

Supervisor Wiener Floats Amendments to Articles 10 & 11

On **Wednesday, October 5**, the Historic Preservation Commission will consider a series of amendments to Articles 10 and 11 of the Planning Code submitted by Supervisor Scott Wiener for review and comment. Supervisor Wiener “is considering introducing similar amendments to the legislation when it comes before the Board of Supervisors.” The most controversial change would require majority owner support—or a super-majority of the Board of Supervisors—to designate an historic district or even initiate a historic resource survey, imposing a unique and costly burden on preservation planning efforts. Another provision would create an alternative, potentially watered-down version of the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties* especially for San Francisco.

Please attend the Historic Preservation Commission hearing:

When: Wednesday, October 5, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Where: City Hall, Commission Chambers, Room 400

Why: To voice your concern over Supervisor Wiener’s proposed amendments to Articles 10 and 11 that could weaken preservation policy in San Francisco.

Key Points:

- **The proposed amendments would undermine implementation of Proposition J:** Nearly three years after voters passed Proposition J, the Historic Preservation Commission is on the verge of recommending revisions to Articles 10 and 11 to finally conform the Planning Code to Proposition J. The amendments being considered by Supervisor Wiener would undermine this progress by imposing unprecedented procedural burdens on preservation planning efforts.
- **The proposed amendments would place a unique burden on historic preservation:** The amendments submitted by Supervisor Wiener would require majority owner consent to designate a historic district or even initiate a historic resource survey. Significantly, no other zoning changes in San Francisco are subject to this requirement.
- **Historic resource surveys are widely recognized as model planning policy:** Historic surveys serve as the foundation for local preservation efforts by providing for the systematic collection and organization of information on buildings, structures and sites that are of local significance. They provide greater predictability for property owners and provide planners with a database from which to channel new development.
- **The proposed owner consent requirement is a severe remedy to a hypothetical problem:** Over the past 45 years, only 11 local historic districts have been designated in San Francisco. Dogpatch was last historic district to be created in 2003 with broad community support.
- **There is no need for an alternative to the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards*.** The *Secretary’s of the Interior’s Standards* already provide detailed guidance on urban design issues and ample flexibility to accommodate local development needs.

For detailed comments, please read Heritage’s comment letter to the Historic Preservation Commission, dated October 3, 2011, at www.sfheritage.org.