During my first two months at the Board of Supervisors, I’ve taken the lead on a wide range of issues including addressing Historic Preservation policy’s effects in other public policies, trying to increase the number of taxis on our streets, and improving the efficiency and the reliability of the J Church. As a member of both the Land Use and Budget Committees, I’m closely engaged with the critical issues confronting our city and District 8.

The first piece of legislation I brought to the Board is for a Good Samaritan Rental law that will help victims in our city’s next disaster. After the recent Castro fires, all of the displaced tenants found temporary housing, but our rent control laws made it difficult for local property owners to offer temporary, affordable housing to these victims.

As a response and in collaboration with both tenant and property owner groups, I introduced legislation to allow property owners to rent out units to tenants displaced by fires, earthquakes and other disasters at below market rates for a year or two without locking in long term rental rates. At the end of the temporary rental, the tenant can then move back into his or her repaired rental. Property owners who wish to help should be able to offer assistance without having to risk entering into a life-long rental. Next time we have an earthquake there could be many times the number of people in need of temporary housing as there were after the Castro fires. This legislation will help get a roof over their heads.

I’m proud to welcome Mollie Stone’s to the neighborhood in the old Delano’s space on 18th Street. Mollie Stone’s is a thriving, family-owned business, and I’m happy that they’ve chosen to open in our neighborhood.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Castro/EVNA Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 23rd. Bring your ideas and questions.

For those who cannot make the meeting, here are a few other important dates where you can get involved:

--J Church Hearings: On March 28 at 4:00pm in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, the City Operations & Neighborhood Services Committee will have a hearing with MTA to discuss the inadequacies of the J Church Line and what can be done to make it run better. Please attend to speak out about your opinions on this issue.

--Office Hours: My next open office hours will be Friday, April 1st from 10am-12pm in my office at Room 274 in City Hall, and Saturday, April 2nd from 10am-12pm at Caffe Bello at 2885 Diamond Street in Glen Park. All are welcome.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Supervisor. If you have any questions or concern about issues I’ve mentioned or generally, please contact me at 554-0696 or scott.wiener@sfgov.org.
HOT TOPICS:
Welcome Mollie Stone’s - a wonderful addition in the old Cala space. See page 1
Central Subway - A Visionary Plan or a Wasteful Boondoggle? See page 1

Congratulations Cliff’s! - On Saturday June 4, Cliff’s Variety will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. The store was started in 1936 and has been on Castro Street the entire time. Many festivities are planned over the coming months: 75th anniversary T-shirt Design contest in March; A Project Runway-themed event in May; June will be their big celebration and a kick off to Pride. Demonstrating their on-going commitment to the neighborhood, they are planning to have festivities benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy and the Rainbow Honor Walk.

Trader Joe’s - On March 7, Trader Joe’s informed Supervisor Wiener that they were withdrawing their plans to open in the Tower Records site. The news was disappointing to me and many others. Hundreds of hours were spent by our sister organization, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, to boil down the facts and details of the project. When concerns about the impacts of the project were raised, and suggestions made to ensure that this TJ’s was reflective of the neighborhood, TJs rebuffed those overtures. Trader Joe’s wanted to force their, suburban, car-centric model onto our urban village without compromise, refusing to adapt their FORMULA to our community and what is best for the entire neighborhood. It was their decision not to work with the neighborhood. That is regrettable, but it was their right.

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Neighborhood Updates:
• Castro Farmers’ Market returns Wednesday, March 16, 4:00-8:00pm, Market & Noe
• Bay Area Reporter 40 year anniversary, April 7
• Good Morning America taping with Britney Spears, Castro Theatre, March 27 at Noon

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By Rob Cox

It’s been a long and sometimes frustrating process but finally the parking lot behind the Castro Theater is closed from 1am - 7am daily.

For over two years the parking lot has been an after hours party spot for revelers and sometimes gang activity. Clusters of screaming, arguing and often drunken roaring is not uncommon any night of the week.

Hartford Street neighbors worked with Castro CBD, Castro After Dark, SFPD, SFMTA and Supervisor Wiener to have the lot closed. Gates prevent access in and out of the lot during the hours of closure. SFPD or Patrol Special will sweep the lot to insure no one is locked in. Clear signs are posted and vehicles left will be ticketed but not towed.

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Neighborhood Newsletter
The neighborhood association for the Castro, Upper Market and all of Eureka Valley since 1878

EVNA
PO Box 14137
San Francisco, CA 94114
Address service requested
www.evna.org

Renew your membership today at evna.org/join
Membership is valid annually April 15 to April 14

Getting Involved
President’s Column
Alain Beach-Nelson

March 23 Town Hall with Supervisor Scott Wiener
Join us at Castro/EVNA’s bimonthly membership meeting featuring Scott Wiener who will inform us of his vision for the neighborhood and a Q & A with our new supervisor.

EUREKA!
published six times a year by Castro/ Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association
2011 Membership Meetings
7:00-8:30pm, Castro Community Room
501 Castro (above B of A)
January 26, March 23, May 25, July 27, September 28, November 9
2011 BOARD
Email the entire board: board@evna.org
President
Alain Beach-Nelson, Castro Street
alan.beach@evna.org • 415/431.5152
Secretary
Rob Cox, Hartford Street
Treasurer
Steve Clark Hall, 19th Street
Directors
Tim Elcho, Q Bar
Judy Huyem, 17th Street
Dennis Richards, Baker Street
Aaron Selverson, Hartford Street
Gary Weiss, WKA

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