign Up for Maintenance Days	Sign Up for GoogleGroup News	Address
1	FLORA CLERGE	flora.clerge@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	439 Detroit St CA 94131 SF
2	Donna McNamara	dmlmcnamara@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	111 HEARST AVE SF CA 94131
3	Mrs. LAUREZZO	digthesky@outlook.com	Yes	NO	442 Detroit streets F-CA 94131
4	DARIL BROWNE	browndc@att.net	Yes	Yes	106 MELROSE AVE 94124
5	Joy Dwighello	jdwhighe@ccsf.edu	Yes	Yes	62 Martha Ave. 94131
6	CHRISTINA FISCHER	kina.fischer@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	1481 14th Ave 94122
7	Susan Evans	ske1@pacbell.net	Yes	Yes	279 Managla 94131
8	DYLAN BOU	bouylan30@gmail.com	Yes		
9	TAD SKY	tadsky7@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	215 HEARST AVE 94131
10	Anthony Cystanos	anthonycystanos@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	370 Monterey Blvd
11	Brian Murphy	brianmurphy11@yahoo.com	Yes	Yes	325 Detroit St. SF CA 94131
12	Paul Murphy	Paul@PaulParackProperties.com	Yes	Yes	325 Detroit St 94131
13	Elliot Ryan	ElliotARyan@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	74 Staples Ave 94131
14	MARIA HAUGHT	Maci@haught@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	340 Foerster St 94118
15	Erica Hymen	AREN.ERICA@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	2227 Flood Ave 94112
16	Aruna Prabhala	aruna.prabhala@gmail.com	Yes	Yes	274 Staples Ave
17					
18					
19					

DetroitStepsProject		List of signatures in support of the Love our Neighborhood Legislation and attached DETROIT STEPS PROJECT Support Letter. DATE: 10/29/23 - EVENT: PUMPKIN FESTIVAL OF THE DETROIT STEPS			
#	First & Last Name	EMAIL: (please write LEGIBLY)	Sign Up for Maintenance Days	Sign Up for GoogleGroup News	Address
1	Margaret Hase	margaret.hase@gmail.com		X	506 Foster St
2	Ken Hollenbeck	kenneth.hollenbeck@gmail.com		X	658 Just
3	Barry Purovik	barry.purovik@yahoo.com		x	112 Baden
4	Stefan Koenig	stfkng@aol.com			423 Melrose Ave
5	EVAN BAUER	evanjbauer@gmail.com			270 Hearst Ave
6	Jennifer Bauer	bauerjenniferann@gmail.com			270 Hearst Ave
7	Monica Collins	376 Hearst St #112		←	lizz42@gmail.com
8	MAUREEN MASON	399 JUST 94131			mmason@iminet.com
9	Brandy Dondrio	323 Hearst ave 94112			brandydondrio@gmail.com
10	Phillip Oertel	phillipao@gmail.com		X	300 Richmond
11	Mary Skinner	skinner.smith318@gmail.com			588 Monterey Blvd.
12	TRISTAN LOPES	TRISTAN@LOPES.CO		X	207 CONGO ST
13	Andra Pempel	AndraPempel@gmail.com	X		983 paris st.
14	Narmata Kelle	mukelle@gmail.com	X	X	638 Mangels Ave
15	Szu-Yu Wang	Szu-Yu.Wang@gmail.com	X		428 Antwerp
16					
17					
18					
19					

From: raberger@sfteamworks.com
To: [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: ["Savannah Schoelen"](#)
Subject: Support for Love Our Neighborhoods
Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023 1:30:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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

October 25, 2023

Subject: Support for Love Our Neighborhoods

To Whom It May Concern at the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

Burnside Mural+ is a volunteer effort, started in 2021, to create a mural and tiled stairway that would beautify an area in Glen Park, and serve as a teaching tool about the neighborhood's extraordinary history and its treasure, Glen Canyon.

This legislation will go a long way toward helping our group contribute to our neighborhood. Simplifying the permitting process will enable more neighbors to improve their communities by creating amenities ranging from little free libraries and tiled stairways to murals and community gardens. For far too long it has been a burden to contribute to the spaces outside of our front doors. While many neighbors like us desire to do so, the challenges presented by the encroachment permit process are daunting, demoralizing, and in many cases, they have only prevented community-supported projects from happening.

Specific to our tiled stairway project, we started our application process for the required permit (MEP), in September 2022 with a request to waive fees that otherwise would have been impossible for us to bear (over \$10,000 initially with annual fees that would have exceeded \$5,000). It took four months to receive the interim waiver, followed by the submission of incredibly burdensome paperwork for a volunteer effort, which is still working its way through the permit process one year after starting. This legislation is a huge step forward to addressing these challenges, and we strongly support it.

Beautifying our communities should be celebrated and encouraged, not mired in a bureaucratic quagmire. Groups like ours are often improving spaces that have been abandoned and neglected, and by making it easier for us to do so, our entire city benefits.

With all of this in mind, we strongly urge you to support Love Our Neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Renee Berger, Project Leader, Burnside Mural+



Renee

Fiscal sponsor: SF Parks Alliance

Renee A. Berger

(415) 203-3021

www.sfteamworks.com

I'm a San Francisco City Guide. Join me for a walking tour (it's free).

