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WE KEPT OUR EYES TRAINED ON HOME

Jennifer Friedenbach

This fall, the Coalition on Homeless has been working hard to pass Proposition C and finally make systemic changes to address homelessness. Now that it has passed, I reflect on the years of work our collective put in to finally get here.

The history of Proposition C can go back decades, representing years of struggle, failure, victories, learning, building, crying until there were no tears to shed, of trying a new path. There were many different perspectives on solutions, but along the way we never let ourselves get lost. We kept our eyes trained on home, and we won in a landslide victory.

I keep press clippings of whenever the Coalition on Homelessness is mentioned in the print media, and in preparation for my first meeting with Marc Benioff, I went back to find a specific article from 2011, in which this particular philanthropist and a homeless family represented an intersection of ideas. It would not be the last time our paths intersected.

At the time the article was published, Oshun Women's Drop-In center was a place where women with children who had nowhere to go, could sleep on mats on the floors. "Oshun" is the Yoruba goddess of healing, or of love and sweet healing water. This drop-in center's very existence is rooted in our struggle, the result of Black women fighting for a place of their own and securing the funding to open a women-centered and family members inclusive space that would transform the blocks surrounding it.

For a while, the promise held: childcare, benefits advocacy, trauma centered care, a community kitchen, afro-centric healing all took place. But, budget cuts, mismanagement, neglect and finally a loss of their lease led to its move to another space, under a freeway and far away from its roots. After the contract changed hands, and then changed hands again, the space turned into a women's drop-in, and eventually families with children were ejected except for minimum showers in the morning. The drop-in remains one of the saddest places in San Francisco, a cold, barren place where elderly and disabled women sit in chairs day and night. But it is at least a continues on page 6...



SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: As of November 14th there are **1,174 people** on the waitlist for shelter in San Francisco.

artwork by Roger Peet from Just Seeds

image description: sunflowers are bundled together with ribbon and a circle design reads "WE ARE ALL WE REALLY HAVE" while a line through the center reads "SOLIDARITY"

THE RENT CONTROL INITIATIVE JUST LOST: WHAT’S NEXT FOR RENTERS?

Matt Levin

Originally published by CalMatters

Proposition 10, the statewide ballot initiative that would have allowed California cities to expand rent control, has gone down to defeat. And while the state may not finish counting votes for weeks, it looks like Prop. 10 is going to lose badly.

On one hand, the rent control initiative’s defeat was eminently predictable. The polling started bad, and then got miserable. The “No” campaign—largely funded by landlords and Wall Street firms with large California single-family-home portfolios (the loosened rent control laws could apply to their properties if Prop. 10 passed)—out-raised the “Yes” side 3-to-1. Even in a “blue” wave, the California electorate is still predominantly homeowners. The math was never good. We’ve written extensively on the reasons Prop. 10 was tanking so bad in the polls, but there’s more to the story that will certainly leak out from the “Yes” side in the days ahead.

The big question among tenants’ rights groups and housing wonks is what happens next? Governor-elect Gavin Newsom has pledged

to negotiate a compromise on rent control early in his tenure, but the chief of the “Yes” campaign has publicly stated he doesn’t trust Newsom enough to negotiate. Perhaps the bigger question is what incentive the landlords have to compromise at all. If nearly two-thirds of Californians rejected an initiative to expand rent control, why compromise? The voters have spoken.

Tenants’ groups still hold a few other points of leverage. They’ve talked about putting an initiative on the 2020 ballot, with the hope that presidential turnout and better ballot language could reverse their fortunes. They are also still campaigning at the local level for new rent control ordinances, including in major cities like Sacramento. The landlord association doesn’t want to have to spend money on those fights.

But despite over \$20 million spent against them and slogans of “The rent is too damn high!” echoing across the state, the landlords appear to be in a better position than they were before the Prop. 10 campaign began. ■

WHAT IS UP WITH THE PROP C LAWSUIT?

Jennifer Friedenbach

The city is currently in court to resolve whether two voter initiative taxes on the June 2018 ballot required approval by simple majority or two-thirds of voters (Prop C/childcare and Prop G/teacher salaries). Proposition C, Our City Our Home, passed in November and received 60 percent of voter support but did not reach the two-thirds threshold. Its fate rests on the fate of the other two measures.

The California Supreme Court made a ruling that based on constitutional wording, voter initiatives only need a simple majority for special taxes. Special taxes are those taxes that direct spending to a particular use. City Attorney Dennis Herrera issued a statement interpreting the ruling this way last year.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association sued the child care measure in June which got 50 percent support. It is currently being litigated. The anti-tax group is challenging Herrera’s interpretation and trying to get a clarity from the court in their favor. The results of that suit will impact whether Our City Our Home can be implemented or not.

