



2022 Summer Quarterly Meeting

MINUTES

July 21, 2022

7:00-8:00 PM

Via Zoom

Host: Heather World

Agenda:

Vincent Yuen, Refuse Refuse

Benjamin Ibarra, SF Public Works

Jackie Prager, Legislative Aide for District 8 Supervisor Mandelman

Cecily Brewster, Assistant District Attorney

Note: Daniel Homsey, representing Neighborfest was scheduled to speak, but was unable to attend.

Vincent Yuen, Refuse Refuse

- A. Goal: Clean streets / Clean city
- B. Background: Vince started the organization after he and his daughters started picking up trash as a way of getting out of pandemic isolation. The resulting very clean streets motivated him to create a movement following a Japanese model that includes highly organized cleanups where people eventually just start cleaning up their own block. Yuen has organized cleanups all over the city, and refers to it as community building, 2 hours at a time.
- C. Glen Park and West Portal have both been very successful pockets with great results
- D. Regularly scheduled cleanups help create the habit of picking up trash. The more people see you, the more street cleaning becomes normalized. Tell your friends!
- E. Regular cleanups also build community (fighting “urban anonymity”) and are an easy gateway to civic involvement.
- F. Between 20 and 40 people have turned out for the recent Glen Park cleanups, attracting people who don’t even live in the neighborhood.



2022 Summer Quarterly Meeting

MINUTES

July 21, 2022

7:00-8:00 PM

- G. There are other cleanup efforts as well. In the Bayview there is a “trash drone” that flies over the area, spots dumped trash and reports it to 311. The closure rate for those calls has been close to 100 percent.

Benjamin Ibarra, SF Public Works Public Information Officer for Operations

Benjamin.Ibarra@sfdpw.org

(415) 641-2661

- A. The Operations department does community engagement at the street level.
- B. Ibarra’s coverage area includes Glen Park, the Mission, Upper Noe, Castro, Bernal Heights sections of Portola. He monitors the areas for cleanliness and quality of life issues, and educates business owners about things like cardboard disposal. He also investigates service requests.
- C. Best way for neighbors to get the city clean is to call 311 by phone or use the 311 phone app. The phone app is recommended because you can send a photo, and the complaint is filtered more quickly to the appropriate department. It also allows you to look up your request history.
- D. You can also contact Ibarra directly. His contact information is listed above.
- E. Public Works is a big agency, and includes the San Francisco Bureau of Urban Forestry. Note that trees on the sidewalks are now maintained by the city but tree basins are the responsibility of property owners.

Q&A

Q: If there are multiple requests to 311 about the same problem, does that problem get higher prioritization?

A: Not necessarily. It catches the eye but the duplicates are deleted.



2022 Summer Quarterly Meeting

MINUTES

July 21, 2022

7:00-8:00 PM

Q: How can we advocate for more trash cans?

A: He can mention it to PW Special Projects. Some people feel that trash can placement means trash shows up there, so some neighbors oppose trash cans.

Q: Is weekly street cleaning back?

A: It is in varying degrees.

Q: How often are city trash cans emptied?

A: Ibarra states that he doesn't know the schedule, but cans are dumped by Recology, then Public Works cleans trash around the cans.

Jackie Prager, Legislative Aide for District 8 Supervisor Mandelman (she/her)

Jackie.Prager@sfgov.org

- A. If you contact 311, please retain the case number. This makes it much easier for both Public Works and the Supervisor's office to investigate.
- B. Jackie will also reach out to Recology to find out how often the cans are emptied. She reiterated that trash can installation tends to be one of the more heated topics among neighbors.
- C. There is a San Francisco trial trash can at Chenery and Diamond. Give feedback to PW (or use QR code on can) and, if desired, to Supervisor Mandelman via Jackie:
Jackie.Prager@sfgov.org

Cecily Brewster, Assistant District Attorney / Community Liaison Manager

Cecily.Brewster@sfgov.org

- A. Introduction: ADA Brewster has 22 years of experience, working under DA Terrance Hallinan and Vice President Kamala Harris when she was our DA. She then joined the foreign service, did private practice, and then returned to the DA's office. She has



2022 Summer Quarterly Meeting

MINUTES

July 21, 2022

7:00-8:00 PM

prosecuted a full range of crimes, including a long stint in the domestic violence unit. She now oversees the office's community engagement activities across the city.

- B. She sees lots of positive energy in the new DA's office. The new DA wants to get out into the community, so look for future neighborhood town halls with a few gathered neighborhood groups
- C. She can look up local cases if you want an update: Cecily.Brewster@sfgov.org

Q&A

Q: We have people who appear aggressive and mentally unstable in the neighborhood. What should we do if we see them?

A: If you see someone who is in distress or causing distress or if you feel unsafe, call 911, especially if there's an individual who is violent. The 911 operators are trained to take information and dispatch the right responders: police, EMTs, mental health services. If there's a case that involves assault/violent behavior in a particular location, our DAs can ask for a stay-away order. If a person violates that order, the police can arrest them for that reason.

Q: What about mental health services?

A: The DA's office tries to work with agencies around the city to get services for people. For example, there are people who continually violate stay-away orders because of mental health issues. If the DA's office charges it (misdemeanor) then it goes to court and the court can order someone into mental health treatment.

Ultimately, if you feel unsafe, call 911

Q: What is the difference between the City Attorney and the District Attorney?

A: The City Attorney handles civil matters. The District Attorney handles all criminal matters.



2022 Summer Quarterly Meeting

MINUTES

July 21, 2022

7:00-8:00 PM