MINIMUM SUGGESTED DONATION TWO DOLLARS. STREET SHEET IS SOLD BY HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME VENDORS WHO KEEP 100% OF THE PROCEEDS. VENDORS RECEIVE UP TO 75 PAPERS PER DAY FOR FREE. STREET SHEET IS READERS SUPPORTED, ADVERTISING FREE, AND AIDS TO LIFT UP THE VOICES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

ARCHITECTURE DESIGNED TO KEEP HOMELESS PEOPLE AWAY

Last December, the San Francisco Department of Public Works placed boulders at the site of a tent settlement near Cesar Chavez Street and Potrero Avenue to prevent homeless people from putting up tents.

This latest development in the City’s attempts of removing encampments drew media attention and criticism from homeless advocates, including comparison to a London apartment building with 17-inch long spikes embedded in the pavement by the building’s alcove.

In 2016, an area beneath a San Diego highway overpass was strewn with jagged rocks creating enough of an obstacle for people trying to lie down, but apparently still passable for baseball fans to go to nearby Petco Field for the MLB All-Star Game.

While such tactics of erecting structural outdoor barriers drew worldwide attention, other implementations of “hostile architecture” or “anti-homeless design” have long been in place, many of which are hidden in plain sight and likely to be in your neighborhood.

No matter how subtle, such design still serves as an impediment to homeless people unable to sit or lie down anywhere else.

As San Francisco Chronicle columnist Caille Millner noted in 2015, “Once you start seeing anti-homeless design, you can’t stop seeing it.” Judging by the photos of hostile architecture that Street Sheet readers shared after the Coalition on Homelessness-published paper put out a call for photos of hostile architecture, these examples appear to be widespread and persistently visible.

Last year, City employees erected barricades around the Eureka Valley library branch during its outdoor redesign to prevent encampments. Later, they were removed because it violated the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. However, that didn’t stop the City from landscaping the area near the entrance of the Castro District-serving branch with sloping, rock-studded hillocks and sharp-edged stumps jutting from the surface.

Some benches around San Francisco are equipped with built-in obstructions; outside the former Rincon Center post office are benches that are are folded up and locked at the end of the day, thwarting any after-hours reclining, and the ones at Union Square have armrests in the middle, achieving the same effect. Spikes adorn the planter boxes outside the Upper Market Safeway store. Last month, the Department of Public Works also erected barricades around the store’s perimeter.

Anti-homeless design isn’t just limited to visual deterrents; sound has also been used as a “keep out” tactic. In 2012, the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium resorted to blaring the sounds of jackhammers, motorcycles and other industrial noise through its PA system to keep unhoused people from sheltering themselves beneath the alcove of its entrance.

Less effective was the Burger King near Grove and Market streets. The classical music used to ward off homeless people failed; more complaints about the amplified music

SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: As of January 31st there are 1,066 people waiting for shelter in San Francisco.
You’ve probably heard talk that the feds are planning massive ICE raids in Northern California. The potential raids would be a blatant political attack against sanctuary cities, centering on the Bay Area. Up to 1,500 immigrants could be taken from our families and our communities.

Here are three ways you can respond with power not panic:

1. **Text RESIST to 41441 for emergency action alerts through Bay Resistance**

2. **Share these local rapid response hotlines to report ICE activity and get support**
   - San Francisco: (415) 200-3548
   - Alameda County: (510) 241-4011 (also taking Contra Costa calls for now)
   - San Mateo (+ SF, Oakland, Berkeley): (203) 666-4472
   - Santa Clara County: (408) 290-1144
   - Marin County: (415) 991-4545
   - North Bay (Sonoma, Solano): (707) 800-4544
   - Sacramento: (916) 245-6773
   - Santa Cruz County: (831) 239-4289
   - Monterey County: (831) 643-5355
   - Fresno and Central Valley: (559) 206-0151

3. **Thanks to the work of SEIU USWW and others, California passed AB 450 last year which offers stronger protections for immigrants and get support and receive assistance**
   - for now)
   - San Francisco: (415) 200-1548
   - Alameda County: (510) 241-4011 (also taking Contra Costa calls for now)
   - San Mateo (+ SF, Oakland, Berkeley): (203) 666-4472
   - Santa Clara County: (408) 290-1144
   - Marin County: (415) 991-4545
   - North Bay (Sonoma, Solano): (707) 800-4544
   - Sacramento: (916) 245-6773
   - Santa Cruz County: (831) 239-4289
   - Monterey County: (831) 643-5355
   - Fresno and Central Valley: (559) 206-0151

**Human Rights Workgroup**

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition’s work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people. They bring their agenda to us. We then turn that agenda into powerful campaigns that are fleshed out at our work group meetings, where homeless people come together with their other community allies to win housing and human rights for all homeless and poor people.