Meanwhile the funds are being collected and held. It may take one to two years to resolve. The teachers are getting their raises, thanks to a recently passed parcel tax, but child care and homeless funding is not moving forward at this point. The decision to hold the money rests with Controller. The decision to spend rests with Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. ■

ASK US ANYTHING

HAVE A QUESTION YOU WANT US TO ANSWER ABOUT HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING IN THE BAY AREA? ASK US AT STREETSHEET@COHSF.ORG OR (415) 346-3740 AND IT COULD BE ANSWERED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

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.

WORKGROUP MEETINGS

AT 468 TURK STREET

HOUSING JUSTICE WORK GROUP

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!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORK GROUP

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!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO OUR WORK GROUP MEETINGS. Unfortunately our space is not wheelchair accessible, but we will move our meeting location to accomodate people who cannot make it up the stairs. For access needs contact development@cohsf.org

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings, contact us at : 415-346-3740, or go at : www.cohsf.org

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STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

Editor, Quiver Watts

Assistant Editor, TJ Johnston

Vendor Coordinator, Emmett House

Our contributors include:

Jennifer Friedenbach, Sam Lew, Jason Law, Jesus Perez, Miguel Carrera, Scott Nelson, Nicholas Kimura, Robert Gumpert, Art Hazelwood, Dayton Andrews, Kelley Cutler, Raúl Fernández-Berrioabel, Garrett Leahy

SUBMIT YOUR POETRY!

The poetry issue of STREET SHEET will be coming out soon! Please submit poems for consideration by December 15th! Submissions from those who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness are prioritized by all submissions are welcome!

send submissions to qwatts@cohsf.org

GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT FAILS POOR PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS

Quiver Watts

On September 11th, the day before the Global Climate Action Summit conference brought world leaders together to strategize around climate change, Department of Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru sent an email to his entire staff to prepare them for a long weekend of hard work.

“Our city will be in the the spotlight and our crews have been working around the clock to make sure that people have a good, positive experience here,” Nuru wrote. “I want to thank everyone in advance for stepping up and showcasing the great work of our organization in caring for San Francisco.”

But behind the hopeful and rosy tone of Nuru’s message was a targeted attack on poor and homeless communities in the neighborhood surrounding the Moscone Center all in the name of the Global Climate Action Summit. On the schedule for the summit were Governor Brown (who rubbed elbows with politicians from all over the world), actors like Robert Redford and Alec Baldwin, and corporate heads like Marc Benioff of Salesforce, Brian Deese of Blackrock, and Kevin Johnson of Starbucks. But the summit itself was punctuated by large protests led by environmental justice advocates who criticized the summit for excluding community leaders who have been at the forefront of climate work.

“I feel like our communities at large were left out of the conversation. We didn’t get to shape the agenda or participate in any way,” said Alvina Wong, the Oakland Organizing Director at Asian Pacific Environmental Network. “We knew it was just a trade show for corporate solutions to climate change to be demonstrated. This was a summit for businesses that are impacting the climate to explore how businesses could continue to profit without addressing the pollution they are causing in primarily poor communities and communities of color.”

But in addition to the exclusion of key climate action leaders, the conference became the justification for encampment sweeps and criminalization. Documents released by the Department of Public Works (DPW) demonstrate a coordinated effort involving San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to remove all homeless people from the area around Moscone Center for the length of the conference. This coordination is known as the Healthy Streets Operations Center (HSOC) or more simply as the command center, which has ramped up the attack on homeless people in San Francisco over the last six months. They were in full force to keep homeless people from the area during the GCAS.

Meeting notes released by DPW show that the agency was preparing for the GCAS by conducting what they called a “city shining”, taking special note that there would be “prime ministers, governors, and mayors in attendance” and encouraging staff to “be on their best behavior”. The notes also read “HSOC is expanding personnel to keep things good in the downtown area from Van Ness to Embarcadero with special attention to Civic Center, Moscone, and the downtown hotels and BART stations”.

The notes also indicate that SFPD Commander Lazar had ordered a new procedure for HSOC in their efforts to clear the streets, reading “SFPD will be taking lead on all encampment requests. They will be first on scene to initiate enforcement.” Police should never be the first point of contact with homeless people, who are traumatized by the constant criminalization they endure in San Francisco.

The released documents also reflect what homeless advocates have been saying for a long time about the city’s failure to comply with its own “bag and tag” policy, which requires that belongings confiscated during encampment destructions are labeled and stored in a facility from which residents can later claim them. But DPW’s own notes report that the “Bag and Tag cage is a mess” and asks workers “please don’t just dump

items there”. This means that when people are displaced by sweeps they are unable to retrieve the belongings that are confiscated from them, including family heirlooms, medications, and survival gear.

