



University of California
Hastings College of the Law
200 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

phone 415.565.4788
fax 415.565.4702
wuf@uchastings.edu
www.uchastings.edu

Frank H. Wu
Chancellor and Dean
William B. Lockhart
Professor of Law

July 31, 2012

The Honorable Mayor Edwin M. Lee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 200
San Francisco, California 94102

The Honorable Supervisor Jane Kim
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, California 94102

Re: Central Market Street Renewal

Dear Mayor Lee and Supervisor Kim:

I write as the leader of an institutional partner, UC Hastings College of the Law, strongly supporting your efforts and those of the Tenderloin Economic Development Project to revitalize the Central Market Street area. The need is clearly evident. Restoring Central Market Street as San Francisco's downtown arts district and encouraging the development of new retail, restaurants, services and employers to take advantage of the transit and downtown location would truly be a signature accomplishment and one that in the past has proven illusory. A successful outcome, or even a marked improvement, would greatly enhance the livability of the adjacent Tenderloin, Civic Center and SOMA neighborhoods and further promote the vibrancy of the urban core.


Accomplishing this goal after decades of disinvestment and decay is no small challenge and will take collaboration, inclusiveness and creativity. But with progress, there can often be unintended consequences. We share the concerns of many community-based organizations as to the need to protect affordable housing assets and not price out community-serving arts, cultural and educational facilities.

In the post Redevelopment Agency environment, public-private partnerships and alternative financing strategies take on heightened importance. We need to identify new mechanisms, such as Infrastructure Finance Districts, to deliver public investment to help make the construction of new and critically needed art, culture, education and recreational functionality feasible.

UC Hastings College of the Law is an enthusiastic supporter of your collective efforts to significantly renew the Central Market Street area so that it can once again be the City's grand

promenade and serve the needs of the art, culture and educational communities. Please count us in as partners for this important initiative.

Respectfully,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'F' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Frank H. Wu

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