



SAN FRANCISCO  
**GRAFFITI  
ADVISORY  
BOARD**

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, #248  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4645  
415.695.2003  
www.sfdpw.org/gab

Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Larry Stringer, Chair  
Jana Lord, Vice Chair

## Graffiti Advisory Board

Minutes for August 12, 2014  
30 Van Ness Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California

1. **Call to Order:** 3:35 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

### PRESENT

DPW – Larry Stringer  
MAYOR – Alex Popovics  
SFPD – Martin Ferreira  
SFDA – Karen Catalona  
RecPark – Eric Pawlowsky  
Seat 2 – Leonid Nakhodkin  
Seat 3 – Stephanie Greenburg  
Seat 4 – Charles Moody  
Seat 5 – Melorra Green  
Seat 7 – Peter Gleichenhaus  
Seat 9 – Laura Putnam  
Seat 10 – Jann Fitzgerald  
Seat 11 – Eric Mersch  
Seat 12 – John Austin (youth)  
Seat 13 – Jonathan Goldberg (SFB)  
Seat 15 – Daniel Kling (bus)  
Seat 16 – Rebecca Delgado Rottman (art)

### ABSENT

SFUSD – Robert Sakurai (EXC)  
Seat 1 – Sam McCormick (EXC)  
Seat 6 – Mark Friend (EXC)  
Seat 8 – Doug Hayward (EXC)  
Seat 14 – Dee Dee Workman (bus)  
(EXC)  
Seat 17 – Jana Lord (mta/shelter) (EXC)  
SFMTA MUNI – **INACTIVE**  
SFMTA DPT – **INACTIVE**

- **Others present:** Jimmer Cassiol, DPW; Gretchen Rude, DPW; Greg Dillon, resident; Derek Chamberlain; Tom Carter, SFPORT; Nora Martenyi, Habitat for Humanity; Tajuri Winesberry; Tyra Fennell, SFAC; Frederick Thurber, resident

2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Larry Stringer welcomed Board members and other attendees. Each member and guest introduced themselves. Members checked attendance; and, establish there is a quorum at this time. Call to order 3:35 pm.

### 3. Public Comment:

- Frederick Thurber stated that he is a resident of San Francisco and has been working on graffiti abatement in San Francisco since 1989
  - Although there have been improvements in the city, the biggest problem we still have is the lack of attentiveness and proactive services
  - Mostly DPW and other departments are reacting to residents making requests through 3-1-1
  - Not all those requests are being fulfilled
  - Many of times the quality of work is lacking
  - There are many 3-1-1 requests that are not being done
  - The number 1 think is not to rely on the people that are out there working to maintain the City
  - An issue is the city relying on residents and reacting to problems
  - The only answer, the key is, pro-action
  - The staff that is out there working is doing so much better than ever before in every neighborhood
  - The general public has not heard of 3-1-1. The people need to be informed and use this service, but in return the agencies responsible MUST complete the work properly
- Greg Dillon stated that reports going into 3-1-1 web site noticed that most reports are going to DPW and Muni
  - The majority, more than half, goes to DPW
  - The second biggest group goes to MUNI and they are not doing the work
  - If you look at reports going from June into August 397 reports to 3-1-1 complaints about parking meters. Only 5 of those are reported to be cleaned. I went to on in my neighborhood and that one hasn't been cleaned
  - MTA is paying people to do a job and they are not doing it
  - All of you representing a supervisorial board member on this committee should go to your supervisor and let them know that MUNI does not come to these meetings
- Larry Stringer (Chair – DPW) stated that he is hopeful with the revisions being made to the 3-1-1 app will make the staff more accountable and record when it was abated.
  - He stated that Greg's comments are noted and he will send a note to MTA regarding the issues brought up here today
- Laura Putnam (seat 9) asked about the process for street signs.
  - She is questioning the process because as an example she had reported a street sign graffiti issue in her neighborhoods to 3-1-1 two times. Both times the request has been closed yet the sign has never been abated
- Larry Stringer (Chair-DPW) stated that the service requests should not be closed out until the work has been completed
  - Larry requested that Laura provide him with the SR numbers so we can investigate what is happening
- Tyra Fennell (SFAC) provided an update to the StreetSmARTS program
  - Allocated number of murals is 20 per year

- This year FY 13-14 we are slightly shy of that because we have been given permission, depending on the size of the wall, to spend a little more on larger walls
  - This year we have 16 murals either completed or in the works
  - We are also working on getting additional outside resources to help cover the cost of larger murals
  - She will present a final report FY 13-14 at the October 9<sup>th</sup> GAB meeting
- Public comment is closed

