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STREET SHEET

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

YES ON PROP 10

Housing Justice: Equal & Exact

NICHOLAS FISH

Proposition 10 is the most important piece of renter legislation to hit ballots in decades. It is an indispensable step in relieving the affordability crisis which has fueled a statewide wave of no-fault evictions, displacement, and homelessness as prices have skyrocketed from speculative development. Prop 10 signals who is for a progressive agenda to create lasting housing security, and who is profiting from a broken system fueled by class-based exclusion and the commodification of housing.

Housing policy is an extremely complex set of land-use parameters which vary drastically between regions. Many peer reviewed sources have been cited in opposition to rent control, just as many have been cited in favor of it. Theoretical impacts of rent-control expansion are typically under-supported by adequate data from a similar policy climate. Thus, housing policy experts will agree that price-control mechanisms like rent-control and inclusionary-zoning decrease property values more than unregulated markets. The extent of these impacts are difficult to predict, yet provide immediate reductions in evictions and displacement when the market fails vulnerable low income households.

Why do we need Prop 10? California just needs to build more housing, won't rent control make things more expensive?

Prop 10 repeals the Costa-Hawkins Act, a piece of legislation that hit the books in 1995 which forbid changes to or enactments of municipal price control regulation for new rental units, single-family homes, and any form of vacancy-control. This shift in centralized power has left local governments helpless to fine-tune their housing regulations as economic access has changed.

One of the most consequential actions of Costa-Hawkins was the forceful removal of state-wide vacancy-control regulation, which allowed landlords to raise any vacated rent-stabilized unit to "fair-market rate". The ramification of this policy change has incentivized thousands of cases of tenant harassment, no-fault evictions, and illegitimate Ellis-Act evictions. By keeping unit prices stable between occupancies vacancy-control protects tenants from landlords abusing eviction as a tool for profit.

Removing vacancy-controlled units from the state's housing stock has created a constricted and underperforming rental market by further reducing the total number of changes in tenancy. For middle and low income households living in rent-controlled units, moving out is not an option because they cannot afford to compete for market rate housing. The lasting impact of vacancy-control is that tenants have lost their freedom of choice because they cannot leave their home without sacrificing affordability.

Costa-Hawkins has negatively impacted the rental market by constraining housing supply while supporting real estate interests by keeping rents obscenely high. Property owners, especially corporate landlords, profit more when supply does

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4...

SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE:

As of October 31st there are **1,219 people** on the waitlist for shelter in San Francisco. If Prop C passes this number could drop to **ZERO**.

PROP C: MORE THAN POLITICS

My name is Tracey.

I am a peer organizer at the Coalition on Homelessness. And I am currently homeless.

I am a single parent of an 8 years old daughter.

My story is not unique. I was stably housed for several years but I was still considered homeless due to my not being on a lease.

When I lost my housing I was in an emergency shelter brieflt, and now I currently stay in a family shelter. I am disabled and a month prior to losing my housing, I found out my daughter has scoliosis. She is disabled as well.

It takes on average 111 days for a family to be placed in a shelter. I was fortunate. Because of our disabilities we were placed faster than that.

Every day I see homeless adults and homeless families. I see individuals with mental illness and drug addiction.

Prop C will help to house many of them, including myself.

Prop C will help prevent people on the verge of homelessness from losing their housing.

A lot of money is being spent to deter people from voting Yes on C. Every voter in SF needs to look at the facts of what will be provided through this measure. There will be 100% accountability of every tax dollar that corporations will give towards Prop C. For me, its about time that they pay the piper.

Prop C is very vital to me becoming stably housed, as well as many others.

Prop C is important to every resident in SF whether they believe that or not.

I encourage every San Franciscan to vote Yes on C. ■

BIG MONEY BANKS ON ANTI-HOMELESS AGENDA

TOP "NO ON C" CONTRIBUTORS

(as of Oct. 25, 2018, from SF Ethics Commission)

Stripe - $419,999
Visa - $225,000
Paul Graham - $150,000
SF Forward - $135,422
Jack Dorsey - $125,000
Lyft - $100,000
Charles Schwab - $100,000
Michael Moritz - $100,000
Hotel Council Council of SF PAC - $50,000
Committee on Jobs - $30,000
Macy's/Bloomingdale's - $30,000
Square - $25,000
Gensler - $10,000
Safe and Affordable SF - $7,500
Matthew Cohler - $5,000
Pier 39 Limited Partnership - $1,000

Big money was already dropping in San Francisco electoral campaigns before Salesforce founder Marc Benioff pledged his support of Proposition C, and it continued to drop — mostly in opposition to the measure known as "Our City, Our Home."

Since then, Benioff has had a very public debate with Square and Twitter founder Jack Dorsey — on Twitter, of course — who contributed $125,000 to the No on C campaign, according to the latest reports from the City's Ethics Commission.

But Dorsey isn't the only billionaire by The Bay throwing down big wads of cash. Square, the mobile payment company on which Dorsey also serves as CEO, forked over another $25,000 to the "no" side. Also, ride-hail titan Lyft drove in $100,000, while online payment firm Stripe deposited a whopping $419,000 so far to C's opposition.

As of October 25, the Chamber of Commerce-led bloc raised about $1.5 million from 16 people and organizations in hopes of defeating a proposed gross receipts tax that could raise $300 million for housing and homeless services — a tax applicable only to companies making over $50 million annually.

