

Howard and Pam Squires
Realty Equities, Inc.
2436 Greenwich St. #5
San Francisco, Ca 94123
Reisfca@earthlink.net
Mobile 415/233-2812

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Mayor Gavin Newsom
City of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, Ca 94102

RE: Request for Public Meeting at a Time Convenient to Neighbors and Merchants Prior to Decision to Purchase the Edward II Inn, 3155 Scott St. at Lombard for Conversion to Transitional Age Youth Housing.

Dear Mayor Newsom:

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to postpone the decision to purchase the above noted property scheduled for MOH Loan Committee Meeting on April 23 at 11:00am. One South Van Ness, 5th Floor.

To my knowledge, **no community outreach** has been done by either the Mayor's Office of Housing or Community Housing Partnership. I spoke with Gail Gilman, Executive Director of CHP and was informed that the plan was to purchase the property first and then do the community outreach. The proposed purchase was leaked to the neighborhood via flyers by a well known community activist. I am appalled that such a material change to a neighborhood would be contemplated without a single neighborhood meeting.

The building has historic importance at the gateway into San Francisco from the Golden Gate Bridge. This vintage (1913) building, along with the Palace of Fine Arts, forms the first impressions to tourists and visitors of San Francisco. With all of the new and proposed development in the area, the Presidio and the Lucas Center, I am amazed that more consideration has not been given to the dramatic effects this proposed intensification and change in use would bring to the area.

In these stressful economic times, for the City to be contemplating an investment of \$9.5 million in the Edward Inn for conversion to transitional age youth housing without community discussion is distressing. Many of the Marina Merchants are already struggling for their survival during this harsh economic recession. To me, this says that the City has decided it no longer needs the 14% room tax revenue it collects on an annual basis from the Edward II. Why is this so when the City is having its own economic crisis? Has the City decided that tourists are no longer important to San Francisco? Can the

Marina Merchants do without all the additional tourists that stay at the Edward Inn and eat in restaurants and make purchases in their shops? Does the City believe it can act outside of its own planning regulations and force a new special use zoning district on the neighbors without a single public meeting?

Our family business of three generations has owned businesses in the adjacent block of Lombard and Scott Streets for sixty-five years: the Presidio Inn; ART/S (the former Baker's Square Restaurant site, which currently is in the Planning Department for approval of twenty-one new condo units) and the newly completed twelve unit condo project at 3190 Scott. It took us four years to get the permitted project approved from the City without neighborhood opposition.

Our neighborhood has recently seen an increase in graffiti, vandalism and assault. Northern Station Police Department has been struggling for many years with the Bridge Motel (across the street) and finally is making progress according to Officer Gallagher. The proposed use in this area is not good for youth because of exposure to drugs, alcohol and other issues on Lombard Street. Give the neighborhood a chance to voice its concerns at a public meeting at a time and place convenient to our merchants and neighbors.

Attached are petitions in opposition to the proposed Transitional Age Youth Housing at the Edward II Inn and more will follow.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter to our neighborhood and to San Francisco.

Yours truly,

Howard and Pam Squires