For its part, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) offered a plan in coordination with HSOC that left much to be desired. The main resource supposedly opened up to accommodate for the mass displacement of homeless people for the summit was to open up winter shelter capacity starting on Tuesday and ending on Saturday morning. What this means for those being displaced would be checking in to MSC or Next Door shelters late at night and being out early the next morning, with only a mat to sleep on in the kitchen. HOT Team resources were also to be concentrated around the conference from Tuesday to Saturday. HSH notes also reflect an effort to “coordinate efforts through HSOC” and “ensure that SFPD and other HSOC partners are aware of resources and locations where they can direct or transport homeless individuals”.

After the summit, Mayor London Breed published an article on Medium in which she wrote “We are already seeing the impacts of climate change in our backyard, as evidenced by the increasingly devastating fires and droughts throughout California.” She listed out commitments that she was making to improve San Francisco’s environmental impact, promising to reduce landfill disposal and to increase renewable energy. She also promised that the new developments she has promised to build will run on renewable energy.

But conspicuously absent from Breed’s commitments is any acknowledgement of homeless people, who stand to suffer the most from the devastating impacts of climate change on our city.

“The wildfires right now are an example. We have code red air quality and the recommendation is for people to stay indoors,” said Wong. “And then you have unhoused people who don’t have that option, and who don’t even have access to the masks needed to protect their lungs. As our climate crises intensifies the folks who will be hit first and worst, the folks who will suffer the long-term health impacts are going to be people who are unhoused.”■

image description: APEN activists demonstrate outside GCAS summit



ELECTION SCORECARD: WHAT THE ELECTION MEANS



CA PROP 10 FAILS

THIS PROPOSITION TO REPEAL COSTA HAWKINS, AN OUTDATED LAW THAT PREVENTS CALIFORNIA CITIES FROM IMPLEMENTING RENT CONTROL, FAILED STATEWIDE, WITH 61.1% OF CALIFORNIA VOTERS REJECTING THE MEASURE. HOWEVER, VOTERS SHOWED SUPPORT FOR RENT CONTROL IN SAN FRANCISCO (52%) AND ALAMEDA (50%) COUNTIES.



DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

MATT HANEY, THE PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATE FOR SUPERVISOR IN DISTRICT 6 (THE DISTRICT THAT INCLUDES THE TENDERLOIN AND SOMA) WON WITH 63.8% OF THE VOTE. HIS OPPONENTS WERE CHRISTINE JOHNSON (36.2%) AND SONJA TRAUSS OF THE YIMBY PARTY (0%).

HOMELESS & marginally HOUSED HAVE A FRIEND IN MATT HANEY

Jordan Davis

I was overjoyed to see that school board member and eviction defense attorney Matt Haney defeated Sonja Trauss and Christine Johnson (who, fun fact, accepted money from single-resident occupancy hotel owners suing the city to stop an ordinance that would prevent SRO conversion from going into effect) in the District 6 supervisor race.

Trauss and Johnson were backed by big money, and were endorsed by none other than Randy Shaw, executive director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic and a non-profit who has benefited from Care Not Cash. Shaw has had a lot of influence over the District 6 Supervisor ever since 2000,

and not only will Matt Haney be a friend to tenants, but he will make sure that people who live in THC hotels, like myself, get justice. We live with very few rights as well as rents that eat up most of our income, and we need someone who will listen to tenants in non-profit hotels.

Also, with the "Twitter tax break" expiring in 2019, and Prop. C likely held up in court, Matt Haney will make sure this awful tax break is not extended, and we hope that the estimated \$35 million that will come in be recaptured to help the homeless and marginally housed, as well as street cleaning. ■



CA PROP 1 PASSES

CALIFORNIA VOTERS SUPPORTED (54.7%) A BOND MEASURE THAT WILL BE USED TO FUND AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING AND LOANS TO VETERANS TO BUY HOMES.



CA PROP 2 PASSES

CALIFORNIA VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED (61.8%) A MEASURE TO SPEND \$2 MILLION IN BOND REVENUE ON HOUSING FOR MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS AS WELL AS FUNDING MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAMS.



GOVERNOR: GAVIN NEWSOM

DURING HIS TENURE AS MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO NEWSOM CLAIMED TO SOLVE HOMELESSNESS, THOUGH THE NUMBERS SHOWED THAT HOMELESSNESS ACTUALLY INCREASED WHILE HE WAS IN OFFICE. HE WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROVERSIAL "CARE NOT CASH" LEGISLATION THAT SLASHED BENEFITS TO POOR PEOPLE BY 85% AND SHIFTED HOMELESS PROGRAMS TO FAVOR HOUSING AND SHELTER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS. WHILE HE OFFICIALLY REMAINED NEUTRAL ON PROP C, HE MADE NEGATIVE STATEMENTS ABOUT INCREASING SPENDING ON HOMELESS SERVICES AND SO THE PRESSURE WILL HAVE TO BE KEPT ON NEWSOM TO MAKE SURE HE MAKES GOOD ON CAMPAIGN PROMISES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.