The "yes" side, minus Benioff and Salesforce's $6.4 million contribution, generated about a half-million dollars, most of which is pooled by 145 other individuals and community-based organizations.

Disclosure: The Coalition on Homelessness, which publishes Street Sheet, contributed over $92,000 to Yes on C.

SHELTER TECH STUDY TRACES DEMOGRAPHICS OF UNHOUSED FOLKS

Garrett Leahy

With 7500 people on the streets in San Francisco according to the 2017 San Francisco Point in Time Homeless Count, organizations are eager to create unique and innovative solutions to end the homelessness crisis in San Francisco. While some nonprofit organizations focus on advertising services available to homeless San Franciscans, ShelterTech believes in giving people access to technological tools which inform them of resources they can use to exit homelessness. ShelterTech is an all-volunteer organization founded in 2016 by Darcel Jackson, a previously homeless San Franciscan, and focuses on helping transitionally homeless people who have been homeless for under a year, find homes and resources as quickly as possible. Studies have shown that people who experience prolonged homelessness are more likely to succumb to drug and alcohol addiction, as well as suffer from physical and mental illnesses, making it harder to find a home. Hence, the first 11 months are a crucial time frame in maximizing chances of exiting homelessness.

ShelterTech's mission is to develop digital tools for transitionally homeless San Franciscans who may not need intensive in-person care and who may benefit greatly from a relatively small intervention. ShelterTech currently has three main service platforms.

AskDarcel is a a human services directory with information about homelessness services. Through Ask Darcel, case managers, city employees, and people experiencing homelessness can find hundreds of resources about homelessness, housing, health, jobs and education. The data in AskDarcel is updated several times a month by volunteers working in conjunction with paid community representatives, who are individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

ShelterConnect is an initiative to provide free wifi to shelters and Single Room Occupancy (SRO) facilities. ShelterTech has installed wifi in six SROs so far, including ECS's The Sanctuary and NextDoor, both of which serve over three hundred people per night.

Casey is a new initiative to build a solution that directly serves individuals who are transitionally homeless. ShelterTech plans to make it either an AI chatbot or an instant messaging chat service between homeless people and caseworkers contacted by ShelterTech.

Recently ShelterTech did a study where they interviewed 32 homeless people, mostly women, in order to try and improve Casey and make it into a more useful and accessible tool by finding out how homeless people used technology to access information and what can be done to make accessing that information as easy as possible. They found that while technology can be helpful in finding services and jobs, one-on-one connections with caseworkers or doctors they trust are the most beneficial for a majority of people. Any technology solution will need to bear this desire for human contact in mind. Something like a virtual personal assistant used to supplement one-on-one aid may be effective in helping transitionally homeless people exit homelessness. Also, while housing was a primary concern for homeless people, they were also very concerned with finding jobs, healthcare, and access to a computer. While most homeless folks who were interviewed had access to a phone, some even had smartphones, many lacked access to a computer, and public computers had time limitations and the inability to save work, making effective utilization of them challenging.

Beyond technological solutions, their study gave them some insight into how people end up becoming homeless. Often, homelessness is preceded by a significant life event or crisis, such as an eviction or domestic violence or strained relationships which forced them out of their home. In addition, excessive wait times for scarce resources made finding a home a very difficult prospect, and keeping track of multiple waitlists and organizations alone without any support led to stress and anxiety. This dilemma was made even worse for those with disabilities or health problems.

With new insights gained from their study, ShelterTech envisions creating technological tools for the transitionally homeless, allowing them access to resources, the ability to search for jobs, done in coordination with a trustworthy case worker. ■

IN YOUR DARKEST HOUR: A DECREE OF LOVE

Patrick Wesley Robertson

Being lost in your darkest hour I will always be your guiding light. I will always be your hand in the darkness when everything seems lost. I will always be there when the time comes and you are looking for that light. I will always stand fast and strong at a moment's notice to bring you out of your darkest nightmare. I will be the voice in your ear along the entire journey. I will forever be your weapon to fight the darkness inside you for I am the light shining brightly in your heart and as long as I'm here I am with you through it all. ■

NO NEW SF JAIL COALITION SPEAKS OUT AGAINST 850 BRYANT

Street Sheet

On Monday, October 22nd, a crowd of a hundred or more advocates representing dozens of local community groups gathered at City Hall in San Francisco with a common (though uncommon) goal: to close the San Francisco Jail. Those same demonstrators were back again on Wednesday, October 24th to speak at a public hearing and make their case.

After a successful campaign to prevent a new jail from opening several years back, the No New SF Jail Coalition is advancing its plan to decarcerate the city and move away from policing and toward healing and community support.

The current jail at 850 Bryant is a danger to those incarcerated as it is not earthquake safe and there is no plan in place to evacuate prisoners in case of an emergency. There is already funding set aside currently to relocate inmates in 2021, and the campaign argues that money should be redirected into housing for formerly incarcerated people and their families in order to decrease the jail population immediately.