**4. Presentation:** Tom Carter, San Francisco Port Deputy Director, Maintenance

- Started with a slideshow presentation providing a brief history of the Port of San Francisco
- The Port is a city department. It used to be a state department but was trusted to the city in 1968
- Still operated under the Burton Act and continues to have state regulations
- The Port includes 7.5 miles of waterfront starting at Hyde Street and goes to India basin
- Includes management of about 20 million square feet of property
- Port has become more of a recreation, tourism, and real estate focus
- The Port operates on funds which they generate
- The Port does receive 3-1-1 requests
- They have a work order system where request come into the maintenance division
- The Port has four painters on staff
- They spend about \$35,000 per year on graffiti abatement
- They do not have a separate graffiti budget, the funds are mixed into the maintenance budget
- Many city departments have responsibilities along the Embarcadero from Bay to King Streets
- Mentioned Dr. Katy Wolf who is working on environmentally friendly products and the port has been working with Dr. Wolf
- There are parks that the Port is going to be building in the future and these anti-graffiti coatings are going to be incorporated into the designs
- That is the end of my presentation

**4a. Special Request by Chair:** Larry Stringer (Chair-DPW) had a special request for an update from Karen Catalona (SFDA) regarding John “Jack” Nelson, the suspect in Hibernia Bank and Emporio Armani (two historic) buildings graffiti vandalism case

- Karen explained that they had the preliminary hearing where Officer Ferreira did a wonderful job testifying as a bay area graffiti expert witness
- Mr. Nelson was held to answer, meaning the judge found that there was sufficient evidence, for felony arraignment
- Mr. Nelson was arraigned on two felony vandalism counts.
- The suspect’s attorney was out on a personal matter and the case was pushed out to October 15<sup>th</sup>.

- The next court appearance will include the SFDA asking the judge for a trial date
- Once they have the trial date Karen will update the board on the date
- GAB board member Peter Gleichenhau (seat 7) stated that he had watched the preliminary hearing and commended the great work done by SFDA Karen Catalona and expert witness Officer Ferreira.

**5. Review and approval of the draft August 14, 2014 minutes.** a motion was made to approve and seconded: Minutes approved.

**6. Chair's Report:**

- DPW stat report numbers: For the period of July 2014 the number of calls for graffiti on public property was 845. This number is up from the same time last year with 634 calls.
- DPW stat report numbers: Calls for graffiti on private property for July 2014 reported by the public was 797, plus 565 internal cases for a total of 1,362 cases; up slightly compared to the same time last year, July 2013, with a total of 1,309 reports from both internal and external sources.
- DPW inspections of reports of private graffiti in July 2014, which are taking place within 3 calendar days, were 94%.
- On average for FY14/15 (July 2014 – June 2015), it takes an average of 1.5 days for DPW to inspect reports of private graffiti.
- In June 2014 DPW issued 686 new private graffiti NOV's (compared to 959 in June 2013), of which 92.9% have been owner abated. Of those 686 April cases, 3 cases have gone blight.
- Of the 686 new NOV cases in June 2014, districts 5 (Western Addition/Fillmore, The Haight, Inner Sunset ), 6 (Tenderloin, SOMA, Civic Center), 9 (Mission, Bernal Heights, Portola) received the most new NOV's with 100 in D5, 111 in D6, and 145 in D9.
- DPW reports show that 82 cases of private graffiti NOV's have gone to blight in July 2014.
- **Vacant and inactive GAB seats:** Inactive seats SFMTA-MUNI, and SFMTA- DPT.
- **Post Office Update:** We had a very productive meeting with the SF "acting" Postmaster General Ms. Bobbi Riley and her staff on Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> regarding the issue of graffiti on mailboxes. We are working on setting up a revised pilot program on how graffiti is reported to the local post office. The post office has committed to responding to reports within 72 hours. We are planning on our follow-up meeting to take place near the end of October to review the pilot program's success.

- **Hibernia graffiti vandal suspect:** Great work done by Graffiti Advisory Board members Karen Catalona (SFDA) and expert witness Officer Martin Ferreira (SFPD) for building a case and presenting to the judge over two days and 45 exhibits in the preliminary hearing. The suspect John “Jack” Nelson was held to answer two felony charges and the motion to reduce his case to a misdemeanor was denied. We look forward to having Karen and Marty keeping us updated on the trial.
- **The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Graffiti Masters” event:** Taking place on Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> at Skywest Golf Course, Hayward, CA. Information about this event has been emailed to you there are printed flyers here in the table.
- **Graffiti Watch training:**
  - The next Graffiti Watch training is scheduled place on tomorrow Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - If you, or anyone you know, are interested in joining the Graffiti Watch program, please contact Jimmer Cassiol.
- **Community Clean Team Update:**
  - The next event is taking place on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> in district 10.
  - The kickoff will be at 9:00 am
  - The G3 Recycle program will be held in the following locations on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>:
    - **District 1** – Ocean Beach at Fulton Street (directly across from Beach Chalet)
    - **District 9** – Fire Station #7 (2300 Folsom Street at 19<sup>th</sup> Street)
    - **District 10** – Tennessee, between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> (enter from 24<sup>th</sup>)
    - **District 11** – In Front of June Jordan School (enter from La Grande Ave.)
- **Giant Sweep Update:**
  - The dates for the next Giant Sweep events are scheduled for:
    - Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> in Partnership with Rec & Park at McLaren Park
    - Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Partnership with SFSU and Rec & Park at SFSU campus
    - Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> the final School event for 2014 will take place in district 1 at a school location TBD
  - We continue to go into individual schools and perform Giant Sweep anti-litter assemblies and presentations in a joint venture with the Department of Environment, Rec and Park, and SFMTA. If you have any contact with any schools, please talk to Jimmer and see if we can set something up for those schools

