



North Beach Neighbors
P.O. Box 330115
San Francisco, CA 94133
northbeachneighbors.org

August 11, 2021

TO: San Francisco Planning Department

RE: 659 Union Street Proposed Development

North Beach Neighbors is a San Francisco non-profit organization comprised of nearly 300 dues-paying members. Since 1981, we have advocated on behalf of the neighborhood to create a vibrant, inclusive community.

With these goals in mind, we write to you today to express our support for the proposed development at 659 Union Street. We have been engaged on this project since days following the terrible St. Patrick's Day fire that destroyed the building in 2018, to both ensure the structure was safely secured and to start to look forward to how to rebuild for the residents and small businesses. In the following three years, we have been an active contributor to the shape and scope of the new development and have submitted dozens of items of feedback to improve the project. We submit our support for the following reasons:

- The developers of 659 Union Street have made themselves available in person, by phone, and over email to discuss the project in a timely manner. They have presented to our organization and our members multiple times and have listened and acted on our feedback.
- The current site is an eyesore in the heart of our neighborhood and is susceptible to safety concerns each ensuing day and must be redeveloped as quickly as possible.
- The proposed building will provide 23 badly needed housing units. We appreciate the mix of smaller units with 2 and 3-BR units to accommodate many living situations.
- We appreciate the activation of the building for community-access, including new wider sidewalks and improved streetscape, a rooftop restaurant, and ground floor retail that will be leased in coordination with community preferences.

We state our support with a strong preference for rental units rather than condominiums, and with the understanding that all local and state laws will be followed to bring back past tenants. We look forward to continuing to engage on this project to make sure that it contributes to the incredible neighborhood of North Beach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bruno Kanter'.

Bruno Kanter
President, North Beach Neighbors