

# St Mary's Urban Youth Farm

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City & County of San Francisco  
SF Environment  
11 Grove Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commissioners

It has come to my attention there is \$122,000.00 funding being considered to Alemany Farm under item line # 6 covering FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10.

It really bothers me greatly this group of volunteers is able to gain funding without:

1. Alemany Resident Management Board was not presented proposals for backing or knowledge. MOCD & Environmental Department never met with the board members or community
2. San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) closed down Alemany RMC activities due to the conflict of staff management
3. Alemany Farm is a community program hosted on Recreation and Park land.

During the establishment of an interim board of concern residents:

Alemany Farm is a program developed by Alemany Community through its non-profit Alemany Resident Management Corporation (Alemany RMC) and has received awarded funding with a fictitious board.

The self appointed Executive Director a non-residency, unskilled, unable to read or write, did not comply to proposal such as providing resident training and job opportunity. The community was subjected to extortion of employee payroll, firing residents without justification, manipulating funding monies to maintain self-employment, hiring outside relatives and friends, mismanagement of funding, and failure to make sure outside support teach residents to learn how to manage programs.

No resident was considered for the program management and a non-resident was appointed Alemany Farm Program Director who in 2007 sold the community produce without providing the community or interim board any report and personally held the proceeds for three months. This Director has been demoted to staff level and another non-resident (ED's relative) is acting director of the program.



Alemanys prime directive is to better the Alemany community, which stipends to youths have been positive issue; however the community resident questions the direction of funding is not improving the community but the Recreation and Park. What was grown out of this program was to go directly to support the Alemany Community's Food Bank to be distributed each week: none has been received.

I formally worked with the Alemany community, St Mary's Urban Youth Farm, a non-profit whose directive to bring back the mentor youth programs that was once was provided. Unfortunately, this has not happen due to the aggressive behavior of the Alemany Farm leaders. I initiated volunteers in order dissuade homeless encampments and dumping, they later became Alemany Farm program to do the agriculture for the community. Alemany Farm leader's aggressive behavior has made volunteering at St Mary's rather depressing unsatisfying event.

Materials for my organization, which Alemany Farm utilized and has refused to reimburse for the damage or replacement, broken or unauthorized use: to date the billing is over 400 days old.

San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) closed down the Alemany RMC interim board because of the disruption of rude staff behavior to the SFHA, the friction within the Alemany community and to all organizations that were willing to help.

St Mary's is overseen by the Recreation and Park Department Community Garden and under the charter of Community Gardens definition


**community garden** – a site operated and maintained by committed volunteers where:

- A publicly owned parcel of land is used for growing ornamentals and/or produce for non-commercial use through individual or shared plots,,

The funding you proposing to allow these volunteers continue to market the vegetation against the Recreation and Park stipulations/domain verse to benefiting a community program it was intended.

Recreation and Park permitted Alemany Farm program in utilizing its park with other sharing groups.

I encourage you not to approve the continue funding without the Alemany Community and its' boards awareness, active participation and approval. The Alemany Community must be taken into consideration as well as other organizations operating out of Recreation and Park land. All organizations should be responsible for its debts to any vender. It is important that Alemany Community be able to correct the mis-management the community has experienced in order to regain local support it truly needs.

Sincerely,  
  
Naomi Goodwin  
Garden Coordinator