Furthermore, the criminal justice system disproportionately targets people of color and homeless people, pushing those who are already marginalized into cells and deeper into poverty. People of color are targeted more by police, over charged, more likely to be convicted and given harsher sentences. Black people make up only 6% of the city's population, and yet they make up 56% of the jail population. And homeless folks face criminal charges for the very life-sustaining activities we all must do to survive: sitting, sleeping, eating, urinating. Unhoused people represent 30% of those currently in jail, which means that we are spending resources that could be going into housing to end homelessness to further criminalize poor people.

Transitional Age Youth make up 25% of the jail population. It is essential that as a community we realize that criminalizing of these youth will cost us far more than investing in the resources and support they need to become healthy productive members of our community. Youth need interventions that are developmentally appropriate and support them to heal from trauma, not criminalization and incarceration that not only inflicts further trauma and harm, but thwarts their neurological development during a critical phase of their lives, diminishing their possibilities to thrive in the future.

The Coalition of advocates who came to the hearing offered their own ideas for how to redirect resources away from the jail and into community programs. They identified housing as a prime need for those impacted by incarceration and advocated the creation of cooperative housing and services located in neighborhoods targeted by police. Also important is that mental health services be expanded through community based voluntary and user-led care rather than through policing, courts, probation, or the jails, as many impacted folks are suffering from mental health issues. And rather than relying on the racist criminal justice system, we could be investing in a Transformative Justice Conflict Mediation Center, with models of accountability that do not rely on jailing as punishment.

Outside of City Hall that Monday afternoon, advocates raised a banner held by balloons up to London Breed's office window, while demonstrators shouted out things they would rather see than criminalization and policing. "Accountability!" "An end to racism!" "Housing!" "Transformative justice!" "Queer liberation!" The banner, reading "No more jails, No more cops" floated in the wind outside City Hall, bearing a message of hope. ■

image descriptions
top: a banner suspended from balloons reads “NO MORE JAILS, NO MORE COPS”
bottom: a banner reads “NO NEW JAILS: invest in community not cages

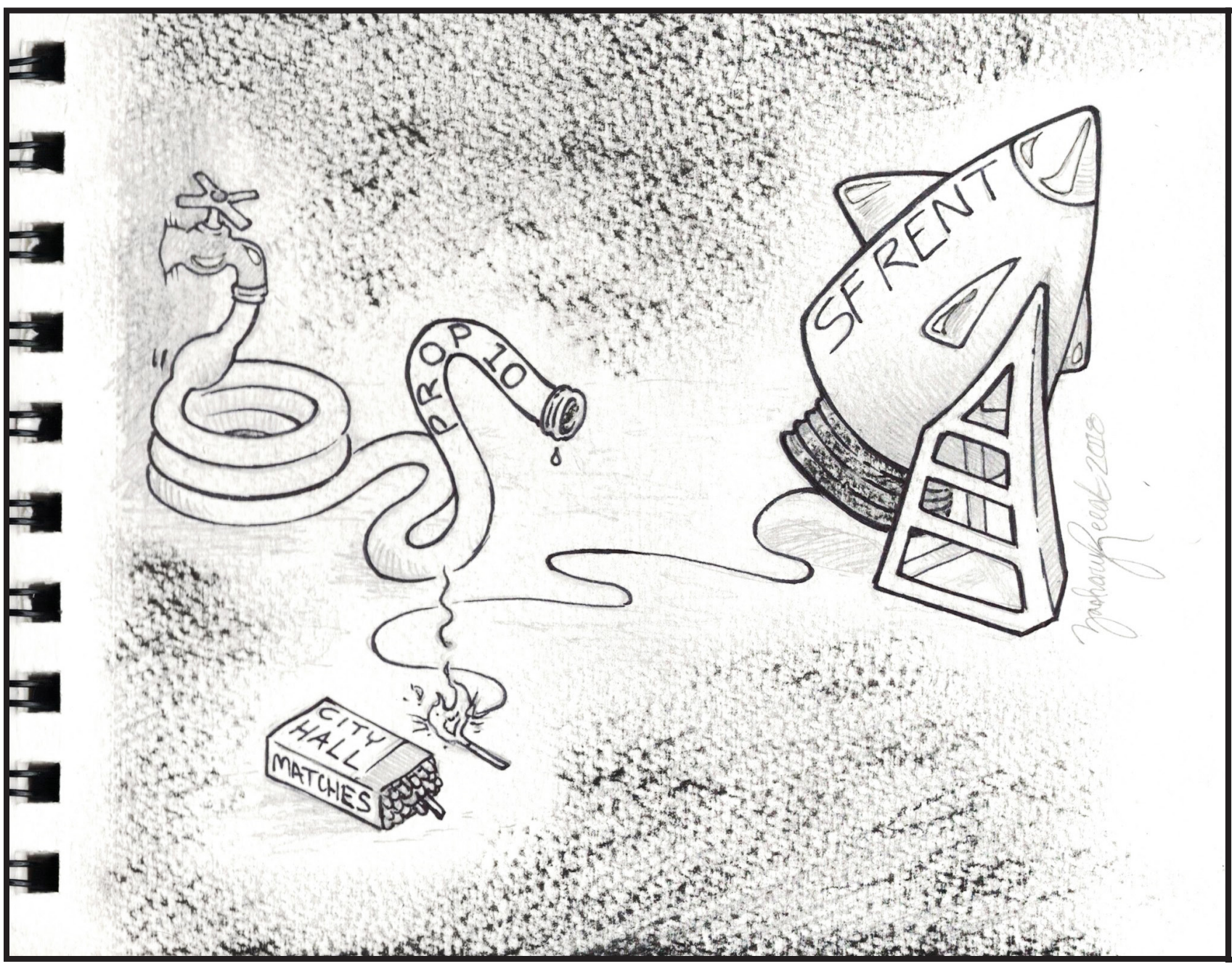

Image credit: Zachary Karnazes

Image description: A black and white pen and ink drawing depicting a rocket labeled “SF RENT” with a fuse. A lit match lays on the tip of the fuse next to a matchbox reading “CITY HALL MATCHES”. A hose labelled “PROP 10” hovers above the fuse dripping water.

