

# Supplemental Material

For

## City of Sacramento

City Council

Financing Authority

Housing Authority

Redevelopment Agency

## Agenda Packet

**Submitted:** 8/10/09

**For the Meeting of: August 11, 2009**

- Additional Material  
 Revised Material

**Title: Alley Activation Update (M09-026)**

Attached is a correspondence from Marion Millin.

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>>> <booster@macnexus.org> 08/09/2009 23:22 PM >>>

What is the question before the Council regarding Alley Activation? Whether to continue "studying" it? Whether to considering funding it? It's not clear from the agenda or the Staff Report what we're doing here.

I can tell you what the answers are:

1. All of the people endorsing this proposal own property at the "Alley Activation" sites and will directly benefit and profit from "Alley Activation." It's an amazing coincidence that where they suggest the "test" alleys, happen to be where they already have a real estate and business foothold.
2. The problematic (i.e. illegal) way that some of those businesses have established their real estate and business foothold is not to be overlooked.
3. Despite their claims, those parties have done their utmost to NOT engage with the community that their projects significantly impact, i.e. residents and businesses who are already there. The public outreach to adjacent neighbors by Alley Activation proponents is ZERO and to neighborhood associations has been minimal. This AFTER -- as mentioned in the staff report ONE of those board members inquired about the LACK of public outreach A YEAR AGO.
4. There is NO MONEY for this type of vanity project. Given the other information presented here, perhaps that absurdity will strike the Council members to be as insulting as it does the general public.
5. Despite the Greenwashing, the potential mixed use benefits and adherence to Sustainability in principle, these Alley Activation projects, as proposed, are nothing but business as usual in Sacramento and blatant cronyism gone wrong.
6. This already WAS a successful mixed use neighborhood, along the lines being presented as goals. Overimpacting and underparking this small section of midtown, has DETRACTED from the quality of life, before and AFTER putting a business (Old Soul) that OPERATES ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT LONG in the middle of the residential block.
7. The neighborhood on Capitol Avenue, between 17th and 19th has not had a neighborhood association until Spring of 2009 and has not had a Council Member to ask for help in dealing with problems, that were perpetrated by the businesses that the Development Department, MATRIX and the Council have ENABLED to take over our neighborhood and abuse city, county and state laws. (Look it up, there are multiple rap sheets with multiple

agencies for multiple businesses here).

8. The favoritism and selective enforcement shown to certain businesses and certain overimpacted business districts, in certain historic residential neighborhoods, comes not ONLY at the expense of these neighbors, but other neighborhoods that are affected (by uneven enforcement) and other residents who have to jump through City regulatory hoops (and costs) that the well connected and blatant scofflaws do not.

9. Public safety? Hah! The neighboring businesses and residents have been calling FOR YEARS for the VIP, city-enabled businesses to stop blocking the alley illegally, with parking, garbage Dumpsters out of place, delivery trucks, tables and benches and of course, more parking, because they came into the MIDDLE of an over impacted block and want parking waivers there too!! They don't care about public safety, they don't care about anyone but themselves and appeals to the City to address the public safety issues have been hamstrung internally.

10. The owner of 1717 Capitol announced his ownership to the neighborhood by cutting down EVERY LIVING THING, including two heritage trees, in two hours, including grinding stumps. by "El Dorado Tree Service" who literally work on the run, because they know what they're doing is illegal. As when the same owner later cut CITY trees around his restaurant at 18th and Capitol.

It's a great saga. Look up Code Enforcement records for the intentional creation of a Dangerous Buildings case (removed roof of historic garage and both owner and Old Soul threw garbage and fixtures into open roof, creating blight and health hazard).

The owner of 1717 Capitol Avenue (who claims on City records it's a Residence, although it's his "corporate offices") turned the rear of the now-devastated property (after three years of dirt, weeds and construction blight) into parking for his employees at his restaurant 1/2 a block away.

Not only did he build the parking lot WITHOUT BUILDING PERMITS and pave over the rest of the entire lot in violation of Code Enforcement, pretending that this is a "residence;" NOW that illegal parking lot has to be removed if the Stitch project is to go forward.

This is not sustainable. This is not legal. This is not acceptable.

11. This whole presentation is a farce, full of misrepresentations and pretense. Any one on staff who wants to look into the City, County and State record of violations of the key players involved in this "activation," will learn a lot about how they achieve the "success" that

they do and how it affects the ACTUAL community, including goals for sustainability in the long term.

12. Whether or not you look at the rap sheets for the various players in this alley, when you consider this project and any future taxpayer funding, ask yourself about cronyism, favoritism, selective enforcement and private profit at public expense.

Ask yourself where your constituents fit into the overall picture. Don't fall for the Greenwashing when only certain individuals -- who have broken every rule they can get away with, that is intended to provide for the public good and sustainable mixed use -- are using their powerful connections to profit at taxpayers expense.

The same people who are using this line about "pedestrian walkway to East End Project parking lot" are the SAME businesses that have:

- Devastated historic landscape and heritage trees as first act upon buying HISTORIC LANDMARK PROPERTY.
- Destroyed historic garage on that property, removed roof, used as dump and created Dangerous Buildings case
- Falsified planning documents, claiming to be residence, rather than business
- Illegally poured concrete tandem parking surface on rear of lot, without building permits
- Knowingly falsified planning documents that they were "wholesale only, never need parking"
- Used illegal parking lot of crony across the alley for personal, business and customer parking
- Continuously blocked alley with owners' vehicles, customer/vendor/delivery vehicles and rearranging vehicles on illegal lot
- Continuously use parking of adjacent residential neighbors for personal, business and customer parking
- Screamed at resident, blaming others for having to apply for a City Parking Waiver that "should have been free" -- WHILE PARKED IN THE RESIDENTS' PARKING SPACE.
- Continuously out of compliance with January 2009 Zoning Administrator parking waiver conditions, as of August 2009
- Causing City of Sacramento Waste Management to NOT pick up residents' trash because alley was blocked

The hypocrisy of pretending that this is all about the community, while intentionally disregarding, excluding and publicly marginalizing the people who live and do business there and are directly affected, is a farce.

Please don't enable these scofflaws, this cronyism or any more hypocrisy  
at community and taxpayer expense.

Thank you,  
Marion Millin  
18th and Capitol, "Eyes On The Alley"