



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

By Phil Faroudja

DISPATCH FROM CITY HALL: Much has been happening at City Hall of late, some of which may affect our area, so I thought I'd update you ... A proposal by Supervisor Mandelman called "A Place for All" would have put a roof over all unhoused individuals. This had strong support from groups seeking to help the homeless, but city officials protested the annual price tag of \$60,000 per person ... For years businesses have had to remove graffiti on their walls or face hefty fines. Considered burdensome, the city will no longer require this until the pandemic ends ... Recall zeal: the campaign to nullify the election of D.A. Chesa Boudin has picked up steam with 19,200 signatures, while the recall School Board drive has gathered 17,300 signatures (both require 51,325). Regarding the latter, a group called Better SF Public Schools proposes to change how Board officials get chosen. Instead of by election, they suggest an appointment system. This is actually how the SFUSD operated originally; for decades the Mayor selected the Board. Only in 1971 was it changed.

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UNION STREET BEAT: There are some fantastic deals at neighborhood stores. Dantone Boutique at 1784 Union, which sells apparel from Milan, has prices dramatically reduced. I was able to get dress shoes for \$175; normally those are \$400. Fenzi across the street has everything 50% off, including stylish blazers and shirts ... Nearby is new Mac and Cheese place "Total Meltdown" at 1830 Union. The cheese-themed menu also includes appetizers, grilled cheese sandwiches, and cheesecake. See www.totalmeltdowns.com ... Family-owned

Palm Acai Cafe has injected new life into the 1700 block of Union. Proprietors Chris and Ami tell me their fresh acai bowls and smoothies are popular after a workout, and with fitness studios soon opening to full capacity, business should pick up even more. I particularly enjoyed their tasty Tamalpais Bowl, with strawberries, blueberries, and almonds. No dyes or synthetic stuff there.

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"I would've returned to my home in Kansas but I'm from here!"

THAT'S SHOWBIZ: As you know, our city has handled the Covid crisis very well. Now, the S.F. Film Office reports that production of movies and TV has returned to 50% of pre-pandemic levels. A case in point is "Nash Bridges," in town filming a special for two weeks. Don Johnson and Cheech Marin need to photograph along Union Street for that charming commercial avenue vibe ... I also saw an ad being made in the financial district ... And that's a wrap for this issue, folks. See you!

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