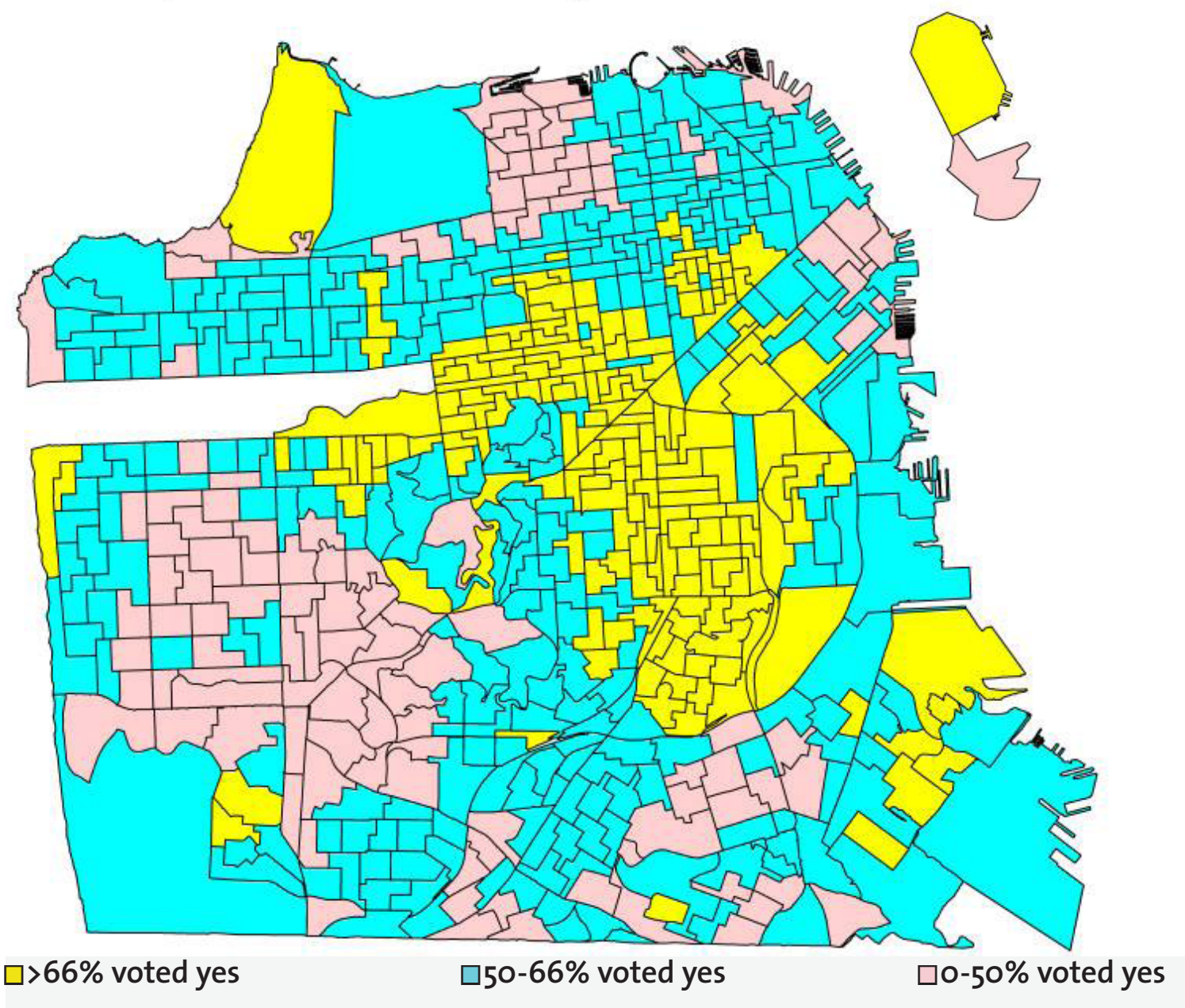
NS FOR HOMELESS SAN FRANCISCANS



SF PROP C PASSES

THIS PROPOSITION (FUNDED IN PART BY THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS) PASSED WITH A HUGE MAJORITY OF SAN FRANCISCO VOTERS (60.8%) SUPPORTING IT! THIS MEASURE IMPOSES A SMALL TAX ON CORPORATIONS WITH LARGE PROFITS AND REDIRECTS THAT FUNDING TO PROVIDE HOUSING AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. WHEN IMPLEMENTED IT WILL EXPAND THE NUMBER OF SHELTER BEDS AVAILABLE, OFFER IMPORTANT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND OPEN 4,000 UNITS OF HOUSING FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE. THE MEASURE IS NOW FACING A POTENTIAL LAWSUIT, SO STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES IN UPCOMING ISSUES.

