

Friends of Educational Opportunities in Chinatown **華埠教育機會之友**

For Immediate Release

Friday, October 19, 2007

Contact: Susan Hsieh, (415) 274-6760 x303, shsieh@caasf.org

PRESS RELEASE

BROAD BASED COMMUNITY SUPPORT WINS CITY COLLEGE CHINATOWN CAMPUS APPROVAL

San Francisco, CA – Friends of Educational Opportunities in Chinatown thanks the many organizations, groups and individuals who joined together to support the building of a new San Francisco City College Chinatown Campus. The approval of the new campus last night by the Board of Trustees was a victory for the community. Over 100 organizations ranging from traditional Chinatown family and district associations to labor unions, City College faculty, staff and students joined together to fight for the new campus. Over 23,000 individuals signed petitions supporting the campus, and over 10,000 signed postcards asking the college trustees to exempt the campus project from city planning requirements. In particular, Friends thanks the Chinese American Association of Commerce, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Portsmouth Square Association, Chinese Christian Union, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and the City College “We Shall Not Be Moved” Coalition, for their extraordinary leadership in this struggle.

Friends is also extremely grateful for the almost daily media coverage by the Chinese language press that ensured community members were kept fully informed and engaged.

The community had no choice but to fight efforts by Justice Investors to preserve Hilton Hotel window views over education and by outside neighborhood groups interested in using Chinatown to buffer themselves against downtown encroachment in the name of historical preservation. College board approval of the certification of the EIR report, exemption and selection of the 14 story + 4-story design option was won through hard work and determination by a united community to support educational opportunity for over 6,500 students at the Chinatown/North Beach campus, mostly immigrants who need to learn English, attend citizenship classes and develop job skills.

Attorneys for Justice Investors/Hilton Hotel and the Washington Montgomery Tower Homeowners Association have threatened lawsuits against the Chinatown project, demanding that the height of the building on Lots 9/10 be lower. If project opponents file a lawsuit, they will try to negotiate with City College to lower the height of the building on Lots 9/10, thereby reducing educational program services for students. Community members must remain vigilant and protest and fight any lawsuit against the Chinatown project.

A lawsuit could cause a delay in the construction of the project, thereby potentially forcing City College to face escalating construction costs. If Justice Investors/Hilton Hotel, Washington Montgomery Tower Homeowners Association or a front organization for either of these parties files a lawsuit, Friends urges City College to demand the plaintiff to put up a bond to cover escalating construction costs, due to delays by a lawsuit.

Mayor Gavin Newsom and City Planning Director Dean Macris have stated that the Chinatown campus building should be an elegantly designed, first-class building that provides an excellent environment in which students study and that the community and City can be proud of. Friends asks City College to maintain the highest standards in constructing a building that meets all the educational program needs of the students.

#

Friends of Educational Opportunities in Chinatown was formed in March 2007 to support the need for expanded adult education opportunities in Chinatown and a permanent City College campus to meet this need.

www.supportchinatowncampus.org