YES ON C

SAN FRANCISCO'S 10 POINT PLAN TO TACKLE OUR HOMELESS CRISIS

Yes on C is a strategic plan, crafted using proven approaches by the people working on the front lines of the crisis. Here's how it works.

1. **Funded by the top 1% largest corporations** by a small tax on revenue earned over $50 million per year — will NOT impact small businesses or homeowners
2. **Provides intensive mental health care** and drug addiction services for over 4,000 severely impaired individuals
3. **Moves more than 4,000 households including seniors, women, youth and families with children off the streets and into supportive and affordable homes**
4. **Expand shelters** to give the 1,000 people on our wait lists each night a place to sleep off the street
5. **Prevents additional homelessness, protecting 7,000 San Francisco households from losing their homes through rental assistance**
6. **Places mobile bathrooms and sanitation centers across the city to allow people to relieve themselves in a dignified and sanitary way**
7. **Expands Navigation Centers,** one of the most effective, proven approaches to bringing people off the streets and into care
8. **Brings back the clean, healthy streets that San Franciscans deserve**
9. **Requires an Oversight Committee** comprised of experts who will review and report regularly on results generated by this strategic plan
10. **Has broad support from the community** including House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco teachers, SPUR, Mental Health Association of San Francisco, San Francisco Democratic Party and the Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods

PROPOSITION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

not meet demand. This process drives up rents and property values thereby generating more stakeholder return.

The sheer power of repealing Prop 10 is immense, having the potential to drastically alter the state's current housing climate. By repealing Costa-Hawkins, hundreds of thousands of rent-controlled units across California can gain vacancy-control protection. In San Francisco rent-controlled units are generally found in multi-unit buildings built before June 1979 and account for a sizable portion of the city's housing stock (not officially quantified, but safely estimated over 100,000 units). By applying vacancy-control to currently rent-controlled buildings, thousands of units would be available to rent at below market rates. Historically immobilized tenants would now have the power to find housing within their budget.

Repealing Costa Hawkins could also reduce pressure on local governments, which spend millions of dollars on land acquisition and urban development, a time consuming and expensive process which has produced minimal housing in proportion to need. Once rents and evictions are stabilized citywide these Housing & Community Development funds can be appropriated to homelessness services and mental health treatment to serve the needs of San Francisco that have seen the worst of this crisis.

Historically, Prop 10 is a comparatively conservative approach to an issue that is not new to urban America. In the 1930's Lower Eastside garment workers of New York City experienced housing insecurity and exploitation as rents rose and wages remained stagnant. Mass unaffordability and eviction resulted in a citywide crisis of civic insurrection as the tenant rights movement clashed with unscrupulous landlords. Although overworked and exploited working class renters drew strength from the Democratic and Communist Parties in organizing tenants with anti-eviction resources during city-wide rent strikes, the fragmentation of privatized housing was not a success as tenant radicals had hoped. However, it did succeed in establishing a system which requires landlords to abide by rental guidelines in the form of controlled price increases. These price increases are dictated by the New York City Rent Guidelines Board to ensure rental increases for hundreds of thousands of tenants are humane.

Will Vacancy-Control negatively impact housing production?

Absolutely not. Vacancy-control will bring hundreds of thousands of units back to the market at below market rates. Rent-controlled units have generally existed for 40 years or more, and most California cities implemented rent control ordinances in the late 1970's as homeowners and renters alike fell victim to the volatility of housing affordability. Because these buildings were built when land and development costs were lower, there were different expectations for future profits. Alternatively, new properties built on expensive land require high rents by design to generate return for stakeholders, while pre-existing units do not. Removing the incentive to evict tenants of rent-controlled units will protect future seniors like 100 year-old Iris Canada of San Francisco, who was evicted for the purpose of condo-conversion in 2017, and passed away shortly after the shock of her forceful removal.

It is essential to understand that repealing Costa-Hawkins will not create new rent control, rather it frees local governments to pass housing policy in their jurisdiction which reflect their unique needs. It is often

N 10 : JUSTICE FOR RENTERS

NICHOLAS FISH

the case that to best serve tenants who need protection like seniors, veterans, and low-income communities of color, municipal policy must be tailored fit to the conditions of their environment.

Opponents of Prop 10 argue that repealing Costa-Hawkins will stop development of new housing. This is highly unlikely and runs counter to how markets actually function. What should be actually be anticipated is a reduction in luxury development, as market supply more closely aligns with market demand. Integrating price-control mechanisms into statewide YIMBY upzoning campaigns would allow protection of vulnerable communities before handing out density bonuses, enable democratic control for future policy initiatives, and polish what is currently on the books.