MAP OF PROP C PRELIMINARY RESULTS



OUR CITY, OUR HOME: THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

Joe Wilson

WE HAVE SEEN WHAT’S POSSIBLE, AND WE CAN NEVER GO BACK TO WHAT WAS.

One could say that Proposition C - Our City, Our Home, began as a kind of quixotic imagining of possibilities, and, hopefully, if things worked out, much-needed increased funds for tackling the City’s homelessness crisis. A crucial ruling by the CA Supreme Court presented a window of opportunity that might not come again. A loose-knit gathering of activists, providers, rebels – and homeless people themselves – came together to talk, plan, strategize, and plan some more. Along the way, something magical happened. Like many campaigns, there were some early stumbles. Calls missed. Facts challenged. Re-writes. More re-writes. Pressure mounting as the enormity of the undertaking became apparent. Commitments made, then broken. And then, barely two weeks before the signature deadline – panic. An 11th-hour, frantic all-out sprint-to-the-finish line by hundreds of inspired, refuse-to-lose campaign volunteers to qualify the Our City, Our Home initiative for the ballot, gathered thousands of signatures in a matter of days (submitting more than 28,000 signatures in total). Overnight, the struggling campaign, searching for an identity, had been forever

transformed. A movement had been born. Of such are legends made.

WE HAVE SEEN WHAT’S POSSIBLE, AND WE CAN NEVER GO BACK TO WHAT WAS.

Jennifer Friedenbach of the Coalition on Homelessness was and is the inspirational emotional leader and motivational force of nature behind this transformative movement for change, skillfully leading a campaign that captivated the imagination of an entire City. From the beginning, she believed in this “magical moment.” So we did. Translating the divergent input and perspectives from a network of stakeholders into a coherent narrative and economically-defensible initiative with a creatively-tiered tax structure subjected to independent legal and fiscal analysis was no small feat. But, Jenny made us believe. Without question, Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff (with a huge assist from Christin Evans) deserves tremendous acknowledgement for his foresight, his leadership, and his much-needed generosity. Equally unquestioned, is that ultimately, the People of San Francisco – including homeless people - made this movement. The Mayor’s failure to support Prop C remains a huge disappointment. In the aftermath of an overwhelming voter mandate, Mayor Breed can still extend an olive branch to the heroes and heroines of the Our City, Our Home movement – starting with the Coalition on Homelessness. The Mayor must commit to redoubled efforts to bold, solution-oriented investments to combat homelessness – despite the legal challenge. Furthermore, we call on champions of local industry to follow Marc Benioff’s inspirational example – join the movement. What once seemed virtually intractable, we know is imminently solvable. We know what victory looks like.

WE HAVE SEEN WHAT’S POSSIBLE, AND WE CAN NEVER GO BACK TO WHAT WAS.

More than thirty years ago, our friend and mentor Paul Boden had the simple notion that homeless people had their own voice, and needed their own organization - and the Coalition on Homelessness was born. Jenny Friedenbach has helped forever change how San Francisco defines progress and envisions success on the issue of homelessness.

WE HAVE SEEN WHAT’S POSSIBLE, AND WE CAN NEVER GO BACK TO WHAT WAS. ■

THE PATH TO VICTORY

continued from page 1....

safe place off the streets, with showers and bathrooms, offering that very tiny bit of dignity.

Back in 2011, the numbers of homeless children in public schools were exploding due to the recession, and this turmoil was having an impact on education for children, so we pitched this story to Jill Tucker of the San Francisco Chronicle (<https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/S-F-schools-struggle-with-more-homeless-kids-2345204.php>). Marc Benioff, head of the city’s largest employing company and in particular, his wife, Lynne took notice of the article and thus began their journey of numerous large financial investments in ending family homelessness. We didn’t know then that our paths would meet again, one month before the November, 2018 election.

The loss of the dream of the Oshun Center, is one of many losses we have faced in this work. I have lost good close friends killed by the effects of homelessness – to suicide, to overdose, to bad medical care, to premature deaths from diseases brought on by sleep deprivation. We have lost many programs we have fought for, and we have lost many times at the ballot box.

People often ask me how I continue to do this work, but I feel like they are really asking why, why not give up, why fight the same fight year after year, why not quit years ago with so much defeat, and loss.

