

**Promises Delayed Equal Promises Denied...
Candlestick Project Delay – A Betrayal of Promises to Bayview?!!!**

“This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#), April 16, 1963

On Thursday, September 12, 2024, the San Francisco Planning Commission voted to send the Candlestick amendments to the Board of Supervisors, a decision that will revive the long-stalled development at Candlestick Point. But while the vote offers a glimmer of progress, the public testimonies and concerns raised by a few commissioners were largely ignored, specifically regarding the prolonged delays in housing for the Bayview community.

The most significant issue is the extension of the promised completion of the Alice Griffith Neighborhood from 2030 to 2041. This neighborhood, long viewed as a critical component of San Francisco's affordable housing solution, has been an unfulfilled promise for nearly two decades. Once again, it appears that accountability has taken a back seat, leaving the Black community in Bayview to bear the brunt of delays and broken promises.

The 2018 Promises: Broken and Forgotten?

In 2018, then-Supervisor London Breed, along with Supervisors Aaron Peskin and Asha Safai, voted to increase public financing for the Candlestick Project to \$3 billion, with developer FivePoint promising critical progress on housing and parks. Parks at Alice Griffith were slated for completion by 2025, and over 1,500 mostly affordable homes were promised by 2030. The Candlestick South and North neighborhoods were supposed to deliver 7,200 homes, over 30% of which would be affordable, by 2035.

Yet, the current proposal shifts priorities, focusing on 2 million square feet of commercial space to support tech and innovation jobs, with housing for Bayview seniors and families relegated to a later phase. This represents a significant departure from the original agreements, delaying the completion of Alice Griffith and pushing housing commitments even further into the future, now potentially 25 years away.

For Bayview's Black community, the consequences of this shift are dire. Without adequate safeguards, the focus on commercial development for tech workers threatens to accelerate gentrification and displacement. Instead of creating affordable homes and sustainable communities, the plan as it stands caters to a different demographic, marginalizing the very people it was meant to serve.

Accountability Is Long Overdue

This situation raises a critical question: who will step up to be the “Affordable Housing Mayor?” Mayoral candidates London Breed, Aaron Peskin, and Asha Safai have the opportunity—and obligation—to deliver on their 2018 promises. They can demonstrate their commitment to affordable housing by restoring the completion of Alice Griffith to the first phase of development and adhering to the timeline that they themselves voted for.

Instead of using Bayview-Hunters Point as a dumping ground for San Francisco’s homeless programs, Breed, Peskin, and Safai should prioritize housing for Bayview’s existing families, many of whom have been displaced by years of neglect and broken promises. These leaders have the power to reject the current unaccountable proposal, which delays construction by 8 to 11 more years and targets a completion date that could stretch beyond 2041.

Who Will Fight for Bayview?

The power to change this trajectory lies in the hands of San Francisco’s leaders. They must demand that the developer, FivePoint, fulfill its long-overdue obligations, including making community benefit payments promised 15 years ago. These funds are crucial for developing homeownership and workforce development programs, benefiting displaced residents and those holding Certificates of Preference.

But will our leaders act?

San Francisco has a choice: it can either continue down the path of gentrification and displacement, or it can recommit to affordable housing, beginning with the immediate completion of the Alice Griffith neighborhood. The future of Bayview and its long-standing Black community hangs in the balance.

You can make your voice heard by sending a letter to Mayor Breed, Board President Peskin, and Supervisors Walton and Safai.

You can make your voice heard by contacting the entire Board of Supervisors.

Be vigilant here at home as historical decisions are made nationally.

Keep track of meetings and decisions.

History is made every day right here, right now at home.

‘There is no place like home.’

References:

1. Candlestick Public Financing Vote, 2018 (<https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/o0167-18.pdf>)
2. SF Chronicle Editorial: Homeless in Bayview
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3. FivePoint's Original Promises (<https://ir.fivepoint.com/news-releases/2018/06-28-2018-173318889>)
4. FivePoint's New Timeline Announcement, 2021
(<https://www.fivepoint.com/FivePoint/media/FivePoint/03-17-21-FP-issues-new-timeline-for-Hunters-Point-says-Candlestick-talks-progressing-SFBT.pdf>)