

**South Beach | Rincon | Mission Bay  
Neighborhood Association  
Meeting: May 13, 2019**

**Tonight's Topic: Dept of Public Works Initiatives**

**Welcome & Introductions:** NA President Alice Rogers

**Presenters: Department of Public Works** – Director Mohammed Nuru, Community Engagement Manager Kimberly Kiefer, and Sam Dodge, Homelessness Outreach Manager.

Director Nuru likes to visit every San Francisco neighborhood on an annual basis to let us know what PW is doing and to get feedback and answer questions.

PW has 1600 employees. They do everything from trimming trees and cleaning streets and on-ramps, to building large projects such as the new Zuckerberg General Hospital, Moscone expansion, fire houses, cruise ship terminal, etc.

**Trees**

Proposition E gave PW jurisdiction over the streets. Prior to Prop E, they were responsible for 45,000 trees; now they are responsible for 125,000.

Director Nuru has tripled the size of his team in recent years to be able to maintain all of these trees and fix sidewalks along with all their other work.

They have cleared over 20,000 high-risk trees with the help of ten contractors.

Prop E does not pay for new trees. However, they have been able to replace 500 to 1,000 trees each year with other funding.

A resident may opt out of City services, but few do.

**Cleaning Up After the Homeless**

By far, their biggest task. Almost every PW employee deals with homeless issues the first two to three hours of their workday before they can actually get to their normal work / routine. DPW receives about 150,000 calls per year from 311, with the majority of calls having to do with homeless issues.

The Healthy Streets Operation Center (HSOC) puts all City departments in to one room so that they can work side-by-side on homeless issues. Included are DPH, SFPD, PW, Controller's Office, and 311, among others.

<https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/Documents/PoliceCommission/PoliceCommission090518-HSOCPresentation.pdf>

## **Bonds / Infrastructure**

Bond money allows them to repair infrastructure such as the Third Street Bridge Retrofit. <http://www.sfpbpublicworks.org/thirdstreetbridge>. This retrofit should hopefully be completed by early October.

And, by the way, all streets in Mission Bay are now open after multiple years of complicated inter-agency negotiations!

The Second Street Improvement Project has been ongoing for quite some time. It is slow right now because PG&E has been slow to underground some lines for two blocks.

<https://www.sfmta.com/projects/second-street-improvement-project>

They have had “ambassadors” on Second Street who tell folks when parking is available and make sure the area is kept clean.

Work will begin on Folsom Street project in June and last one to one and a half years.

## **General**

Director Nuru’s philosophy is, “If you can’t buy it at Home Depot, don’t buy it.” He doesn’t like to have to send off to Germany or any place to get parts and equipment.

PW works closely with all the CBDs in the City – about 12 or 13. In fact, reps from all the CBDs are convening tomorrow at PW’s main yard to collaborate.

Re Beale Street / Bryant / “Catacombs” / Dog Park Area – Has historically been a problem. Sam Dodge of PW said that they have placed many homeless from the area. It has sometimes been violent; a CHP officer was recently stabbed there.

Unfortunately, vandalism is rampant, and Director Nuru has had to remove seating from several spots in the City.

Re the ballpark, Director Nuru might add staff for cleanup after games / events, acknowledging that service has not been consistent through the years the ballpark has been operating.

They are about to break ground on the new Animal Care & Control animal shelter at 1419 Bryant Street. Estimated to be completed by January 2021.

The Warriors Arena is expected to open in September. They are completing a major Muni Metro platform expansion along Third Street to both serve the arena and ensure reliable service to the neighborhoods to the south.

PW has a much better relationship with SFPD since working together under the HSOC structure. The Director meets weekly with the Chief and the Mayor.

**Followed by Q & A.**

**Next Meeting: Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Scooters, ride-hails, etc. Guest speakers from SF Country Transportation Authority (SFCTA) and SF Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA).**