I usually respond that I do this work because I see it as a place where various forms of oppression meet. Racism, homophobia, ableism, sexism are all drivers of the homeless crisis. Homeless people are the living reflection of severe economic injustice. Their faces are maps of suffering, of the real life results of unfettered capitalism and collective neglect through inaction. Their early deaths a quiet reminder of our failure as a progressive city. Other times I respond that for San Francisco, homelessness is one of the last frontiers in a struggle against hate. Homeless people have been used as political scapegoats for the past three decades. In just about every mayoral campaign they have been vilified. Voter initiatives called for their jailing for asking for alms, or sitting or resting during daytime hours, while another called for ripping away their tents in exchange for an offer of one night in shelter. In each of these campaigns, greater forces were at work, and homeless people were pawns in a chess game that sought more power for downtown interests. Other voter initiatives were designed-to-fail endeavors, like “Care Not Cash” or the sales tax initiative that forced the poorest people to pay the most and that were really meant to bring name recognition to an up-and-coming politician rather than truly address the crisis. Year after year, the number of people

experiencing homelessness climbed upwards, while their health deteriorated rapidly, and decades were shaved off their lives.

Meanwhile the call for a radical change was growing.

Social change can only be realized when the right conditions are in place. Conditions that are seeded and grown over time through the hard work of community organizing. It took decades of work around homelessness in San Francisco to create the conditions for lasting change that Proposition C represents. Decades of leadership work, developing strong alliances with other community organizations and labor unions, protesting, developing policy, engaging in tireless media work and pushing for legal action. We effectively pushed back against the dehumanization of a population and their use as political wedges by hateful forces, while we continued to put out messages of hope and possibility.

The occupy movement built tents in public squares, and many homeless people joined them in struggle. Long after housed movement members took down their tents, homeless people kept theirs up. They offered a modicum of privacy and dignity, and also lent a visibility to the homeless crisis that did not exist previously. Mass displacement meant every day San Franciscans were relating to homeless people for the first time in decades. They saw themselves—precarious and threatened—in the faces of homeless people. Meanwhile, a court ruling opened up the opportunity to pass Prop. C with a simple majority, rather than two-thirds. While this was being challenged, and our own measure will likely be challenged because we failed to get two-thirds voter approval, it was still worth trying, because the likelihood of success in the courtroom is and was high. We also needed to make sure there was not a lot of competing measures on the ballot – this had hurt us in the past. We were able to convince our allies to get behind our measure instead of offering a number of competing revenue measures. They agreed. Lastly, a Trump Tax giveaway dropped the federal corporate taxes by 40% and gave us the opportunity to capture that revenue and use it to bring thousands of San Franciscans inside homes. This was our moment. Learning from the past losses of politically driven measures, we crafted a measure that was big and bold, with an income source that draws only from those who could truly afford to pay.

Over the course of ten months, we gathered data, solicited input, held presentations, conducted a poll, and hired lawyers to draft a measure. We went through dozens of drafts, soliciting and including input from hundreds of policy makers, elected officials, homeless people, front-line service providers, business leaders, department heads, and every major mayoral candidate. We made sure we had a strong implementation plan and knew exactly what could be achieved and how. We had inclusive meetings that all stakeholders were invited to attend and honed the language until we were

collectively satisfied with the results. Our first hurdle was jumped. We had some basic considerations: the initiative needed to be big and to take a massive bite out of homelessness. We wanted to go upstream and ensure we kept San Franciscans in their homes. We wanted children and young people to have the housing they need to prevent a whole new generation of homelessness. We wanted the measure to be holistic, and to address the issue from all sides. After careful consideration we decided to name the measure “Our City, Our Home”, coined by long-time housing activist Krea Gomez. The name was chosen to embrace San Francisco’s civic pride, inclusiveness, and housing as a human right.

This May we invited three amazing women to be our proponents; Jacquelynne Evans, a community leader and recently homeless mother; Christin Evans, small business owner and president of Haight Merchants Association; and Lauren Hall, Co-Director of DISH, a supportive housing organization. We submitted “Our City, Our Home” for title and summary and started gathering signatures. We were nervous and recognized that gathering the required nine thousand signatures was a huge undertaking. From May through the beginning of July we amassed over seven hundred volunteer signature gatherers. It turned out that we didn’t need to be nervous. We gathered a whopping (and potentially record breaking) twenty-eight thousand signatures which catapulted us over the finish line. We were on the ballot!