**Get Involved**

**Join our work groups**

1. **Human Rights Workgroup**
   - Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.
   - The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join!

2. **Housing Justice Workgroup**
   - Every Tuesday at noon
   - The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone!

**Contact Us**

- **Phone:** (415) 346-3740
- **Email:** streetsheet@cohsf.org
- **Website:** www.cohsf.org

**Media**

- **Photo and Video Equipment:** Laptops, digital cameras, audio recorders
- **Equipment:** Newspaper layout, sound equipment

**Organizations**

- **Volunteer with us:**
  - Advocates
  - Graphic Designers
  - Writers
  - Editors

**Donate equipment**

- **Photographers**
- **Videographers**
- **Comics artists**
- **Newspaper layout designers**
- **Website designers**
- **Interns**
- **Writers**
- **Website creators**

**Subscribe**

Contact us at: 415-346-3740, or go at: www.cohsf.org
Housing Down Homeless People

On the morning of January 3rd, passerbys reported that a group of people were being sprayed with a hose while sleeping in their tents on 6th and Bryant. Members of the Coalition on Homelessness went down there to determine who exactly was being sprayed and folks trying to sleep. Interviewing the people found there, no one spoke on record and there was much confusion as to who they were being sprayed by.

After some time it is confirmed by other folks in the area that DPW was in fact spraying down tents. Upon submitting an information request, we received a field report from the Department of Public Works. DPW had been there the morning in question and had described their work in that area as “flushing.”

It is not a proud moment for our city when the Department of Public Works fails to even mention the people affected by their actions.

These “flushings” are happening at a time when the UN rapporteur has recently visited SF. The Rapporteur on housing visits cities across the world, creating reports on informal settlement movements of people. The Rapporteur had this to say on the conditions in SF, “I have travelled all over the world seeing slums and people living in poverty, but what I have heard and seen so far here in the US, in just the last few hours, is stunning to me. It’s just so... cruel. There is so much hatred toward poor people here.”

The rapporteur was referring to the “quality of life” ordinances that affect poor and unhoused people but this attitude is reflected in city policy as well as in the actions of city employees.

“Flushings” are a reminder that the city government thinks of its citizens as refuse to be cleared from the street. This can be seen by the increasing level of collaboration between the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, the Department of Public Works, SFDP, California Highway Patrol and the Department of Public Health. Collaborating to house people is good; however, these agencies are competing for homelessness grants.

While budget talks and HUD cuts were making national headlines last year, this year they were drowned out by the tax bill debate. The committee overseeing HUD’s appropriations has been quiet, and the government continues to pass temporary funding bills instead of settling final budget numbers. As Boden explained, time will tell if we “pay for these tax cuts on the backs of people.” All signs point in that direction.

Imagine No Police

The death of Keita O’Neil requires public mourning, public anger, police accountability. The blame is always shifted—“rookie cop”, “poor supervision”, “we didn’t know what he was capable of”—You didn’t know that shooting him with your gun necessitated him dying? A black man running by your car jeopardizes your life, or, then, is it that lethal force is “required” merely because this black man was your responsibility, your requirement, to murder?

This is a letter to Bill Scott, to Christopher Samayoa, to Dennis Herrera, and to Mark Farrell.

Two days following, folks were gathering to mourn Mario Woods. In the same week, Shaleem Tindelle was murdered in Oakland, another suspected police homicide. And just last week, as noted, Tasered the life of Wares Raynaguado. Keita’s mother is suing the city. What are you going to do to it?