Some of the most influential opponents to refining or expanding rent control are closely aligned with institutions that are financially invested in the housing crisis. These actors profit from the artificially constrained nature of property ownership, which increases prices to levels only affordable to a small percentage of the population. These market investors have treated housing in California as a financial asset, generating revenue from increasing scarcity and inflating prices at the expense of taxpayer livelihood.

In Sacramento County, The Blackstone Group owns nearly 50,000 rental homes, allowing them to control the tide of the market with ease. Politicians like Scott Weiner and Sonja Trauss have fought diligently to deregulate the market and allow real estate powers to continue land speculation as a means of extracting capital from all types of development. This real estate behemoth has even turned to Alice Huffman of the NAACP to endorse their No on 10 campaign, from which her firm looks to make $800,000.

With land values continuing to increase housing will not trickle down to low-income groups. As rental tides rise due to high land costs all other units on the market will follow. Incentives to prevent rent control from even remotely hitting the ballots come from the powerful and wealthy who have invested in the market while prices are high, with the expectation that they will only go higher. If rent control were passed in every California city housing production would not stop, it would likely boom. Restrictions on rental increases for units in new buildings would drive down land values from their all-time luxury highs, as wealthy developers would be unable to build for the highest bidder.

Where is the data to support any of this?

In March of this year, The California Housing Partnership Corporation (CHPC) published key findings indicating that "state leaders must immediately reinvest in affordable homes". The underlying data supporting their findings indicates that "state expenditures are highly inequitable between homeowners and renters", the estimated disbursement for homeowner households for the 2018-2019 fiscal year is $929 while renters will only receive $71. This study also concludes that California's poverty rate has directly correlated with rises in rental prices. Concurrently, the Anti Eviction Mapping Project has crowdsourced data indicating that San Francisco has seen roughly 40,000 evictions over the last 40 years, accounting for roughly 10% of the city's housing stock. Of these evictions over 10,000 have resulted from owner move in, buy out settlements, and Ellis act evictions. It is clear that renters across the state not only lose out on a massive amount of equity to their home-owning neighbors, but for every year they rent they are systematically disenfranchised and more likely to experience eviction related hardship.

The inequity of homeownership benefits over those of renters is primarily in the form of Real Property Tax Deduction and Mortgage Interest Deductions, this does not include the tax stabilization effects resulting from Prop 13 which further reduced the volatile risks of property ownership. In effect, Prop 13 is a price control mechanism that passed in 1978 for homeowners. It measures similar to rent control, as it limits annual property tax increases to two percent or less. This has given homeowners increased housing security and reduced displacement from the speculative market. Many renters voted in favor of Prop 13 under the impression that these savings would be passed down. Despite this impression, the California Housing Council opposed Prop 13 on the grounds of having little to no method to enforce unfair rental increases by property owners receiving tax breaks.

CHPC also highlights that "low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) production in California declined 45 percent in anticipation of federal tax reform". The present political climate has become unreliable for developers utilizing LIHTC, indicating a drastic decline in the total number that will be built, fundamentally challenging patchwork development strategies that have worked in the past and showing potential to further strain affordable housing production.

The study hinges on the fact that, on average, "renters need to earn 3.5 times minimum wage to afford medium asking rents" to afford a one bedroom apartment, indicating that the private market, driven purely by profit, has failed to provide adequate rental stock for individuals making under $16 per hour, including Preschool Teachers, Nursing Assistants, Janitors & Cleaners, Childcare Workers, and Retail Salespersons. When the 15.4 percent Official Poverty Measure is adjusted for housing costs and social benefits, it rises to 20.4 percent. CHPC quantifies California's underperformance to low-income households as a 1.5 million unit deficit, while the supply of market rate is in surplus.

It is important to know the facts and to understand that opposition to housing reform in California stems from those financially vested in the affordability crisis as a business model with deep roots in land speculation practices. Effective rent control is an instrument that offers eviction defense and homelessness prevention, while simultaneously reducing housing's corporate asset characteristics.

Utilizing our existing rent controlled housing stock is superior to the YIMBY model in that it reintroduces disenfranchised communities into the conversation of housing production. It's superiority hinges on the provision of real and tangible protections for the housing-insecure populations that live predominantly in urban, job-rich areas. The YIMBY "build, build, build" mantra is ineffective in benefitting low-income communities, and grants authority of the built environment to the highest bidder. Put simply, YIMBY fails in that it does nothing to address inflated land values which require higher rents to generate adequate return.

Leaving the private market to the task of building more housing will never provide desperately needed access for low-income communities, as stakeholders expect prices to rise as a means of generating their desired investment return. Unless Costa-Hawkins is repealed, local governments will not have the control they need to reverse the alarming increases in housing costs and homelessness, and trickle-down housing advocates will continue to displace low-income tenants as a form of modern redevelopment. Prop 10 is a democratic call to arms when all working class and low-income Americans say enough is enough and demand the protections that enable all to thrive and enjoy opportunity. ■

IMAGE CREDIT:
Ruben Guadalupe Marquez
instagram: @broobs.psd

IMAGE DESCRIPTION:
city buildings with a crowd holding Yes on 10 signs. A Yes On 10 sign encircled by flowers

San Francisco Safe Injection Sites: Down But Not Out

Robert W. Stanford

San Joaquin Democratic Assemblymember Susan Eggman and Senator Scott Wiener, recently authored legislation championed emphatically by San Francisco mayor London Breed. Assembly Bill 186 was a bill that would have provided safe injection sites for the intravenous drug-using population of San Francisco. It began its uphill battle three years ago as a bill that would allow all 58 counties throughout California to independently run safe injection site programs, also referred to as safe consumption centers.