We were riding high on a wave of people power moving into the last few weeks of the campaign. The campaign caught fire, and a movement was birthed. Beginning in July, the Coalition worked to build bridges to expand the campaign. Organizations who had traditionally been at odds with each other all came on board, from groups like SPUR, Council of Community Housing Organizations, Harvey Milk Democratic Party, Alice B. Toklias Democratic Club and Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods. We gathered together ballot arguments from diverse San Franciscans and a host of elected leaders. We had raised about \$450,000 from a variety of donors including community activists, tech workers, unions, community organizations and more. We started a strong field campaign early—walking districts and making calls. We had successful Chinese and Spanish components and won a ton of earned media. People were feeling it. The campaign spoke to the deep, ongoing struggle for equity that San Franciscans are critically aware of. We garnered the endorsements of Congresswomen Nancy Pelosi and Jackie Speier, then got Dianne Feinstein. Support just kept rolling in. One month prior to the vote, Mayor Breed came out against the measure. A day following the Mayor’s announcement, the Coalition on Homelessness and Salesforce Co-CEO Marc Benioff crossed paths again in, of all places, a fateful late-night Twitter exchange between the billionaire and Booksmith owner, Christin Evans. Benioff came out in favor of Prop. C.

The final month was a whirlwind and took

and interesting turn. With CEO Benioff on board and sparring with other CEOs on Twitter in defense of Prop C, international attention turned to our race. With millions of dollars from Benioff were able to hire 200 homeless people to rapidly make phone calls to voters, and we had a robust advertising budget on cable, broadcast and digital media. We did innovative things, like skywriting and billboards. The people power was enormous and combined with what usually only happens in well-funded conservative campaigns, we were able to have a powerful combination of people power and advertising. We were able with the additional resources to go deep across San Francisco, to overcome the cynicism so many San Franciscans feel, fueled by decades of miseducation on the issue, the false promises and feeling that nothing would work. We were able to humanize homelessness with the extra support from Salesforce and Benioff, we were able to reach across our divisions and change the culture – change necessary to forge lasting change. In the end we won 80% of the precincts and Proposition C passed in every Supervisorial district in the city!

Reaching two-thirds is almost impossible with opposition. While we didn’t get it, and are now susceptible to a lawsuit, we built the political will necessary to bring us to the finish line. The lawsuit is just another hurdle we will jump over. We now face the work of making sure our vision is implemented in a way that is centered on the experiences and needs of homeless people, and is data driven to ensure best results. While this measure is in the courts we will dedicate ourselves to outreaching to folks who have experienced homelessness who could be on the oversight body, to collecting data from homeless people directly on how best to use these funds and to getting everything in place to make sure that when the funds are released, every project is designed and shovel ready.

There is a lot to learn from this campaign, and one of the biggest lessons is that in order to succeed we must inspire the hearts and imaginations of our allies. Together we can end the plague of apathy. This was an uncompromising measure that directly corrected some of the severe inequities that concerns so many of us who love this city. The measure taxes only the wealthiest corporations and houses the very poorest people. There is a simple beauty in that. A beauty that inspired thousands of San Franciscans to support this campaign.

For Rudy, the young boy featured in the SF Chronicle story in 2011, we can never take back the harm that was done to him by an affluent society that allows its poorest children to suffer so severely, as described in his words, “Mom, I’m cold, I’m hungry ... it’s pretty bad”. But we can make sure that the next generation has a safe and decent place to call home. Someday we’ll look back from a future in which everyone has a home and shake our heads in wonder at how we ever let things get so bad. Our heartfelt thanks to San Francisco and all those wonderful warriors who poured their sweat and tears into lifting us towards justice. Hasta la Victoria! ■