Officer Samayoa’s body camera was only recording because he turned it on, in shock, after what happened. When initiated, the camera (“dormant prior”) provides the thirty seconds of footage before it “went live.” No sound, just video. Video of a one-shot kill through a police car window. One shot, one kill. Great stats for a videogame. The viewer is familiar with similar videos of unjustifiably police killings as situations which “require” lethal force? Must allocate, responsibly, subjectively, for lethal force, that which is “required” in the moment of black body, threat, lost, always too soon, always on external terms.

What, then, is the right moment for lethal force, that which is “required” by law in certain alternations the police must allocate, responsibly, subjectively, as situations which “require” lethal force? It’s worth noting here that Tasers, the latest weapon on the police belt (it’s getting heavier) are not to be used in situations which “require” lethal force? Do good and moral cops, bad and immoral cops, have travelled all over the world seeing the consequences of black people? All signs point in that direction.

Rest in Power, Keita O’Neil

As the government lurched back from a shutdown on January 22, the status of the federal budget remained in flux. President Trump signed another short-term continuing resolution, meaning the government is no closer to settling on final funding numbers despite being months into Fiscal Year One. One of the most at-risk agencies is the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and its proposed $6.8 billion in cuts for affordable housing programs, which would dramatically alter how the United States serves its low-income and homeless populations.

Since appointing Ben Carson as the head of the agency, the Trump Administration has worked to deviate HUD’s influence. In May of 2017, the Trump Administration released its proposed funding levels for 2018, which included $6,612,900 in cuts to key housing programs. California in particular would be hit by the proposed cuts, which would total almost $1 billion in lost funding and impact almost 40,000 households per year, according to Affordable Housing online.

Two of the programs most severely impacted by these cuts are the Community Development Block Grant, which oversees programs such as Meals on Wheels and the Housing Choice Voucher program, which helps low-income individuals find affordable housing. The budget also proposes sweeping changes to the nature of the voucher program, including raising tenant contributions, raising the minimum rent and eliminating utility reimbursements. Other programs at risk include the Public Housing Capital Fund, which is used to fund repairs at public housing properties, and would be cut 68 percent nationwide, and Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities, which would be cut 79 percent. These programs all exist to support low-income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, as well as other vulnerable populations. According to the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), affordable housing online, hud as a whole have been facing funding cuts since 1997, but this level of austerity would be unprecedented.

Compass Family Services, a local organization that helps families facing homelessness secure stable housing, illustrated the precariousness of the situation. While they said they have not experienced any funding cuts to date, Executive—Christopher Family Services, Executive Director—said “Our housing program, Compass SF HOME, has Rapid Rehousing grants for $6,457. If these funds were cut the subsidies and associated staffing on those contracts would go away and Compass could not continue these services with our general funds.”

Differing budgets

The funding bills proposed by the Senate and House do not entail cuts as drastic as those of the Trump Administration, but they still fail to address affordable housing needs. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, almost $20 billion in funding would be needed to address rising rents and to reestablish the crucial Housing Choice Voucher program. The Senate bill provides just $1.9 billion more in funding from 2017 and the House bill from HUD funding at the 2017 level, which would result in 100,000 and 110,000 housing vouchers not being renewed, respectively. The Trump bill, by contrast, would result in 25,000 vouchers not being renewed.

As the Center explains, the vouchers help over 3.5 million people nationwide and are necessary in making decent housing available in the private market. They are instrumental in reducing homelessness and housing insecurity. With any level of funding cuts, an already precarious housing crisis would be exacerbated throughout the country.

A Hollow Grant

HUD released a report in December that found that 19,952 people experienced homelessness on a single night in 2017, a 0.7 percent increase from 2016 and the first uptick in homelessness since 2010. In response, Ben Carson announced a $2 billion grant for homeless programs, to be doled out among $40.4 billion in funding. Programs in California received $383 million of the funding.

But as Paul Boden, the Executive Director of WRAP, explained, this move was nothing but a public relations move on the part of the Trump Administration. The grants marked just a $50 million increase in funding for California from 2017. Set against a proposed $1 billion in statewide HUD cuts, the number is largely meaningless, or as he put it, “HUD and the federal government continue to give out a pretense of caring about homelessness with this miniscule amount of money.”

