



MUNA

This document is to provide a brief overview and history of the Mariposa-Utah Street Neighborhood Association (MUNA).

Our Mission

Our goal is to provide a clean and safe neighborhood where all residents can enjoy a quality of life without fear of violence, robberies, graffiti, noise, and pollution. We want to live in a neighborhood where we know and look out for each other, where our children can play without fear of harm coming to them, where we can walk our dogs and not be witness to prostitution and other crimes.

Who We Are

We are ordinary neighbors comprised of couples, families, singles, roommates, and seniors who live primarily on the 4-500 block of Utah Street, the 2200-2300 block of Mariposa Streets, 18th Street between Potrero and Utah and San Bruno between Mariposa and 17th Street. We are homeowners, renters, and small businesses and have lived here anywhere from several months to over 40 years. Several of us are the children and grandchildren of people who have lived here during their lifetime.

Our History

Around 1997, several neighbors on Utah Street complained to one another that the block seemed to be plagued with more than our fair share of car robberies, prostitution, graffiti, drug use, and groups of truant teenagers hanging out in the mini park at the south end of Utah Street near 18th Street.

The few who complained decided that others might have an interest in solving this problem as well, so a flyer was created and delivered to each neighbor on the block and we met several times over the course of several months to figure out the best way to meet these challenges. At the time, we contacted the Mission and Potrero District Police Stations in order to enlist their help. (Both were contacted as the jurisdiction kept changing.) The outcome was that police drive by's increased, and eventually the crime appeared to decrease. Hence, the group become dormant. At this time, we were a group of neighbors who were concerned, but we had never formally organized ourselves.

In about October of 2004 the neighbors noticed the same elements again but this time a neighbor was robbed and sexually assaulted at knife point. This outraged and frightened the group into taking action and we decided to meet formally. Our first meeting was December 10, 2004 and Barbara Lin from the Safe organization moderated the group. The Safe

organization is a community crime prevention program sponsored in cooperation with the San Francisco Police Department. The group met monthly and tackled both short term and long term goals. Approximately seven months later, the group became eligible for purchasing two Neighborhood Watch signs that are located in front of the mini park and at the 500 block of Utah Street.

Past Projects

- Increased the group to include neighbors on Mariposa, San Bruno, and 18th Streets
- Improved the lighting in the mini park
- Worked with the city departments to remove the sand and rusted play structures from the mini park
- Cleaned, weeded, bricked, painted, and planted new plants in the mini park
- Applied several times for funding for the mini park
- Created emergency contact phone trees
- Created email lists to inform and share information among neighbors
- Participated in “Operation ID” which engraves valuables for identification and recovery
- Participated with the Friends of the Urban Forest in planting trees in our area
- Petition of a sound wall

Current and Future Projects

- Continued applications for mini park funding
- Plans to have the city and Caltrans work together to build a sound wall (see additional documentation for details)
- Creation of By-Laws
- Creation of web site to further disseminate information to neighbors