

San Francisco Arts Commission

MEMORANDUM

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Date: May 23, 2017

Tom DeCaigny
Director of Cultural Affairs

From: Anne Trickey, Market Manager

401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325
San Francisco, CA 94102

To: Howard Lazar, Street Artists Program Director

SFAC Galleries
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 126
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Charges of Serious Violations of Street Artist Ordinance

Street Artists Licensing
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 124B
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Director Lazar:

tel 415-252-2100
fax 415-934-1022
sfartscommission.org
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On Saturday, May 20, 2017, I was at Justin Herman Plaza a little before 9am to check on the marketplace and touch base with Katie Carrin, the manager on-site for the artists. After I did an initial walk-through of the market and was discussing program issues with Ms. Carrin, she received a text message from Jessica Harrigfeld stating Jeffery Potter had just slapped her on the behind and that she was upset.



City and County of San Francisco

Around 9:30am, I went over to Ms. Harrigfeld's booth to check in with her. She related that Mr. Potter and herself had been exiting Philz coffee at the same time. This was the entrance to Philz closest to Ms. Harrigfeld's booth and Justin Herman Plaza where Mr. Potter was set up. In an awkward moment where each was trying to walk through the door and back out to their booths, Ms. Harrigfeld said, "ladies first" and walked through the door. As she walked through in front of him, Mr. Potter hit her forcefully on the rear. She stated that he had been very aggressive, and he walked away from her without turning around or apologizing as she said no multiple times. I asked her if she wanted me to say something to him and she said yes.

I had Ms. Carrin point out Mr. Potter's booth to me. I walked up to him and asked him if he had hit Ms. Harrigfeld. He told me, yes, and that it was in jest. I told her she was upset and that touching a person without consent was assault and constituted a Serious Violation of the Street Artists Ordinance, which meant he would need to meet with the Director of the Program. Mr. Potter asked if he could go apologize, and

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I said he could try, but if someone had assaulted me I would not want to talk to them.

At this point he began to use inappropriate language in his response to me. He told me he would not meet with the Director of the Program and I told him that was grounds to have his license revoked. He told me to do what I think needed to be done and I told him that I work for the government and am required to follow our set procedure. At this point he was swearing at me telling me to get away from his booth, so I told him I would leave, that he would receive an invitation to meet with the Director, and to have a nice day.

I would like to recommend that we move forward with the procedure for a "Serious Violation of the Street Artist Ordinance," which includes violations of a violent or threatening nature. I am recommending this course of action since Mr. Potter not only admitted to hitting Ms. Harrigfeld, but also that hitting a woman on the rear without consent was "just a joke." It is imperative that we maintain a safe space for artists at our market place. One that is free of casual sexual assault.

"Charges of Serious Violations of Street Artist Ordinance -- includes violations of a violent or threatening nature and violations that significantly threaten integrity of Street Artists Program.

First Verifiable Violation

: "NOTICE OF WITHHOLDING OF CERTIFICATE OR RENEWAL PENDING HEARING"(from Program Director and Director of Cultural Affairs.) The Program Director receives a complaint of a serious violation as defined above. If the complaint is supported by evidence and/or a Police report or Art Commission staff report, the Program Director and Director of Cultural Affairs send the artist a "NOTICE OF WITHHOLDING OF CERTIFICATE OR RENEWAL PENDING HEARING" in forming the artist of the complaint and that his or her certificate will not be renewed pending a decision by the Program Committee. (In lieu of the foregoing, the Program Director has the option to simply submit the complaint for a Program Committee hearing to consider suspending or revoking the certificate.)"

Sincerely,

Anne Trickey
Market Manager

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