

7 February 2009

Henry Karnilowicz
Occidental Express

Dear Henry:

I work out of town during the week and therefore will be unable to attend the outreach meeting on Discretionary Review on Tuesday, 10 February 2009 at 1650 Mission Street. Please read this letter on my behalf for the public record.

My wife and I own a small single-family home near Duboce Park on 14th Street, and previously lived on the same block for many years prior to purchase of our current home. Our neighborhood is beautiful in every respect, except that one or two obnoxious owners have made life miserable for dozens of friendly owners on our block. One couple became so frustrated with frivolous DR objections a few years ago that they abandoned renovation plans, sold their condo, and moved away. The "successful" (read: frivolous) DR obstructionist was encouraged by stymieing this legitimate renovation project and has subsequently threatened and intimidated remaining neighbors who are now reluctant to proceed with legitimate improvement projects. A cooperative neighborhood is essentially held hostage by one "bad apple." Although no doubt created with the best of intentions, the current DR framework permits a few mean-spirited people to erect roadblocks against valid home improvements. Indeed, my wife and I have postponed a permit application pending the outcome of the DR reform proposal currently under discussion. We cannot afford to waste tens of thousands of dollars (not to mention time and frustration) fighting frivolous objections by a solitary, irrational obstructionist who has no support from other neighbors.

San Francisco is already feeling the sting of national economic contraction. Aside from fairness issues, DR reform would significantly reduce nuisance delays and discouragement of lawful improvements of importance for the esthetic and economic vitality of San Francisco. With the home restoration industry in recession already, this is a particularly appropriate moment to streamline the DR process and thereby encourage citizens to improve properties in a proper and legal manner. This proposal will increase employment and business income and enhance local tax receipts in the process. Please support the DR reform process as proposed.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis O. Flynn