He also contextualized the way federal grants pit local governments against each other. San Francisco can cheer that they received more than Oakland without having the opportunity to look at the larger picture. The committee overseeing HUD’s appropriations has been quiet, and the government continues to pass temporary funding bills instead of settling final budget numbers. As Boden explained, time will tell if we “pay for these tax cuts on the backs of people.” All signs point in that direction.
SELF LOVE AND SURVIVAL

I’ve been homeless off and on since 2004 here in San Francisco. And through it all I continued to go through my struggle and tribulations, but in 2010 I came back out here with this guy, and to my dismay he truly turned me out in a way I never knew. See, he taught me a lot out here in the streets, and all the while he was hurting and destroying me in the process. Since being homeless I’ve been stabbed, hurt, bluffed, made fun of, had my name dragged in the dirt, my safety compromised, and my well-being put at risk. I have also been to jail as well out here in San Francisco. I’ve sold drugs, I’ve also jacked some people I’m not proud of. At the end of the day I’m not proud of it. I slept at bus stops and different hotels around the city. Stuff I never thought I would do in a million years I’ve done. And please, don’t think for one second that I’m OK with that, because I’m not.

As a woman out here being homeless, I’ve suffered a lot more trauma than men do. Since being homeless, my life has been put in jeopardy in more ways than one. I’ve had my tent burned down, my name dragged in the dirt, my safety compromised, and my well-being put at risk. I have also been to jail as well out here in San Francisco. I’ve sold drugs, I’ve also jacked some people I’m not proud of. At the end of the day I’m not proud of it. I slept at bus stops and different hotels around the city. Stuff I never thought I would do in a million years I’ve done. And please, don’t think for one second that I’m OK with that, because I’m not.

In closing what I’m saying is I’ve been beaten on, stabbed, shot at, raped, etc. I’ve also been jumped and ridiculed for being who I am as an individual. I’m still human, with human emotions and feelings. I am who I am, and God made me who I am, and if no one likes me, that’s fine, but to kiss ass for someone to like me or respect me for me? I’m not going to let that happen.

Lavonte Brown

BREAK SILENCE

A

Did you know that the average literacy level is 8th grade in the U.S.? As a 44-year-old, it was time to Break Silence to literacy at the SF Public Library at Project Read. I have struggled all my life reading and writing with ADHD and Dyslexia. So, what is the average literacy level in a low-income community? Living in SF more than 10 years, I have been uncomfortable reading and signing legal documents. Not understanding what I’m signing year after year. Are we all at risk of becoming victims of housing displacement without even knowing? Regardless of education level, I know that we must Break Silence by educating each other on new housing laws and understanding what is on the ballot that directly affects our low-income community. Let’s vote and show that our Black Lives Matter. Break Silence to literacy and our vote does matter!

B

Why, when I called 911 when my friends and I were victims of another drive-by shooting in public housing, did I have enough time to speak to two family members and an SFPD officer who happened to be a long-time family friend? And there were no sirens. Why was there such a lack of urgency? More than 30 minutes is unacceptable when you’re only three blocks away. Are we less important because we are not homeowners or paying market rent? It sure seems like it. If SFPD didn’t care about all those black lives lost, why would they care about my blue and green bikes that were stolen on camera? I guess we live on the wrong side of the tracks. We must break silence about the lack of compassion and urgency in SF public housing. We must care about our own black lives to protect and serve our community better by becoming the next generation of SFPD officers.

Through Project Read, the Adult Literacy Program of the San Francisco Public Library, professionally trained volunteer tutors provide free one-on-one tutoring to English-speaking adults who want to improve their basic reading and writing skills.

This service is available Mondays and Saturdays 10-6, Tuesdays-Thursdays 9-8, and Fridays 12-6pm.
My name is Jacquelynn Evans Ghebrougne, and I was born July 4th, 1987. I am a strong African American woman who is the mother of three beautiful children. In my life struggles I have overcome some tremendous things. I’ve seen things no woman should ever see, things no child should ever have to go through. I’ve used those as stepping stones to become the strong woman that I am today.

I have been homeless since the age of 13. I was dragged back and forth through the foster care system being abused, maimed, and tossed around like trash. While I have been independent all my life, being pregnant at 16 and still in foster care was a horrid thing. They put me out on my 18th birthday when I had aged out of the system and had become a burden to them since I was no longer worth a paycheck.

