

EXCERPT -- TRANSCRIPT
PUBLIC TESTIMONY
PROVIDED TO SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING COMMISSION
3711-19TH AVENUE, AKA PARKMERCED
MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

3:30 P.M.
February 10, 2011

Commission Chambers - Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California

ARNE LARSEN: Hello. My name is Arne Larsen. I've lived at Parkmerced 14 years. And when Parkmerced had their first meeting about this project, I was amazed that what I had wanted to see happen for years and thought never would was being proposed. It just -- it stunned me, really, to see that something I had wanted was happening. I've heard from young families here speaking at the Commission about their interest in having better buildings and a more complete neighborhood. San Francisco is a city of renters, people who live for decades in their homes. And this is what those folks are looking for. Now, there are folks who want to keep the neighborhood intact, maybe even make it a historic the landmark; but a whole neighborhood that can't be changed is a place where I wouldn't want to live, a place that can't be changed, a place that can't improve.

Now, I heard the director of the school talking about the kids; and it reminded me of something. I'm not a director of a school, but I was a kid once. And in our neighborhood the city came around and tore up all the street and then put in new treats. And I think I can speak for all the kids of our neighborhood to say that was the coolest thing that ever happened there. So I have a feeling that the kids will be all right.

At one of the first meetings Parkmerced had, I raised the issue about rent control and making sure that that continued. In the time since then it's gotten all the way to the point that rent control will continue on 3,221 units for the life of the property. That's real progress and that's a very wonderful and critically important thing.

Now, there have been so many meetings, many of them with you, as you know. And now we're here. And I encourage you to approve this project. Thank you.