

Discretionary Review

Bret Harte Terrace-Francisco Street Neighborhood Association



25 January 2009

Ms. Lisa Chau
Department of City Planning
1650 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Ms. Chau:

If you have ever attend Discretionary Review hearings before the Planning Commission and before the Board of Appeals, you may very well have concluded some are very worthy projects and should have been granted the discretionary review process and some should not have been granted.

Thus to reduced the number of discretionary review projects coming before the Planning Commission, a screening process should be instituted. A rigorous "pre-application" would reduce the number of discretionary reviews going before the Planning Commission. This was proposed at an earlier time but was not given a chance. I believed some criteria were already developed. This proposal is far superior to the appointment of a "*Czar*" who could be influenced. To place this much power in one person, who is supposed to be wise and possess so much wisdom would be perceived as taking away a basis right of the people. There is a difference between one person hearing the case and seven commissioners.

You have to give the Pre-App process a chance. Try it out for two or three years, and if works, you will not have to do battle reform the if the DR process.

Sincerely Yourss,

James A. Lew