“I’ve grown to look at myself as the queen of life. I’ve conquered the worst experiences and the best, and now I get to put it together to make a beautiful masterpiece of this thing we call life’s journey. I look back and cry and laugh at the things I’ve gone through as experiences to teach myself and other women and children what not to do. The struggles I go through now are just as hard. I’m still fighting the hardship of homelessness now with my family, and it kills me that we can’t all fit in our current living situation. Every night I have to pick which child gets to come home.

As a child and as an adult I have been raped, beaten, stabbed, and shot, and none of that has been able to stop my journey or my life. The unseen war we have to fight as women for unique minds like mine, and I shall not let it win. Today I am a shelter client advocate, and I enjoy my job 100 percent. I was previously a peer organizer giving back to the community in every way possible. I am myself as a strong, independent African American woman with drive to do wonderful things. I fought for my rights and stand for myself as a woman who gives all she can and expects nothing in return, and I shall not let it define me.

As we rip through the silence and demand an end to the sexual harassment they face on the streets, and a breath of relief for homeless women that breath of relief never comes. It never comes.

When I was just barely 14, I was raped while out on a date by my camp counselor at a sleep-away camp. It’s a tragically common story — a young girl wooed by a handsome authority figure; she inherently trusted. I thought I was mature and worldly when I explained I was a virgin and was not ready for sex. Turns out it wouldn’t have mattered what I said because I was part of some crude game, as the bloody proof of his conquest was put on display as a flag to wave beneath the lovely pines and the fires.

But I consider myself to be lucky. I am no longer in the woods as I was that night. When I go to bed at night I can close my eyes and relax into the knowledge that my life and my children; walls are thick and I have a door I can lock. For hundreds of thousands of women in the United States that is simply not the case — they are out in the woods, in the parks, on the sidewalks, in cars. They don’t have thick walls. They don’t have locks to turn.

This past year we have made strides toward catching women in the act of sexual harassment and sexual assault that women face in the workplace. Women with admirable courage transformed their private humiliations into伟大 acts of dignified resistance. These acts were like a sledgehammer driven into the upper tiers of the patriarchy, which have started to crumble. But there is a deafening silence with regards to the street. So silent. So quiet. Like a bloody flag waving in the woods.

For housed women, closing the door means an end to the sexual harassment they face on the streets, and a breath of relief for homeless women that breath of relief never comes. It never comes.

I think of Patricia who is not so unlike the over 1,200 mothers experiencing homelessness in SF alone. She was put out of a women’s center — she was given no blankets for her night in the woods. She sat in a park while her and her children shivered so hard that cold night. Finally, she could not take it and at about 2:00 a.m. she went to her children’s father’s house. A place she swore she would never return. He brutally beat her in front of her children. The silence surrounding her truth is deafening.

Women become homeless because of racism, poverty, and immoral inaction by our country’s leaders. However, homeless women face another force — intimate partner and child abuse. Sexual violence. Once women become homeless, they find themselves even more vulnerable to violence. Used by a plethora of suffering to meet their children’s basic needs. They are forced to partner with men out of desperation for safety. They find their physical and mental health may fall apart and turn to drugs and alcohol in despair. They are then condemned and dehumanized, referred to as trash, and policy debates surround their existence call for their jailing and institutionalization. They find the shelters full and the wait for housing years and years long.

All women, in fact all humans, have a fundamental right to safe and decent housing, and the solutions lay within that very truth. Our collective resistance as women and ally men MUST include rising up against the federal divestment of housing that caused this crisis in the first place, against the actions of HUD under Trump and against his tax giveaway package, which are all forcing hundreds of thousands more to streets. Our daily resistance must ensure homeless people have a safe place to sleep, shower and thrive.

I think of the very young Latina woman who like me was also camping, but instead of the forest she was forced to camp in the streets of the Mission. She was serial raped one awful night. However, in this situation, instead of silence and shame, a public and female ambitious male politician as an excuse to put a mean initiative on the ballot to tear away her tent. She was not concerned as to whether this was a good idea, or as to whether she was more safe sleeping on the concrete, or whether there was room in the shelter for her instead. In fact, no homeless women were consulted, because if they were, they would have heard that as awful as a tent is, it is far better than sleeping exposed on the sidewalk. And, god dam, the cost of just to destroy ships would make sure every human in this country has a real place to call home, and none of us would be forced to sleep in a tent.

