

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN FRANCISCO



WILLIE LEWIS BROWN, JR.

July 15, 1997

John Messina  
P.O. Box 51148  
San Jose, CA 95151

Dear Mr. Messina:

Thank you for letting me know of your interest in preserving the cross on Mt. Davidson. I regret the delay in replying.

As you may know, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled last year that the presence of the cross on public land violates the No-Preference Clause of the State constitution. The decision leaves the City with two options. The City can either remove the cross or transfer ownership to another entity.

The City took the first step in this process when the Recreation and Park Commission unanimously approved development of a proposal for sale of up to a half acre of Mt. Davidson Park, including the land on which the cross stands. Any sale would be subject to the condition that the land remain open space available for public use. At this time, conditions of the sale are being worked out with the City Attorney. According to the City Charter, any sale of park land must be submitted to the voters for their approval.

One group that has publicly announced its interest in acquiring the land is the Museum of the City and County of San Francisco. If you would like to find out more about their effort you can contact Richard Johns, Board of Trustees, Museum of the City and County of San Francisco, 456 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94104, (415) 781-8494.

In addition, a coalition of neighborhood leaders has formed the "Friends of Mt. Davidson Conservancy," for the express purpose of maintaining and preserving the cross and the park. Contact Dave Bisho, Bob deLiso, Denise LaPoint or Jacquie Proctor at PO Box 27456, San Francisco, CA 94127, or leave a telephone message at the Miraloma Park Clubhouse at 281-0892.

I am hopeful we can successfully resolve the conflict over the existence of the cross on City land.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willie L. Brown, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

WILLIE L. BROWN, Jr.  
Mayor

WLB:MONS:nw