After the legislation was rejected by both the Assembly and the Senate, Eggman and Wiener re-introduced the bill, reducing the number of counties to pilot a safe injection site and program to nine counties, chosen because of their high rate of intravenous drug addiction.

That bill, also rejected, was introduced for a third time, this time allowing just San Francisco to run three pilot safe injection sites for a trial period of three years.

Having the full support of City agencies, such as the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff Department and the Department of Public Health, the push for the bill's passage was spearheaded by Mayor Breed, who lost a sister to a fatal intravenous drug overdose.

As soon as the bill passed the Assembly and Senate, it was on its way to be finally decided by Gov. Jerry Brown and signed into California State law by his signature.

Prior to Brown's consideration, the ultra-conservative Trump administration sneaked through a dire warning via a New York Times op-ed piece in which Deputy U.S. Attorney General Rod Rosenstein made direct threats of property confiscation and incarceration of any individuals and/or organizations who may participate in the life-saving program that this legislation would legally condone on a state level.

He stated in the op-ed piece, emphatically, "It is a federal felony to maintain any location for the purpose of facilitating illicit drug use. Violations are punishable by up to 20 years in prison, hefty fines and forfeiture of that property used in the criminal activity."

Gov. Brown, who has long served California through the past several decades, has been historically known to be traditionally progressive. But when it came to legislation to provide for overdose prevention sites, he gave in to the Trump administration's intimidation and morality-based anti-drug user rhetoric as he vetoed the bill and cited falsehoods regarding its content to justify the outright veto. Giving no indication that he even read the bill, Brown said in his veto statement that the bill didn't provide for any rehabilitation services, which is utterly false.

One of the primary goals of the proposed legislation was to provide a safe harbor for those that suffer from the disease of addiction, so they would have secure, safe and ready access to detoxification and rehabilitation services, as well as many other necessary quality of life services through informational referral.

As Mayor Breed has unwaveringly stated multiple times, "We need to connect with these people on a human level so that we may offer them hope."

One such center was modeled precisely after the overwhelmingly successful safe injection site known as InSite, which has been operating since 2003 in Vancouver, Canada. Glide Memorial Church partnered with HealthRight 360 constructing and hosting a fully stocked, staffed and functional prototype. All of this was painstakingly done to show clearly and unequivocally that these program sites would in no way be anything more than safe consumption centers, not the illicit shooting galleries and crack houses as described by the Trump administration and the alt-right conservative opponents of drug users.

Never does the proffered program's critics mention the five goals that are the very framework of the proposed legislation, which are all described in great detail as the top priorities of the center's operations:

1. Preventing and/or reversing incidents of overdose, thereby saving lives that would otherwise be lost.

2. Preventing diseases, particularly of the blood borne variety such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, as well as many others resulting from otherwise non-sterile practices of injecting on the streets under desperate and hurried conditions.

3. Detoxification and treatment availability. An opt-in opportunity open to anyone choosing to make an attempt to cure his or her disease of addiction.

4. Connecting people to other services, both socio-economic and health wise.

5. Reduction of discarded needles on the street and further reduction of needle sharing.

San Francisco's currently operating and successful needle exchange program faced a similar battle, one in which the act of sterilized needle distribution was considered to be enabling addiction, thereby propagating the very problems the sterile needle distribution addresses successfully with incontrovertible evidence. The idea that needle distribution enables addiction is an outright deception that the religious right promotes as a distraction of their real intent, which is to circumvent the separation of church and state. Therefore the facts are dismissed, if not concealed, so that an unconstitutional morality may be imposed, which of course further marginalizes an equally precious segment of our population, resulting in needless suffering and death which the anti-drug user considers to be their just desserts — a psychopathic viewpoint that a drug user's death is a solution in itself.

The authors and proponents of this bill have vowed to keep fighting and make the pilot test program of providing safe consumption centers in San Francisco a reality. In a city where approximately 22,000 IV drug users reside, according to DPH estimates, this is nothing less than a health crisis of epidemic proportions.

The operation of the safe consumption centers is simple, yet extremely effective at putting a huge dent in the number of deaths San Francisco suffers daily due to overdose and complications related to unsafe practices of drug injection.

Throughout the lifetime of the InSite program, approximately 3.5 million medically supervised injections have taken place. Of these, there have been approximately 6,000 cases resulted in overdose, or just less than 0.2 percent. Yet without the medical oversight provided by a dedicated staff of health care professionals, there would have been 6,000 deaths. Fortunately, not one death has occurred in these cases.

Glide and HealthRight 360 provided guided tours, demonstrating that the model of the proposed facility indeed works.

With counselors and trained health care professionals constantly on staff, there are 12 booths provided for people to inject drugs that users themselves provide. Everything else is provided to ensure that their injection is performed safely within a clean and sterile environment — that includes cotton swabs, clean water, fresh tourniquets, as well as other supplies to clean wounds and greatly reduce the risk of infection.

