

January 31, 2022

Supervisor Dean Preston

Re: Support for Proxy lease extension and community engagement on Parcels K & L

Supervisor Preston,

Thank you for meeting with me and Lloyd Silverstein from Hayes Valley Merchants Association to discuss the future of Proxy, Parcels K and L.

The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association strongly supports renewal of the Proxy lease. Proxy supports nine small businesses in Hayes Valley. Activation of this space during the pandemic has been immensely helpful to the economic recovery of the entire Hayes Valley merchant corridor. It has also served as an essential open space for the residents of the neighborhood during the pandemic. Renewing the lease will allow the small businesses to make a three year business plan rather than wondering if they will be able to keep their business here month to month. It will also allow for some minor but necessary improvements on the lot while long term options are explored.

We also support exploring BMR housing on a portion of this lot, exploring BMR capacity at other nearby lots to support more affordable housing in the neighborhood, or a combination of the two. It will be critical to involve the community in ideas about how to bring more BMR housing to the neighborhood while also maintaining crucial open space.

We specifically do not want to see a proposal for a block building that is built from lot line to lot line, removing any open space on these parcels. It would cast a shadow on Patricia's Green, creating a tunnel effect rather than an open park, and eliminate what has become an open central gathering space for the neighborhood. Patricia's Green is already one of the most highly used parks in the city with activity spilling into the adjoining Parcels K & L. If the open space surrounding it were completely eliminated, it would overwhelm the park.

Hayes Valley is also part of the Market Octavia plan and is preparing to absorb thousands of new residents when the residential towers open. New HUB residents will come to Patricia's Green in the next few years looking for open space. This will put even more pressure on the area than we have now—making it even more critical to maintain adequate open areas for public gathering.

We believe that we can both maintain precious open space in our neighborhood and welcome affordable housing here if we are creative and collaborative with your office and the city through the process.

Please support renewal of the Proxy lease at the earliest opportunity. HVNA and the community look forward to working with you to determine the future plans for these parcels.

Thank you,

Jennifer Laska, President
The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association

cc: Kate Sofis, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Theodore Conrad, Project Manager, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Andrico Penick, Director, Real Estate Division
Lloyd Silvertein, President, Hayes Valley Merchants Association