

From: john w <johnwsf2016@outlook.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 6:49:58 PM  
To: Zhihan Zou; michaeld7@gmail.com; vgrandi@gmail.com; matthaneysf@gmail.com  
Subject: RE: Meeting with Matt Haney

Hi Supervisor Haney and Zhihan,

This is John Wood, one of the producers of the How Weird Street Fair (HWSF). Prior to our meeting on Friday, I wanted to provide you with some background information about our event and the reason for our meeting.

As our lead Producer Michael O'Rourke explained in his introductory email, HWSF is a music and art based Street Fair entering its 20th year in District 6. It is produced by a 501c3 organization, World Peace Through Technology. Like most City Street Fairs, it has primarily been a free event, with attendees asked for donations upon entering.

As you know, San Francisco has become a very expensive city to do business and this has presented funding challenges for all of the City's non-profit Street Fairs. Most of the long time City Street Fairs (Castro Street Fair, Pride, Haight Street Fair etc.) are covered under legislation that subsidizes City Costs (such as Police), but in the 1990's new events (including the How Weird Street Fair), were required to be full cost recovery events. HWSF has managed for 20 years to pay such costs, but it has left no funds for improving the event.

In addition, the City's Street Fairs have challenges because of new construction including large housing developments, office towers and traffic islands that have happened within our festival sites. In most cases, events have lost street space and in all cases, it is impossible to expand. Consequently, some events including Folsom Street Fair and HWSF, have reached capacity or over capacity attendance, presenting public safety challenges.

To cope with both of these issues, HWSF in 2018 developed and implemented with Southern Station of the SFPD, an admission based plan, with the intent of lowering capacity and to raise extra funds for increased security and event staffing. We presented this to ISCOTT and our permit was granted with the provision that we would submit an access plan, to allow free admittance to neighbors, business owners and staff or anyone who wanted to access the site but who were not attending our event.

We submitted and implemented that plan in 2018 and it was successful in lowering attendance and raising extra funds to cover additional staffing, grants for art at the event and we made approximately \$40,000 in donations to other NFP groups. Most attendees bought pre-sale tickets online before the event, with tickets ranging from \$15-25. A smaller number paid cash at the door. We had a separate lane for "local access" and anyone who told us that they were not attending our event but needed to access the site were allowed in free. We did not ask for any proof, just allowed people in free who requested it.

We were informed in the days prior to our event, that in order to charge admission on the city streets, we also should have had a resolution from the Board of Supervisors granting that

permission. At that point, we had already been selling pre-sale tickets for 2 months, so it was impossible to change the plan. SFPD was in support of the admission plan to not only reduce over crowded conditions but to provide greater security, so we went ahead with that plan day of event.

So for 2020 we would like to do the same plan, so we are asking your support for the required resolution to again allow an admittance charge. Here is the language requiring the resolution from the ISCOTT permit:

#### SIDEWALK ACCESS

The temporary use or occupancy of a public street shall not unnecessarily obstruct or bar public access onto said street. Sidewalks shall remain open at all times for pedestrian use unless closure of the sidewalk is provided for by resolution of the Board of Supervisors explaining the reasons for such closure

I am providing a previous BOS resolution from the San Francisco Lovevolution event that was written by Supervisor Mirkarimi to allow admission for that event. We used that resolution as a template and wrote a draft resolution that could be used for HWSF this year. This resolution, edited as you see fit, would allow HWSF to enact our admission policy again this year.

The SFPD staff in charge of our event is Sgt. Dion McDonnell of Southern Station. 415-575-6030

Nick Chapman is our ISCOTT permit supervisor, 415-6462414.

Feel free to call is you have any question and we will see you on Friday

Thank you so much

John Wood  
415-378-7617