As the user injects, staff monitor from the other side of the booth to ensure the user's safety at the first sign of danger, so that they will be treated immediately with the appropriate and necessary procedures to save their lives.

Through repeated use of the facility, person-to-person connections are developed, with users and staff being on a first-name basis. If at any point the person feels that they wish to change their lives and attempt to cure themselves of the addiction that tortures them so, the staff members are there and equipped to provide instant detoxification services.

For those that need help with basic survival matters, such as food, housing, clothing and an entire host of other social services, likewise, these are also immediately available through effective referrals.

As a community, we absolutely cannot, in good conscience, continue to allow these brothers and sisters of our human family to perish, all simply because we lack a basic understanding that drug addiction is far beyond a choice. It is, in fact, a disease — one that we will only be able to eradicate from a starting point of compassion and love. ■

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SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 6th

REMEMBER TO GO TO THE POLLS AND VOTE!

NOV 6

LEAGUE OF PISSED OFF VOTERS ELECTION NIGHT PARTY

WHERE: EL RIO, 3158 MISSION ST @8PM

While everyone is watching the teevees, we'll be watching SF Department of Elections returns and furiously updating flip charts. If you need to geek it up and party down, this is your election night landing spot.

ACCESS: El Rio has wheelchair accessible restrooms and ramps.

NOV 6

THE YES ON C PARTY

WHERE: ROCCAPULCO 3140 MISSION ST @8PM

We are on the cusp of something beautiful here in San Francisco. Whatever happens, let's all be in a room together on Election Night to celebrate our collective efforts!!

ACCESS: Roccapulco is an ADA-compliant space. For more accessibility information, contact Tony: roccapulco@yahoo.com Roccapulco is a bar. Event is 18+, IDs will be checked at the door. All under 21 will be wristbanded. Please be mindful of the underage attendees in the space.

NOV 8

MASS OF THE DEAD FOR OUR HOMELESS BRETHREN

WHERE: ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH @6:30-8:30PM

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone will offer a Solemn Mass of the Dead for the homeless faithful departed. All are welcome to attend and to bring the names of any deceased homeless for whom they wish to pray.

ACCESS: The side entrances have ramps. There is handicapped ready bathroom downstairs. No scent policy. Feel free to reach out to homelessmass@sfarch.org if arrangements need to be made.

NOV 10

#STILLHERE CAPITOL MARCH & RALLY FOR TRANS JUSTICE

WHERE: LAVENDER LIBRARY, ARCHIVES, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE 1414 21ST ST, SACRAMENTO, @10AM-4PM

We will meet at the Chyna Gibson mural right behind our historical Lavender Library. We will rally and then we will begin our march to the State Capitol.

ACCESS: We will have ASL-English interpreting during the speakers portion of this event. The event will be accessible for persons using wheelchairs and others with disabilities. People in wheelchairs will be encouraged to roll at the very front of this march, as they are a vitally important part of our movement. Remember: We stay together and stay tight in the march. We welcome service animals. Please do not wear perfume or fragrances to this event – this will be a scent-free event. If you need an accommodation that is not listed above, please reach out to event organizers (Nghia@ghcmail.org, Jasmine@ghcmail.org, Delphine.Brody@gmail.com) as soon as possible, and we will do our best to provide assistance.

NOV 13

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SF STATE STRIKE

WHERE: CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 678 MISSION ST @6-8PM

Join California Historical Society for an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco State Strike. A discussion will be initiated by leaders and participants of the Strike, as well as an artist who graduated from San Francisco State in Raza Studies and now teaches at State.

ACCESS: The space is ADA accessible and has an ADA accessible bathroom. It does not have a scent policy.

NOV 15

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY LAND TRUST? AN INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

WHERE: SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY MAIN LIBRARY - 100 LARKIN ST @6-7PM

Learn more about Community Land Trusts and the ways that SFCLT is using this model of community land ownership to fight displacement in San Francisco.

ACCESS: We will be meeting in the Mary Strong room on the first floor. This is an accessible room.

Bay Area Curbside Communities Respond To UN Special Report On Homelessness Naming Oakland, San Francisco As Human Rights Violators

On October 19th, the United Nations Special Rapporteur to the Right to Adequate Housing, Lelani Farha, released her new report documenting the "global scandal" of homeless encampments. In January of 2017, Farha spent time in the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California to meet with unhoused residents and housed advocates and described the conditions as "cruel and inhumane". The only U.S. cities explicitly called out for violations in the UN's report on global homelessness are San Francisco and Oakland.

She states that while the existence of "informal settlements" are human rights violations due to local government's lack of will to provide permanent housing to all residents, these encampments are also people's assertion to their denied human right of housing. She declares curbside communities are acts of resilience, resourcefulness and ingenuity in the face of dire circumstances. Rather than criminalize or ignore these settlements, until permanent housing can be offered to all, it is the duty of local governments not to evict curbside communities but to upgrade them and residents of these encampments should participate in all areas of the upgrading, including sanitation, clean water, food services and support services.

Homeless leaders and advocates in San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland hosted Ms. Farha, including Coalition on Homelessness, Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), The East Oakland Collective, The Village/Feed The People, and First They Came For The Homeless. Ms. Farha was able to hear and speak directly with people living in encampments and on our streets about the oppression, hatred and police violence they experience everyday. Representatives from these organizations, curbside leaders who are survivors of continued human rights abuses at the hands of government agencies, as well as legal advocates from Ella Baker Center For Human Rights and the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute will be speaking a Tuesday's Press Conference.

