



**SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING
DEPARTMENT**

PLANNING DEPARTMENT Director's Report

PLANNING DIRECTOR:
JOHN RAHAIM

May 15/16 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

City Unveiled Castro Street Final Design Concept



On May 14th, the San Francisco Planning Department, presented the final design for Castro Street at a public open house.

Since January 2013, the City has worked closely with Castro community residents and business owners to develop a pedestrian-friendly design for the Castro Street renovation. Through a series of workshops, Castro residents were encouraged to complete surveys as a way to provide feedback on the preliminary design. Ninety four percent of survey respondents were in favor of the basic design for Castro Street.

Design details for Castro Street are now being finalized and the Department of Public Works will begin work on construction drawings. Construction is anticipated to begin in January 2014, led by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and Department of Public Works.

The Castro Street Design Project is a collaborative effort of the San Francisco Planning Department, Municipal Transportation Agency, Department of Public Works, Supervisor Scott Wiener and builds on previous planning efforts led by the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District and local merchants. The project focuses on the busiest part of the Castro Street -- from Market Street to 19th Street -- a major transit hub for the Castro Muni Metro subway station, the F-Line historic streetcar turnaround, and a number of transit lines.

Small Business Permit Fees Waived in Honor of Small Business Month

In recognition of Small Business Month, the Board of Supervisors recently passed an ordinance that allows the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) to waive DBI and Planning Department permit fees for awnings, signs on awning replacements and pedestrian level lightning. Only permits issued in the month of May will be considered to participate in this program.

The program, sponsored by Supervisor Katy Tang, was developed in partnership with the Department of Building Inspection, the Planning Department, the Office of Economic & Workforce Development, and the Office of Small Business.

A small business is defined as a business with 100 or fewer employees. Permits under consideration to be waived are required to go through the standard review process with the Department of Building Inspection.

For more information about the fee waiver program, please contact:

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