Applause! SF's Performing Arts Hub

<https://sfcityguides.org/tour/applause-sfs-performing-arts-hub/>

Mission Dolores Neighborhood

<https://sfcityguides.org/tour/mission-dolores-neighborhood/>

Mission Murals

<https://sfcityguides.org/tour/mission-murals/>

From: [Ruth Wallace](#)
To: [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary; ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Ferrigno, Jennifer \(BOS\)](#); [Lerma, Santiago \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Savannah Schoelen](#); [Luke Spray](#); [Beck Trebesch](#)
Subject: Support for Love My Neighborhood Legislation
Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023 2:09:36 PM
Attachments: [To BOS Support for Love My Neighborhood Leg.docx](#)

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

Dear Supervisors,

I am in support of the Love My Neighborhood Legislation, but feel it needs carve outs for special consideration for groups like ours that have worked for years to obtain the necessary permits to start work on a community project.

If this legislation is replacing current policy, it needs written inclusion of instructions for projects currently in the pipeline such as the Goettingen Neighbors Group (GNG) Steps to Wisdom Art-tiled Stairway and The Burnside Stairs. We do not want to be in the position (after more than two years of work to start work on our project) of needing to get an additional permit, pay more fees, or bring our project up for further review, We have already been granted a Major Encroachment Permit, have over \$5,000 of permit fees waived, and been approved by the BOS, DPW and the Planning Commission.

Make it easier for all community groups to enhance and improve their neighborhoods, but do not add further roadblocks to projects currently underway.

Thank you for your consideration. Please see our letter of support attached and below.

Ruth Wallace

GNG

415-420-6185

October 26th, 2023

Subject: Support for Love Our Neighborhoods

To Whom It May Concern at the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

The Goettingen Neighbors Group has been stewarding the stairway at Goettingen and Dwight in the Portola Neighborhood in District 9 since 2007.

In 2017, we decided to go a step further to create an art-tiled stairway. We were awarded a Budget Add-Back in 2017 to do some infrastructure work. We stabilized the hillside adjacent to the stairs, increased lighting, and added a public space for neighbors and all San Franciscans to enjoy. This was a predecessor of our plan to create, Steps to Wisdom, another art-tiled stairway to add to San Francisco's palette.

In 2020, we were awarded a large Community Challenge Grant to make Steps to Wisdom a reality. Since then, we have been trying to secure a permit to create it. Art-tiled stairways in San Francisco have proven to be very popular with residents and tourist alike. The City has encouraged community groups to create them as they reduce maintenance costs to the City and encourage pedestrian usage of the stairways which makes them safer for all by increasing a presence on what was once seldom-used passageways.

Our group has been thwarted by regulations and requirements that have made progress arduous and nonexistent. We have met every requirement asked of us; have neighborhood support; continued to fundraise and maintain the stairway by cleaning the stairway and hillside and removing graffiti. We have contractors at the ready to fabricate our colorful and reflective custom tiles with quotes neighbors would give to their younger selves, in six different languages. We have an experienced tile installation contractor in place to order ADA compliant stair treads and install them. We have learned how to affix the art-tiles on the risers and found volunteers to help us do so. We have engaged neighbors throughout this years, and now miles, long red-tape.

The Love our Neighborhood proposal is great and should have been implemented some time ago. We hope that other neighborhood groups will not have to go through what we have had to moving forward. The process until now has been disincentivizing for people trying to make the City a better place for all. Simplifying the permitting process will enable more neighbors to improve their communities by creating amenities ranging from little free libraries and tiled stairways, to murals and rain gardens. This legislation will go a long way toward helping group to contribute to their neighborhoods.

For far too long it has been a burden to contribute to the spaces outside of our front doors. While many neighbors like ourselves desire to do so, the challenges presented by the encroachment permit process are daunting, demoralizing, and in many cases, they have only prevented community-supported projects from happening. This legislation is a huge step forward to addressing these challenges, and we strongly support it.

Beautifying our communities should be celebrated and encouraged, not mired in a bureaucratic quagmire. Groups like ours are often improving spaces that have been abandoned and neglected, and by making it easier for us to do so, our entire city benefits.

That being said, we believe that our project and others who have been going through the process of getting a permit, such as the Burnside Stairs, should not have to start over, pay more in fees, request additional waivers, or bring our project in front of the Board of Supervisors or any city agency or department. We have already done that. We request that the legislation fast track the permit, waive any additional applications, and not add an additional \$500 fee to the cost of our project or others in a similar position.

With all of this in mind, we strongly urge you to support Love Our Neighborhoods with special considerations, listed above, for the Goettingen Stair Project, Steps to Wisdom and others in our position.

Thank you,

Ruth Wallace
Project Manager and Development Chair
Goettingen Neighbors Group (GNG)

October 26th, 2023

Subject: Support for Love Our Neighborhoods

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Thank you,



Ruth Wallace

Project Manager and Development Chair
Goettingen Neighbors Group (GNG)

