

West Bay Conference Center v. Saint John Coltrane Church

Over the past two weeks, there have been news reports regarding the eviction action initiated by the West Bay Conference Center ("West Bay") against Saint John Coltrane Church ("SJCC"). Unfortunately, much that has been written is based on interviews and sources that are factually inaccurate, and is designed to manipulate public perception and affect the outcome of legal proceedings. When factually inaccurate stories began to circulate throughout the media, West Bay felt compelled to respond.

West Bay's litigation against SJCC is based on a single issue: SJCC's failure to make rent payments for more than one year. Contrary to many of the statements contained in media reports, not only has West Bay not increased SJCC's rental payments, West Bay reduced the amount of the rent of SJCC in furtherance of West Bay's mission of providing below market commercial space to organizations serving the Fillmore community. Even at the reduced rent, SJCC nevertheless did not pay the rent due.

West Bay has the highest level of respect for the spiritual and cultural benefits SJCC brings to the Fillmore community. In that regard, West Bay strongly desired to resolve this matter privately among the parties before resorting to legal action. To that end, for more than five (5) years, West Bay's Board has also worked with SJCC on the issue of SJCC's rent delinquency and worked with then-District 5 Supervisor Christine Olague in an effort to assist SJCC in obtaining funding from the City and County of San Francisco.

Regrettably, none of West Bay's efforts to help SJCC have been fruitful, and SJCC is now delinquent with its rent obligations for more than 14 months.

Please direct all inquiries regarding this matter to Fried and Williams, c/o William C. Lynn, Esq.