



San Francisco SRO Task Force

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Members:

Rosemary Bosque, J.D.
Department of Building
Inspection- Chair

Bruce Burge
SRO Operator

Angela Chu
Chinatown SRO Collaborative

Vacant
Tenant Representative

Vacant
Non-profit SRO
Operator/Manager

Vacant
SRO Families United
Collaborative

Yvonne Mere, J.D.
City Attorney's Office

Johnson Ojo
DPH Environmental Health
Services

Sam Patel
SRO Operator

Charles Siron
Tenant Representative

Wolfgang Stuwe
DPH Housing & Urban Health

Pratibha Tekkey
Central City SRO
Collaborative

Joshua Vining
Mission SRO Collaborative

Scott Walton
Human Services Agency

SRO HOTEL HEALTH AND SAFETY TASKFORCE

Meeting Minutes November 21, 2013

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
1650 Mission Street, Room 431

Members Present: Rosemary Bosque (DBI); Bruce Burge;(SRO Operator); Angela Chu (Chinatown SRO Collaborative); Yvonne Mere, (City Attorney); Dr. Johnson Ojo (DPH); Sam Patel (SRO Operator); Wolfgang Stuwe, Environmental Health (DPH); Scott Walton (HSA); Josh Vining (Mission SRO Collaborative); Scott Walton (HSA).

Excused: Pratibha Tekkey (Central City SRO Collaborative);

Unexcused: Charles Siron (Tenant Representative);

Guests: Johanna Coble (DBI); Thomas Picarello (SRO Tenant); and Charles Pitts (SRO Tenant).

Minutes: Theresa Muehlbauer (DBI-HIS)

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Rosemary Bosque at 9:13

2. Roll call / Determination of Quorum

There is a Quorum.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2013 and October 17, 2013

Rosemary Bosque mentioned that the October 17, 2013 meeting minutes will be ready after some fact checking is completed.

Rosemary Bosque asked for comments on the July 18, 2013 Minutes.

Josh Vining said that the comments attributed to him for the July 18, 2014 meeting were in error since he had an excused absence that day.

Wolfgang Stuwe mentioned that his comment on Page 2, Section 5 was incorrect and should be removed from the record.

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Rosemary Bosque asked if there were any other recommendations.

Public Comment on Agenda Item #3.

There was no Public Comment on Agenda Item #3.

Scott Walton moved to approve the minutes

Wolfgang Stuwe seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Administrative Announcements

Rosemary Bosque stated that in the next few weeks DBI will be in the process of putting all the Task Force agendas and minutes on the DBI website.

Rosemary Bosque asked if there were any other announcements from the membership.

Public Comment on agenda item #4.

There was no public comment on Agenda Item #4.

5. Removal of Task Force Member (Charles Siron) Under Article II, Sections 3 & 8 of the SRO Task Force Bylaws
(Discussion and Possible Action)

Rosemary Bosque stated that she and Bernedette Perez have been trying to reach Charles Siron regarding his absences from Task Force meetings. She explained that the Task Force could not have taken action on this matter until now due to lack of quorum. She commented that the bylaws state that for a member to be removed from the Task Force, the chair must recommend such action and the member must be sent a letter informing them of dismissal. The Task Force must also vote on it at a publicly noticed meeting.

Rosemary Bosque indicated that all these conditions had been met and that she was recommending Mr. Siron's removal for lack of attendance.

Rosemary Bosque asked if there was any discussion from the Members.

There was no discussion from the members.

Public Comment on Agenda Item #5.

Thomas Picarello stated that he supported this recommendation. He further mentioned that tenant representation is low on the Task Force and in many cases the SRO tenants interests are divergent from SRO collaborative members on this Task Force. He strongly recommended that the Task Force dismiss Charles Siron and that the Task Force fill the two vacancies for the SRO tenant representative positions.

Charles Pitts commented that he was in favor of removal as well. He said there are lots of issues the tenants are suffering at SROs. He indicated that the Task Force needed someone who will regularly attend meetings and represent the tenants with empathy regarding the issues that concern them.

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There was no other Public Comment on Agenda Item #5

The motion to remove Mr. Siron was made and seconded, and passed unanimously.

Rosemary mentioned that if anyone has any questions about applying for any of the Task Force vacancies to please let her and the staff know so she could assist in getting these filled as soon as possible. The application is online.

6. Identification of Safety Issues in SRO's. Officer Steven Keith of Mission Station will speak to the Task Force regarding his observations on this topic.

Rosemary Bosque thanked Officer Keith for attending the SRO Task Force. He spoke on safety issues and his observations regarding SRO's in the Mission.

Officer Keith indicated that he walked a beat at lower 24th street for about eight and a half years, and that he is currently assigned to code enforcement.

Officer Keith explained his participation in the City Attorney's Code Enforcement Task Force inspections. He also indicated that he had compiled an informal study regarding calls for service in SROs proximate to Sixteenth and Mission. He compared the number of guest rooms and the overall size of the SRO to the amount and frequency of SFPD calls for service, and identified those with a greater saturation.

