

Please note this excerpt from the email below to Supervisor Avalos:

"Given the history of disenfranchisement for Blacks in San Francisco and across the nation, given the struggle of Black families to obtain property in an economic environment of being the last hired and first fired, given the history of redlining and the lack of loans to Black communities to buy or improve property, given the documented evident attack on Black communities by predatory loans by banks, given Black churches have been the backbone of the Black community, It should be a given that the City of San Francisco should be affirming the churches especially as it is supposedly concerned about Black Flight. The churches can be a basis for economic vitalization. The churches could serve as a platform for fighting foreclosure and so much more. The 67 historically Black colleges/universities for the most part began in the basement of churches and demonstrates the added value that could be tapped into."

The writer of the article that resulted in this response did not include any of the balanced things I spoke to and emailed to him about.

The City says it's concerned about the out-migration of the Black community, yet one of its departments is responsible for this statement which is the basis for the article.

Page Five/"Neighborhood Profile-Broadstreet Corridor"

- [High number of storefronts occupied by churches diminishes capacity for neighborhood-serving retail](#)

It's problematic that the 13 churches which are mostly Black Churches are listed as a challenge to "Neighborhood-serving retail," while there are 9 empty store fronts yet they are not listed as a challenge to "Neighborhood-serving retail." Why not revitalize the 9 empty storefronts before making an unfounded statement that the churches diminish economic growth.

Here we have an example in writing where the City of San Francisco is speaking with a forked tongue.

I bring this to your attention because its shows the ubiquitous institutional racism that has poisoned the well in San Francisco.

Once again, I am sharing this email to indicate the climate of the City toward people of color as shown in this article based on a City report:

<http://www.ielightsf.com/2015/07/02/1696/>.

Sincerely,

Jackie
[415 525 0410](tel:4155250410)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jackie Wright** <executivedirectoritbookman@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 6, 2015 at 5:20 PM
Subject: Fwd: (Black Churches Value? Ingleside-Excelsior Light Article: O.M.I. Dreaming, Black Flight... July/August
To: "Avalos, John" <john.avalos@sfgov.org>, John Avalos <john@avalos2012.org>
Cc: "Hsieh, Frances" <frances.hsieh@sfgov.org>, "Rubenstein, Beth (BOS)" <beth.rubenstein@sfgov.org>

Dear Supervisor Avalos,

This letter comes to bring an article to your attention that is borne from a student report commissioned in part by the City of San Francisco.

What matrices, tests, formulas were used to come up with the finding in the Broad Street Corridor report that states the churches in OMI "diminishes the capacity for neighborhood serving retail?" That determination was pulled right out of the category of assumptions/opinions from what I see.

<http://www.ielightsf.com/2015/07/02/1696/>

From the article:

A 2012 Invest in Neighborhoods profile of the Broad Street corridor listed the prevalence of storefront churches as a challenge for the neighborhood. According to the profile, churches occupied 13 of the 53 storefronts in the neighborhood. Nine of the storefronts were unused.

“[The] high number of storefronts occupied by churches diminishes capacity for neighborhood-serving retail,” the profile states. [The profile is only the first step in a process of determining what the neighborhood needs and wants,](#) according to Diana Ponce De León, Invest In Neighborhoods project manager for San Francisco’s

Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

Please note the email I sent to the reporter after about a 45 minute phone conversation in May. You can see that little of what I spoke to him about in terms of working with the churches and creatively engaging them is included in the article.

Given the climate of San Francisco with its issues of racism, textgate etc., given the climate of the country given the careless regard for Black lives by law enforcement and given the egregious recent killing of 9 Black people by a terrorist who sat with them in a prayer meeting for over an hour before shooting them to death, the sentiment of the article is very unsettling.

This article is based on a study commissioned by the City of San Francisco. Was the article to serve as a sounding balloon?

Given the history of disenfranchisement for Blacks in San Francisco and across the nation, given the struggle of Black families to obtain property in an economic environment of being the last hired and first fired, given the history of redlining and the lack of loans to Black communities to buy or improve property, given the documented evident attack on Black communities by predatory loans by banks, given Black churches have been the backbone of the Black community, It should be a given that the City of San Francisco should be affirming the churches especially as it is supposedly concerned about Black Flight. The churches can be a basis for economic vitalization. The churches could serve as a platform for fighting foreclosure and so much more. The 67 historically Black colleges/universities for the most part began in the basement of churches and demonstrates the added value that could be tapped into.

That report set the churches up to be a target and that is obvious in the report in the Ingleside Exselsior Light. Contrary to the Broad Street, The churches can be a catalyst for change and economic growth.

Jackie
[415 525 0410](tel:4155250410)

From: **Jackie Wright** <executivedirectoritbookman@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, May 11, 2015 at 10:16 AM
Subject: Broad Street Corridor Finding on Storefront Churches
To: Will Carruthers

Greetings Will,

I took a look at the study... the statement about the churches being a hindrance to retail opportunity coupled with one of your questions about the members of the churches being mostly from outside the City...has me wondering where you are going with your article.

But here is my response to the document and I thank you for sending it...

The assumption that storefront churches impede retail opportunities demonstrates a lack of vision and creativity. The finding is an opinion that is not based on facts. The assumption falls into the “might is right” mindset. That mindset puts forth the argument that because you’re not part of a large group you bring little or no value and that you need to make justification for your existence.

With a little vision and creativity, the student author of Neighborhood Profile: Broad Street and its sponsors could generate retail opportunities by engaging the thirteen churches (according to the study) by having retailers bring their products to a ready made market on Wednesday and Sunday’s when the members gather. The storefront churches could also be used at those times to reach out to the surrounding community by inviting the community into the church to benefit from the products the retailers have for sale as they target the church members. The storefront churches expand the opportunity for retailers to reach a larger market share, not curtail opportunities. The churches should have been listed under opportunities not challenges.

Before making an unfounded declaration that the storefront churches are an obstacle to retail opportunities, it would be wise to first invest in the current retail operations and maximize the nine empty storefronts (according to the study) along the Broad Street corridor.

There are 13 storefronts occupied by churches that bring historical, present and future value to the Broad Street corridor and there are 9 empty storefronts, 9 empty storefronts, mind you. Why were the churches placed under the challenges of the study characterizing them as “diminishing the capacity for neighborhood-serving retail;” yet there was no such mention of the 9 empty storefronts “diminishing the capacity for neighborhood-serving retail?”

The “conclusion,” “assumption,” “finding,” “take away” that the churches are a barrier to retail opportunities is a biased declaration. It reminds me of the statement “that’s how rumors get started.” And Adolf Hitler is quoted to have said, “If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.” Hopefully, the lie about the churches, although in a written study, will not be believed.

Those are my thoughts just about the challenge the study states about the churches.

I look forward to your article that comes out in June. Any chance that we might have an advance look?

Best regards,

Jackie
[415 525 04](tel:41552504)