As we rip through the silence and demand solutions to the severe poverty and destitution women face in this country — we must turn to those same women to lead us.
On Monday, January 25st, tensions that had been building for months at First Friendship family shelter erupted in brawl involving multiple shelter staff and a pregnant woman who does not speak English. A number of staff members had been emotionally strained and two families were given a Denial of Service, making it impossible for them and their children to return to the shelter, though most said they did not feel safe returning regardless. After the incident, the pregnant woman was followed by four people who stated that they were connected to the shelter staff and jumped and beaten. She received treatment for her injuries in the emergency room.

This shocking incident came as no surprise to the seven families who had been staying at the shelter. For years shelter advocates at the Eviction Defense Collaborative (EDC) have been reporting to us the abhorrent conditions at First Friendship. The shelter has no beds for their 35 guests. Instead the parents and their children, some less than a year old, sleep on mats rolled out on the hard floor. There are no showers provided and parents are forbidden from washing their children in the two tiny bathrooms available.

"Almost every week we hear reports from parents who have been disrespected by shelter staff," said Nick Kimura, a shelter client advocate with EDC. "Clients reporting being talked down to, threatened, and beaten at. Some have said staff will give them smaller portions or withhold meals as punishment for speaking up. We’ve also gotten reports of staff having sex with clients in exchange for a place to sleep. The staff at First Friendship is consistently unprofessional in their treatment of clients."

But seven families have banded together to stop the abuse. After this most recent episode, nearly all of the guests at First Friendship have refused to return, and are coping with serious trauma. Together they are fighting to make the city take immediate action.

Jeff Kostsky, the director of the Department of Homelessness, sat down with several of the families in the Coalition on Homelessness office last week.

"Personally, I been homeless for almost a year and a half," said Amber, one of the mothers who has taken her son out of First Friendship. "So I’m here because my son’s friend’s mom got hit. And I’m here to make sure they get what they need to move on. I want to know that they will be supported."

"It’s not okay to be walking by and see families that are sleeping in a tent. It’s not okay to see single people sleep out on the street. It’s not okay for the people trying to recover to be left out on the street. We’re not nobody. San Francisco can’t move forward until they fix the problem that they have."

Right now the families are being given priority beds at St. Anthony’s until March 5th. After that, they don’t know where they will be sleeping.

"Don’t nobody wanna deal with what’s going on. They wanna get rid of it, sweep it under the rug. Nobody wanna deal with it, they say I don’t know what I mean? And it’s affecting everyone, and I mean everyone who lives here in San Francisco," said Maxine, who lived with her two children at First Friendship. "I never felt welcome by the staff. Even when I first arrived I didn’t feel welcome. It didn’t feel safe to me. And this whole situation has taken a huge toll on me."
Costa Hawkins Flounders In Committee

Early on January 11 tenants and homeless activists from all over California converged on the Capitol building in Sacramento with high hopes and coffee cups in hand. After a year waiting to be heard, a repeal of Costa Hawkins would finally be publicly debated in the Housing Committee, offering a glimmer of hope that rent control might become a possibility in California cities. But that hope was smothered when the legislation failed to make it out of committee, with Democrats Ed Chau and Jim Wood joining Republicans Marc Steinworth and Steven Choi in failing to support cities’ rights to make their own decisions about rent control.

In the 1970s, tenants primarily in communities of color organized to pass rent control laws in cities around the country. They were fighting against white supremacy in the context of capitalism and imperialism. Rent control was a powerful strategy to some basic self-defense. Tenants were able to make their own decisions about rent and eviction. Communities of color organized to pass rent control by protecting tenants from skyrocketing rent increases, including anxiety and depression or becoming homeless.

