

## **Mayor Newsom's Office of Housing's Project to Convert the Edward II Inn to Transitional Aged Youth Housing, Stands Ready to Fail Both Young Adults and the Marina-Cow Hollow Neighborhood.**

Mayor Newsom's Office of Housing is proposing to place housing for transitional age youth (TAY) or young adults ages 18 to 24, in the Edward II Inn located on Scott Street. This project will be owned and managed by the Community Housing Partnership. Residents of the Marina and Cow Hollow are concerned about a program that may unsuspectingly change the neighborhood for the worse. This does not mean that neighbors would not welcome housing for formerly homeless youth that is well planned, conforms to current laws, economically practical and employs responsible management controls. The Mayor's proposal, however, fails in all of these areas.

The Community Housing Partnership has tried to convince the public that this proposal is just like the Arendt House, a new 40-unit senior residence on Broderick Street that CHP manages. The TAY facility proposed for the Edward II Inn is a much different animal than senior housing. As anyone who has raised kids knows, these are young men and women trying out their new adulthood. These 24 young adult tenants and overnight guests will need the sure guidance of several experienced adults to help them navigate through this difficult period, not just a desk person in the lobby as proposed at the Edward II.

What is critically lacking at the proposed Edward II, is the necessary level of supervision that youths this age require, particularly in the evening after work or school and late at night when trouble tends to arise. Housing older adults, seniors, or families together with these young adults would be one way to provide this guidance. Also lacking, is any significant indoor or outdoor recreation or relaxation space. These tenants will have nowhere to go. At the Arendt House, senior residents have these areas and the zoning law governing the Edward II requires it. So why doesn't the Mayor's Office of Housing want it for young adults at the Edward II? This may mean that the only outdoor place to go is the sidewalk in front of the Edward II, and ten young adults loitering on a sidewalk tend to develop the wrong traits.

This lack of supervision during the day and particularly at night is especially evident at 864 Ellis Street, a very similar facility for 24 young adults, managed by LSYS. During the first 21 days of June, 2010, 284 police calls were made to a one-block area around this address. The facility has raised the level of crime, noise and police calls for the neighborhood, exponentially. Neighbors will tell you that this youth facility, unlike the Arendt House, is not a good neighbor and they lament the day that it was opened.

The housing model that CHP and LSYS are using – placing two or three dozen young adults together in an under-managed and under-supervised apartment – is the cause of a problem which Marina-Cow Hollow residents want to avoid. Where the model has been changed to include seniors and families with the young adults (at other LSYS locations) the results have been much better for both the neighborhood and for the youth that is being served.

Rather than trying to jam twice the legal number of young adults into an out of date motel structure to provide the sponsor (CHP) with development fees of almost \$700,000 dollars, the neighborhood would like to see a more responsible approach from the Mayor's Office of Housing – a plan that will irrefutably counter the shortcomings of 864 Ellis Street. This would also be a project that does not evade American Disability Act requirements nor existing zoning regulations, and moves closer to making better financial sense.

San Francisco already has a good example of a project designed to fail the youth it was supposed to serve at 864 Ellis Street – the residents of the Marina and Cow Hollow do not want another example damaging their own neighborhood.

Respectfully,

Geoff Wood  
Cow Hollow Association Board Member  
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