City and County of San Francisco



Edwin M. Lee Mayor

Board of Appeals

Cynthia G. Goldstein Executive Director

July 31, 2014

Joerg Schumann & Sara Roberts, Permit Holders 321 Duncan Street San Francisco, CA 94131

Re: JURISDICTION REQUEST

Subject Property: 587 - 29th Street
Application No(s): 2013/11/22/2698"S"

Type(s) of Action: ISSUANCE of Alteration Permit

Dear Permit Holder(s):

The Board of Appeals has received the enclosed letter requesting that it take jurisdiction beyond the fifteen (15)-day appeal period for the matter(s) referenced above. This **JURISDICTION REQUEST** has been scheduled for consideration on **Aug. 20, 2014**, at City Hall, Room 416, at 5:00 pm, One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place.

Please note that the filing of a Jurisdiction Request <u>DOES NOT</u> suspend work on the subject permit(s). However, if the Board grants the Jurisdiction Request on the above – referenced date of consideration (4 out of 5 votes required), <u>a new five (5) - day appeal period shall be created which ends on the following Monday</u>, and the subject permit(s) shall then be suspended upon the filing of a formal appeal, and until the Board of Appeals decides the matter and releases a notice of decision and order.

Pursuant to Article V, § 10 of the Board Rules, the RESPONSE to the written request for jurisdiction must be submitted by the permit/variance/determination holder(s) or Department no later than 10 days from the date of filing, on or before Aug. 11, 2014, and must not exceed six (6) pages in length, double-spaced, with unlimited exhibits. An original and 10 copies shall be submitted to the Board office by 4:30pm, with additional copies delivered to the opposing parties the same day. It is the general practice of the Board that only up to three (3) minutes of testimony for each party will be allowed. If you have any questions, please call (415) 575-6880.

Sincerely,

BOARD STAFF

cc: Dept. of Building Inspection, Planning Dept. (if applicable), & Requestor(s) w/o enclosures

Yochai & Orna Konig, Requestors 2312 Castro Street San Francisco, CA 94131

Phone: 415-575-6880 Fax: 415-575-6885



City & County of San Francisco **BOARD OF APPEALS**

Date of request: July 31, 2014.

Date Filed:

BOARD OF APPEALS

JUL 3 1 2014

JURISDICTION REQUEST

Yochai & Orna Konig, (requestor(s)) hereby seeks a new appeal period for the following departmental action: ISSUANCE of Alteration Permit BPA NO. 2013/11/22/2698"S" by Department of Building Inspection, issued to: Joerg Schumann & Sara Roberts, for property at 587 - 29 th Street, that was issued or became effective on May 28, 2014, and for which the appeal period ended at close of business on June 12, 2014.

Your Jurisdiction Request will be considered by the Board of Appeals on Wednesday. August 20, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 416, One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place.

Pursuant to Article V, § 10 of the Board Rules, the RESPONSE to the written request for jurisdiction must be submitted by the permit, variance, or determination holder(s) and/or department(s) no later than 10 days from the date of filing, on or before August 11, 2014, and must not exceed 6 pages in length (double-spaced), with unlimited exhibits. An original and 10 copies shall be submitted to the Board office with additional copies delivered to the opposing parties the same day.

You or your representative MUST be present at the hearing. It is the general practice of the Board that only up to three minutes of testimony from the requestor, the permit holder, and the department(s) will be allowed. Your testimony should focus on the reason(s) you did not file on time, and why the Board should allow a late filing in your situation.

Based upon the evidence submitted and the testimony, the Board will make a decision to either grant or deny your Jurisdiction Request. Four votes are necessary to grant jurisdiction. If your request is denied, an appeal may not be filed and the decision of the department(s) is final. If your request is granted. a new five (5) day appeal period shall be created which ends on the following Monday, and an appeal may be filed during this time.

Signature of Requestor

1650 Mission Street, Suite 304 • San Francisco, CA 94103 Phone: 415-575-6880 • Fax: 415-575-6885 • Email: boardofappeals@sfgov.org www.sfgov.org/boa

Jurisdiction Request Statement / Residential Permit / 587 29th Street

BOARD OF APPEALS
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JUL 3 1 2014

We have owned our home at 2312 Castro Street in Noe Valley since 2004. We are filing a Jurisdiction Request because we are concerned about a residential building renovation (project) just east of our home, which would directly impact the line of sight from our front room window heading east toward the bay. We also believe that the project may not comply with San Francisco's Design Review Guidelines regarding buildings in mid-blocks and related rear yard open space.

We believe the City inadvertently caused us to be late in filing our appeal because the City did not require the project applicants to provide us with notice.

The project applicants (at 587 29th Street) received their site permit on May 28, 2014. Although our home is located less than 150 feet from the project, we did not receive a notice. We later learned that the City did not require the project applicants to notify us because our address is not in the same Assessor's Block as the project. Yet, our property and our day–to–day experience will be impacted by the project as much or more than the residents who received notifications. For example, the applicants were required to notify residents across the street from the project who will not be able to view a proposed rear addition. Yet, as neighbors west of and south of the project, we will see the addition from our front window given the exposed nature of their rear yard, and the entire mid block to the west. In essence, given the fact that their "green belt" is not 'framed' from west by any houses, we share the same "green belt" with the project (See attached 3 images that demonstrate this).