In Ms. Farha's report she frames the encampments and street dwelling in the United States under the same vein as the informal settlements around the world. Finding that "the scope and severity of the living conditions in informal settlements make this one of the most pervasive violations of human rights globally," states the report. The Oakland conditions of discrimination and harassment of encampment residents and punitive denials of access to basic services constitute "cruel and inhuman treatment and is a violation of multiple human rights...Such punitive policies must be prohibited in law and immediately ceased."

This assertion falls in line with the 9th Circuit Courts Sept 4th decision that criminalization of homelessness violates curbside communities' 8th amendment rights and constitutes as cruel and unusual punishment.

"The Report of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing As a Component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living, and on the Right to Non-Discrimination in this Context" is being presented at the United Nation's office in New York on October 19th. In solidarity with this presentation at the UN, events are planned in New York City; Denver, Colorado, and Oakland, CA October 23.

Writing in support of WRAPs Right to Rest acts in California, Colorado, and Oregon, the Rapporteur summed up her visit in California:

"In my capacity as the UN Rapporteur on Housing, I visited California and saw firsthand the human right violations being experienced by people who are homeless. They are the victims of failed policies—not the perpetrators of crime. The state of California must take action to remedy the criminalization of rest...While I toured encampments and drop-in facilities serving homeless people, the community repeatedly expressed that they simply wanted to be treated as human beings. It is dehumanizing, demoralizing, and unjust to criminalize hundreds of thousands of people due to their housing status."

The report concludes with step by step recommendations to enhance the lives of over 800 million people around the world who live in informal settlements and inhumane conditions concluding:

"That truth is that by any measure — moral, political or legal — it is unacceptable for people to be forced to live this way. Refusing to accept the unacceptable is where we must begin. All actors must mobilize within a shared human rights paradigm around the imperative of upgrading all informal settlements by 2030." ■

The report can be found here: https://wraphome.org/research-landing-page/legalresearch/

Coalition On Homelessness
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San Francisco, CA 94102
415.346.3740
www.cohsf.org
streetsheetsf@cohsf.org

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Coalition on Homelessness San Francisco

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STREET SHEET

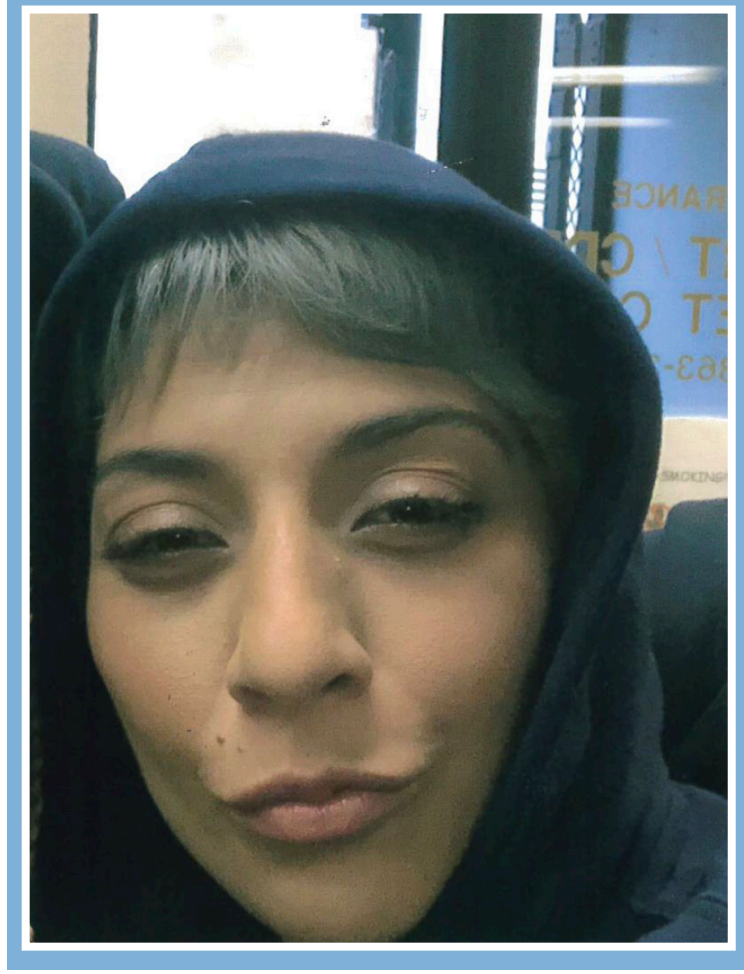
VOTER GUIDE 2018

PROP C, YES: *Our City Our Home! Tax large businesses to fund homeless housing and services*

PROP 1, YES: *$4B bond for veterans and affordable housing*

PROP 2, YES: *Allow previous bond money to be used for homeless housing*

PROP 10, YES: *Repeal Costa Hawkins! Allow expansion of rent control!*



MISSING PERSON!

Do you have any information on the whereabouts of Maryam Achekzai? She has been missing since October 2nd and she is loved and missed.

If so please call MJ at 415-955-7858 or call 911 and report information about case #180820942