Officer Keith mentioned factors considered included the size of the hotel, how the SRO was managed, what visitors frequented the SRO, and the geographic location. He indicated that good hotel management goes a long way in preventing crimes that effect building safety.

He described that during his SRO visits he has observed loaded syringes, used condoms, narcotic and drug paraphernalia, mattresses, and other things clutter the hallways that impeded egress.

Officer Keith said that SROs are sometimes used by individuals who want to fly under the radar and who do not want their identity known, and that sometimes crews of individuals can situate themselves in a SRO and victimize others.

He mentioned Section 9.19 of the SF Administrative code requiring operators of hotels to keep a register of guests. He also commented on the various types and forms of hotel records that he observed on his visits suggesting that a uniformity in locally required and business records be more uniform.

Wolfgang Stuwe asked for clarification on regarding Section 9.19.

Officer Keith said he was referring to the administrative code

Rosemary Bosque asked if there were any other questions.

Josh Vining asked what Officer Keith thought about the Uniform Visitor's Policy, specifically when it is appropriate to contact the police regarding this policy.

Officer Keith said for the length of time he has been in the position he has never had anyone contact the police for this issue.

Josh Vining questioned the amount of visitor fees collected in the Mission and across the board. He was asking about effective enforcement of the Policy since the tenant experience is confused regarding whom to contact SFPD or the Rent Board of resolution.

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Officer Keith said he understood the difficulties, complicated by the mixture of residential and tourist units in most SROs.

Public Comment on Agenda Item #6.

Thomas Picarello thanked Officer Keith for his comments. He asked if the Officer issued citations or made referrals to the appropriate city agencies.

Officer Keith said he referred cases to the appropriate City agencies.

Thomas Picarello asked how he gains access to an SRO without a warrant. Is a complaint probable cause?

Officer Keith said he visits common areas and requests entry and that he did not go into guest rooms during these visits. Entrance into rooms happens with a warrant.

Thomas Picarello asked what where the recommendations for enforcement of these numerous violations he documented.

Officer Keith mentioned those referenced were observed during City Attorney Task Force inspections.

Thomas Picarello asked if Officer Keith's survey report broke down the differences between private and non-profit operators.

Officer Keith said no.

Rosemary Bosque asked if there was any other public comment.

Charles Pitts asked if the Task Force could get a copy of the survey. He mentioned it would great if Officer Keith could submit it to the Task Force.

Rosemary Bosque asked if there was any other public comment.

Yvonne Mere wanted to comment what the possible legislative changes are. The district policy says and I quote, "the rent board will translate the visitor policy into the predominant language of the community and will make them available as needed." Potentially we could delineate the specific language it should be translated into. One could draft a clearer policy.

Charles Pitts mentioned that private hotels are exempt from this, and this represents another problem.

Rosemary Bosque asked if there was any other public comment.

Rosemary Bosque said it is 9:50 and Scott Walton had to leave. The Task force still had a quorum.

7. Reports from SRO Collaboratives

Angela Chu said lately we seen some changes in ownerships in the buildings. Sometimes when the ownership changes the new owner might not be aware of what needs to be done. We have a building where residents have received notice to vacate their units, because the owner was selling the building. As a condition of selling the build we agreed to vacate the tenants. Tenants have filed wrongful eviction's already. Owners might not be aware of rights for the tenants when they change ownership. We need to get tenants more aware when ownership changes.

Public Comment on Agenda Item #7.

Charles Pitts asked if there is there a way we can get a written report that's coming from collaborative.

Rosemary Bosque indicated she would talk with Charles Pitts after the meeting to discuss this more.

Thomas Picarello agrees with Mr. Pitts, that it would be helpful for the collaborative reports to be in written form. That way members of the public, particular the SRO tenants, can have access to them. Oral reports are helpful, but it would be more helpful to the tenants to put these reports in writing.

Rosemary Bosque asked if there was any other public comment.

No other public comment for Agenda Item #7.

8. Prioritization of Future Meeting Topics
-Discussion & Possible Action

Rosemary Bosque indicated she was lining up speakers to address safety issues. She mentioned she was in the process of fact finding and data collection on all the various issues. She asked if anyone had any suggestions for future speakers

Josh Vining mentioned he was not totally prepared to present at the moment, however Josh has been bringing back Task Force information to the SRO community at tenant meetings. They had a meeting last night and he has some feedback. He can bring it to the next meeting or email it directly to Rosemary Bosque.

Rosemary Bosque said was the fine. She wants to encourage people who live in SROs to apply for the vacant positions. We need to work on getting this positions filled as soon as possible.

Public Comment on agenda item #8.

Charles Pitts asked who we can find to speak regarding excessive noise. He is really concerned about people throwing stuff out there windows. He is concerned that this body needs to work on legislation to make life better for residents.

Thomas Picarello mentioned I would like to revisit issues of code enforcement or lack thereof. The agenda today seems very thin.

9. General Public Comment

No public comment

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:01.