

# FREEDOM WEST

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2022



## Upcoming Freedom West Alumni Events

### Father's Day Celebration

June 11th

### National Night Out

August 2nd

### Freedom West Family Day

September 24th

### Holiday Grocery Giveaway

December 10th

## Mother's Day Celebration Generations of Residents Together

Generations of Freedom West residents came together for a special Mother's Day Celebration on Saturday, May 14.

Mothers from all walks of life took part in the festivities, which included a lunch catered by Auntie April's Chicken and Waffles, painting demonstrations from the Honey Art Studio, conversations about love, relationship and empathy facilitated

by Pastor Eric Nation, and a special screening of the mini-documentary, "Reimagining Freedom West."

The event was held May 14—six days after Mother's Day—to accommodate for the scheduling of some residents who were out of town the weekend before. The event featured a great turnout, with about a dozen community members taking part, ranging from grandmothers to new moms. Even a few dads participated in the activities, which included a tutorial on artwork honoring women.

"We really wanted this to be about celebrating the mothers in our lives, so we asked our participants to focus on

**Continued on Back**

## Freedom West's Management Contact Info: **415-929-1011**

### Anthony Maldonado

– Community Manager

### Monica Garcia

– Assistant Community Manager

### Krystyna Gurova

– Admin. Assistant

### Tywon Fitzgerald

– Maintenance Supervisor

### Paul Figueroa

– Maintenance Tech





## Continued from Front

creating something with a crown,” said Ericka Scott, a Freedom West resident who owns Honey Art Studio. “I think everyone had a really great time being creative and learning more about painting.”

Freedom West resident Arrenia Corbin, who helped organize the gathering, said the event was an opportunity to bring the community together again after spending so much time apart due to the pandemic.

“When we talk about the Freedom West family, we don’t necessarily mean bloodlines, we mean heartlines, and this event is about celebrating that,” said Corbin. “There is a community of children who have been raised by different families at Freedom West dating back 50 years, and so many of them are still here. In this community we all mothered and fathered the children, and this is a way to recognize all the efforts.”

Scott said the event organizers received a lot of great feedback from the attendees.

“We are already getting some nice ideas for Father’s Day,” said Scott. “And I definitely think we want to make this Mother’s Day celebration an annual event.”

# Community Profile

## Walidah Burrell

### When did you move to Freedom West?

It was in 1981 or 1982. I’m not exactly sure, but I know that I was in the second grade.

### What are some of your earliest memories of Freedom West?

It’s so funny—all of my current friends come from a school that was right up the street from Freedom West or they were from Freedom West. So, we would all walk to school together. Some of my earliest memories were coming back and forth from school, just having a ball and people having my back.

### Do you have a favorite memory of Freedom West?

I don’t know if it’s a memory or a feeling. But we’ve been here so long, everyone knows that they can find me and my family here. It’s a gathering point for me any my family and friends. There is no question that when people want to find me, they know to come here, and that’s a great feeling.

### What makes Freedom West so special?

The family atmosphere. The locale cannot be beat, let’s be clear on that. We are in the heart of the city and that is beautiful. But knowing everyone where you live is so special. There are 12 units in my building, and at least half of them have been there for as long I have, and the other half are

all long-term residents. That familial aspect is so important—no one feels unwelcome.

Even during some of the rougher times of the Fillmore in the 90s, Freedom West was always a sanctuary.

### What do you think an outsider would be surprised to know about Freedom West?

A lot of people don’t understand that we buy into this. We are renters, but we are also shareholders, so we have that sense of ownership, on top of being around people we have known all of our lives. We are a family in a co-op that’s in the heart of the city, and this place has provided safety and comfort for so many, for so long.

### What would like to see from Freedom West 2.0?

I would love it be beautiful and to keep that familial aspect. I want to this to be a place where we can continue to gather and feel safe as a whole. I would love it to be something we can all be proud of. It may not be the most traditional place, but it is our home, it is our community within this city, and I want to make sure it stays that way.



Walidah (left) with her mother Gloria

# Management Corner

## Who to contact in emergency situations:

- If you are experiencing a **medical emergency**, please call 911 immediately.
- Freedom West’s security company is SVR. The security team can be reached at 415-724-3215

## Call the management office if:

- There is a repair needed in your unit
- You have an issue with payment of carrying charges
- You have an issue with registering a vehicle to qualify for parking on a Freedom West lot
- You have a pest control issue. Pest Control service is the 4th Wednesday of every month. Please call the office to get on the schedule.
- You have an issue with a neighbor

## Board Meeting Schedule

- May 24th at 6 p.m. on Zoom
- June 28th at 6 p.m. On Zoom

Freedom West, 820 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, 415.929.1011