- The Giant Sweep Neighborhood Sweep off Challenge has completed. The three neighborhood group winners are:
  1. Russian Hill Neighbors
  2. Mission Terrace
  3. Rincon Hill
- The three runners up are:
  1. Balboa Park
  2. Middle Polk
  3. Excelsior Action Group (EAG)
- All 6 groups are receiving tickets to a Giants game.
- The Giant Sweep program will be raffling off two more iPad Mini's in addition to signed baseballs, Giants game tickets, and the grand prize, a \$3,000 Gift Certificate at The New Wheel bike shop, raffle taking place the end of August 2014. Everyone who has signed the pledge will be eligible to be in the raffle drawings
- **Please go to [sfgiantsweep.org](http://sfgiantsweep.org) and check for updates sign the pledge if you have not done so already! Pass the information along to everyone you know asking them to sign the pledge as well!**
- **Sub-committees** are meeting each month prior to the full GAB meeting. If you have not yet signed up for a sub-committee, please talk to Jimmer Cassiol and let him know which sub-committee you'd like to participate in - Abatement, Education, or Law Enforcement.
- The next meeting is Thursday, September 11, 2014.

## 7. Old Business:

- a) Amendment to Administrative Code Section 5.170 adding three "at Large" seats to Graffiti Advisory Board (Jana Lord, seat 17 & Melorra Green, seat 5) – update and discussion
  - Melorra Green (seat 5) and Jana Lord (seat 17) are working on this item and neither one is present at today's meeting to provide an update so this item will be moved to the September 11th agenda.
- b) Letter to Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, and Dianne Feinstein regarding the United States Post Office mailbox graffiti (draft on hold) and meeting with San Francisco Postmaster Ms. Bobbi Riley - update and discussion
  - The letter will not be moving forward due to the fact that Larry Stringer (DPW) and Jimmer Cassiol (DPW) met with the San Francisco Acting Postmaster Bobbi Riley, and members of her staff, on August 1, 2013 to discuss the USPS timely response (or lack thereof) regarding graffiti on Post Office property
  - In the meeting, the Post Office claimed that their response time to reports of graffiti is 72 hours

- DPW show them cases that had not been abated even after 2 weeks from the initial report date
- The representatives at the post office stated that they were not sure where reports from 3-1-1, which are being uploaded to the USPS.com “customer complaint” web site (which generates an HQ Service request number) are being forwarded to.
- The process for service request coming into DPW from various sources regarding mailbox graffiti are being faxed to (415) 550-5270. Reports are showing that even these faxed requests are not being abated in a timely fashion, and definitely not within 72 hours
- The post office stated they will provide a localized maintenance request web link that we should be using. Once this new link is provided, DPW will do a six week pilot program using this new link and determining its effectiveness
- We will monitor closely the response time and for the pilot program over 6 weeks and regroup with the post office to determine next steps

## 8. Sub-committee Reports:

- **ABATEMENT:**

- Subcommittee Chair Eric Mersch reported:
- Jann has done some great work getting partners involved in the neighborhood abatement program
- We are still trying to connect with Jordan Kline at OEWD to assist in program outreach to neighborhood associations
- Talks about adding an enclosure included in the NOV's being mailed out which list resources available to them

- **LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

- Subcommittee Chair Martin Ferreira reported:
- Karen Catalona (SFDA) will see if she can provide the sampling of dispositions for 2013 arrest for Larry Stringer to bring to his meeting with the Judge
- June 2014 graffiti arrests was 13 total, 11 adults , 2 juveniles
- July 2014 graffiti arrest was 10 total, 9 adults 1 juvenile
- The new 3-1-1 system is moving along and now we will have estimated dollar amounts included in the vandalism photos
- Cases in court worth mentioning include:
  - suspect John “Jack” Nelson which was discussed earlier
  - A woman named Piper pleaded guilty and was convicted of felony vandalism. She has an opportunity to have the conviction reduced to a misdemeanor provided she stops getting arrested and she pay restitution to the victim, does community service and goes to a rehab

- **EDUCATION:**

- No report submitted this month

**9. New Business:**

- Jann Fitzgerald (seat 10) proposed starting discussion on 2016 graffiti conference/huddle - (discussion and possible action item)
  - Jan Fitzgerald is not in attendance at this meeting so this agenda item will be moved to the September 11, 2014 meeting agenda
- Leonid Nakhodkin (seat 2) suggest sending a letter to state's officials requesting repeal of Fiona Ma's graffiti law AB 1767
  - Research found that this legislation from 2008 was a pilot program that lasted through January 2012 and had not been renewed
  - This item will be removed from the agenda as no further discussion is required

**10. Adjournment:** The meeting was closed at 4:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next Graffiti Advisory Board meeting is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, September 11, 2014** at 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, in DPW's Department of Engineering Main Conference Room.

The three subcommittees will meet from 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (just prior to the full GAB meeting)