But landlords and property management companies also came out in droves to fight the Costa Hawkins repeal effort, which has the potential to cut into their profits by protecting tenants from skyrocketing rents and keeping long-term renters in their homes. The main argument advanced by the opposition was that rent control would disincentivize the construction of new housing, construction that they argue are displacing those tenants have helped create. Tenants who are displaced are at higher risk of ending up in substandard living situations, which would drive down rents in the long run. The report by the Anti-Displacement Coalition there are 2.6 times as many rent controlled units in San Francisco as all other affordable housing units combined. “Rent control is one of the most successful things we’ve come up with to keep housing affordable, and to keep communities housed all over the country,” said Deepa Varma, executive director of the San Francisco Tenants Union. “We are seeing an upsweeping in momentum, in organizing that we have not seen for decades in California, or maybe ever.”

But landlords and property management companies also came out in droves to fight the Costa Hawkins repeal effort, which has the potential to cut into their profits by protecting tenants from skyrocketing rents and keeping long-term renters in their homes. The main argument advanced by the opposition was that rent control would disincentivize the construction of new housing, construction that they argue would drive down rents in the long run.

In reality, rent control has not stopped construction in any jurisdiction where it has been tried. Housing activists also argue that if rent control laws were passed in cities, the only way a landlord could charge market rent would be to construct new apartment buildings, which would encourage more construction of units. Beyond the question of whether or not rent control stifles development is the question of who deserves to be housed. The clear answer for tenants’ rights groups is that people who have lived in their units for a long time have contributed to building social networks and communities that are worth preserving and defending. Because landlords can charge higher rents to new tenants, they are incentivized to push older, long-term tenants out, creating instability within social networks that those tenants have helped create. Tenants who are displaced are at higher risk of ending up in substandard living situations, compromising their basic needs, experiencing anxiety and depression or becoming homeless.

Costa Hawkins remains in place for now, but new campaigns are brewing around the state, with whispers of a potential ballot measure or a return to Sacramento. The real estate industry will fight hard to keep the prohibition on rent control in place, but as more and more tenants become destabilized due to the housing crisis, the movement for rent control will just keep growing.

The Man with the Outstretched Hands

Every morning there was a man who greeted the Sun with his outstretched hand. He greeted the Sun just as you and I do, to each and every loved one.

With arms raised, he tried to touch the sky every day at the sunlight and said, “Who will greet the Sun and implore us to look up to the sky and grin?”

“When did we ever take notice to look up to the sky and grin?”

“Who will greet the Sun with his outstretched hand,”

One day the passers-by asked, “Did you see the man with his outstretched hand?”

Instead there were flowers and a notice. “RIP the man with the outstretched hands.”

With arms raised, he tried to touch the sky every day at the sunlight and said, “Who will greet the Sun with his outstretched hand.”

“Who will greet the Sun and implore us to look up to the sky and grin?”

“When did we ever take notice to look up to the sky and grin?”

“Who will greet the Sun with his outstretched hand,”

So much beauty is gone when we no longer take notice of our neighbor who greeted us each morning and reminded us of the warmth of the Sun and sky with a grin and the man with the outstretched hand.
This past week five of our office computers went obsolete and we do not currently have the resources to replace them. We need donations of high-quality Mac desktop computers (no more than 3 years old) in order to get our office and running again. Please email development@cohsf.org or call (415)346-3740 before bringing donations to our office. You can also donate money online by visiting our website www.cohsf.org and clicking "Donate Now." We want to get to know you! Help us improve Street Sheet by filling out our reader survey online. Scan this code or visit streetsheet.org to begin.

I'm married, and me and my wife have been homeless together. But for the last year and a half she gotten a place and right now (she's) in an SRO and getting ready to get her own apartment.

For the most part (I've been living) in a tent but sometimes it's on the street—like going from bus to bus, or where I could find a nice doorway, you know pretty much the street.

When you're homeless you never know when you're going to lose whatever it is, things, or a lot of things that you accumulate. That's one of the tough parts about being homeless is the constant loss, and the constant rebuilding process, the starting over. It gets to a point when you want to give up, you know?

Home means having a stable place to live where you're safe, you don't have to worry about someone disturbing you that you don't know. You're warm. You could wake up and go do something to eat. Things of that nature.

I know I'm going to have my own place, I know that I'm going to have my family and a place and we're all going to be happy. It's just a matter of time. I don't believe there's no hope or a chance to get a house, there is.