Because we did not receive a notice, we were not aware of the project until recently and were not able to review plans or approach the applicants about possible alternatives before they received their site permit. When we learned about the project

and contacted the applicants, they said they would not consider alternatives to their existing plans.

The central goal of the project is to raise a two story residence in order to accommodate a new garage. As part of raising the building, the applicants are proposing a three story addition at the rear of the existing structure that will increase the height of the building and extend it into the backyard open space by over 25 additional feet. This extension would also include a rooftop deck that will be directly in our line of sight and will impact the open space in the rear, which serves as "green belt" of sorts for our neighborhood. We believe that the project's proposed top floor addition and deck should be set back so that it does not impair the rear yard midblock open space and be more compatible with the rest of the block. We believe that this could be done with small modifications to the project's plans and without disturbing the architectural or structural intent of the proposed renovation.

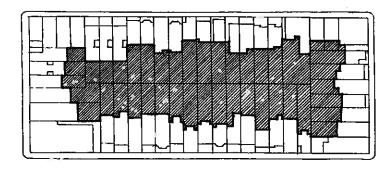
To reiterate, we ask for the opportunity to be part of the process and to formally voice our concern about this building project. Please grant our Jurisdiction Request.

Sincerely,

Yochai & Orna Konig

1.415.643.3986

Block with a strong mid-block open space pattern.



The above picture is taken from the SF's 'Guidelines for Residential Design' document to relate to the image below.



Above: Satellite view (Google Maps) shows the relation of our house (Arrow #1) on 2312 Castro street to the green belt created in the block east from us.

Arrow #2 points to the proposed project on 587 29th street, which will extend by more than 25 feet into the back yard and into our direct view.



Above: The view from our front window. The arrow points to the house which is planned to be raised into a three level building and be extended by over 25 feet into the back yard.

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28 may 2014

Permit Holder's Response to Jurisdiction Request (Permit 2013/11/22/2698)

Dear Members of the Board of Appeals.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond in detail to the jurisdiction request filed by Yochai & Orna Konig (2312 Castro Street) on 7/31/14 against Site Permit 2013/11/22/2698"S" related to our home at 587 29th Street. We have openly engaged with the requester prior to the filing of the jurisdiction request - via multiple phone calls, emails, and a meeting at their home on 6/21/14. Please refer to Appendix 1 containing our email communication with the requester. Similarly to the requesters, my wife and I have lived in Noe Valley for the past 9 years.

The Konig's have raised several issues:

1. Our project would "directly impact the line of sight from (their) front living room."

- The requester stated multiple times over the phone and in person that they do not want their view of the Bay to be impacted <u>and</u> that they understand that views are not protected. Please note that in all of our correspondence and our meeting, the requester never raised any other concerns other than the preservation of their views. All other issues were developed solely for their Jurisdiction Request.
- Not only are their distant views not protected in the City, but as shown in Appendix
 2, the impact of our project to the requester's existing views over Noe Valley is miniscule. They have only filed this procedure because they feel entitled to protect a sliver of Bay view between a tree branch and our roof.

2. Our project would "not comply with San Francisco's Design Review Guidelines

Permit Holder's Response to Jurisdiction Request (Permit 2013/11/22/2698)

regarding buildings in mid-block and related rear yard open space."

- Our project has been thoroughly vetted to meet all aspects of the Residential
 Design Guidelines, the Residential Design Team (RDT) review process, and our
 adjacent neighbor's concerns.
- To argue that this project does not meet the Residential Design Guidelines simply
 flies in the face of reality. Not only is it far below what Zoning would allow for the
 site, but also it is a direct reflection of the requirements placed on us by the RDT,
 the governmental body charged with interpreting all aspects of these guidelines.
- The claim that the requester's access to the mid-block open space (referred to as
 'green belt' in the jurisdiction request) will be affected by the project is equally
 frivolous. The requester's house is two streets across from our block as Castro
 Street and Day Street run virtually parallel at this block.
 - The concept of the visibility into the 'Mid-block Open Space' applies to one's own block and doesn't ensure visibility into open space of neighboring blocks.
 - Even so, the project does not affect their ability to look into the open space of the block across from their living room window. (Please refer to Appendix 2 clearly showing that their view of the 'open or green space' is unobstructed by the project.)
 - In fact, the dense trees in front of the requester's windows (between Day and Castro street) and not the project obstruct virtually all visibility the requester has into the open space (or 'green belt') of the block opposite to theirs.

Permit Holder's Response to Jurisdiction Request (Permit 2013/11/22/2698)

The requester's statement that we are extending our building 'into the backyard open space over 25 additional feet' is incorrect. We are extending our building by 21 feet and are still complying with the 'basic rear yard requirement of 45%'.

We have gone through great lengths to accommodate neighbor concerns at every stage of our project. In fact, we have the support of our neighbors not only because we are ensuring that the house stays within the context of the block and the neighborhood but also because we are staying well within the allowable building height of 40 feet - we'll be at approx. 27 feet. Please refer to Appendix 3.

- 3. The requester argues that they deserve to have received notification of the project from the Planning Department because they can look into our backyard open space.
 - Please note that the requestor is NOT claiming that there was any procedural issue with our permit review or notification process, only that they wished that the City's rules were written differently.
 - We believe that the requestor has not been able to show that 'the City intentionally
 or inadvertently caused the requester to be late in filing of the appeal'.

We are respectfully asking the board to deny the jurisdiction request. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to state our point of view.

Joerg Schumann + Sara Roberts 587 29th Street, SF, CA 94131