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

NOV 16	NOV 19	NOV 20	NOV 24
MAYOR’S DISABILITY COUNCIL MTG ABOUT HOMELESSNESS WHERE: CITY HALL ROOM 400 @1-4PM This meeting is open to the public and will give community the opportunity to voice opinions about homelessness and housing, mental and physical disabilities, and interactions between disabled folks and police. ACCESS: City Hall is wheelchair accessible. You can also call into meetings by calling 415-554-9632	GETTING ORGANIZED IN THE WAKE OF PROP 10 WHERE: OMNI COMMONS: 4799 SHATTUCK AVE, OAKLAND @7-9PM Don’t let Prop 10’s failure get you down—elections don’t organize tenants. Let’s get organized! Together we can fight against the Bay Area housing market! ACCESS: Meeting is not wheelchair accessible stairs). If you can’t make it, get in touch and we’ll ensure you can get plugged in: tenantorganizingeastbay@gmail.com	THANKS TO HANK: KICKOFF FOR THE KICKSTARTER WHERE: TENDERLOIN MUSEUM 398 EDDY ST @6-9PM The Tenderloin Museum, the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, and Cleve Jones present Thanks to Hank: Kickoff the Kickstarter, an evening celebrating the life of storied Tenderloin hero, Hank Wilson. ACCESS: Access info not available	SAVE THE REDSTONE! WHERE: 2940 16TH ST @8-11PM Fundraiser to benefit San Francisco’s Labor Temple: The historic Redstone building is under threat of being turned into condos. This event will feature DJs, an art sale, food and refreshments. Come out to support the survival of art and culture in SF and dance the night away! ACCESS: \$5-10 sliding scale donation at the door. There is a Lift & the event will take place on the second floor. Bathrooms are wheelchair accessible.
NOV 26	NOV 26	DEC 1	DEC 2
COURT SUPPORT FOR THE VILLAGE WHERE: DELLUMS BUILDING ON CLAY ST @3PM Support the fight to keep the #HousingandDignityVillage thriving! This is a project in deep East Oakland that is led by homeless people who are claiming vacant land in order to survive the housing crisis. ACCESS: The courthouse is wheelchair accessible.	STATE OF EMERGENCY: VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSWOMEN FORUM WHERE: COMMONWEALTH CLUB: 110 THE EMBARCADEROT @6-10PM Join us for a timely discussion with leading voices from the transgender community on the problem of violence against transgender people; moderated by Michelle Meow, host of “The Michelle Meow Show” and former president of SF Pride. ACCESS: Access info not available	ABOLISH ICE SF CARAVAN SUPPORT BBQ WHERE: 16TH AND MISSION BART @2PM Join Abolish ICE SF as part of a national collective Border Liberation Front, as we fundraise to support the Asylum Seeker Caravan. We will have free food, vegan options, music, and opportunity for you to donate directly to our Condor Relatives as they travel to the fake border from Honduras ACCESS: outdoor event	3RD ANNUAL DAY OF EXECUTION: MARIO WOODS WHERE: 3RD & FITZGERALD @4-6PM Mario Woods was killed by SFPD in a firing squad style execution on December 2, 2015. We have been fighting for Justice for Mario Woods ever since. We will ensure that the city of San Francisco NEVER forgets the injustice inflicted on Mario and his family. ACCESS: outdoor event

STAYING SAFE DURING THE WILDFIRES

Miles Sarvis-Wilburn

Staying Safe During the Wildfires

Wildfire smoke is hazardous and contains pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter. When structures are burned one must account for incinerated plastics, chemicals, and other particulates as well. Adults with respiratory problems (such as asthma), diabetes, heart/lung problems, as well as small children and the elderly are especially vulnerable. Symptoms of smoke inhalation include headaches, sore throat, burning eyes, irritated sinus, runny nose, and cough.

Individuals should stay indoors whenever possible, but if one must be outside two simple precautions are advised.

Wear a mask: Covering the mouth with a barrier of some sort is vital. Something as simple as a damp handkerchief or a surgical mask is better than nothing, but ideally one would have a N95 dust mask (also called a N95 respirator). These can be purchased at a local hardware store and should cost ten dollars or less. Look for masks with the plastic valve

in front, these are best as they allow exhaled air to pass through the mask with ease.

Note: N95 masks are not fitted for children and when worn improperly will not function well. N95 masks can be modified for children by making a one to two inch cut in the side of the mask (between the bands and towards the center), folding one side of the cut over the other, gluing this closed in position, and shortening the bands. The idea here is to form a tight and complete enclosure around the mouth so that when the person inhales, the contaminated outside air must pass through the mask (air takes the path of least resistance and will enter through an opening if possible).

Updated list of stores currently selling N95 masks:
<https://sf.curbed.com/2018/11/9/18079866/fire-smoke-face-mask-find-oakland-san-francisco>

Free masks can be found at the Tom Waddell Urban Health Clinic (230 Golden Gate Ave., SF, between Leavenworth and Jones), open from 8am - 5pm. Urgent Care at 50 Ivy St.,

SF. If traveling to these locations isn’t possible, consider calling 311.

Stay hydrated: Smokey air contains microscopic particles that get trapped in lungs and can be absorbed into the bloodstream. Water flushes these particles from one’s system. Staying hydrated also keeps the body healthy and facilitates skin cell strength, something important when the air is so dry. Hot liquids such as tea are especially good as they encourage saliva and mucus

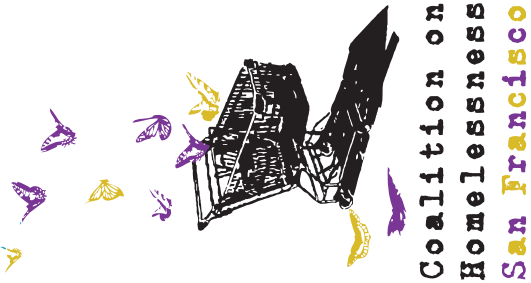
to move, thereby pushing trapped particulates through the body. Generally speaking, one is hydrated if one empties the bladder every three to five hours with pale yellow urine.

Other items to consider incorporating into one’s diet in these times are ginger, vitamin C, steam with thyme, and saline nasal spray. But first and foremost: stay indoors and stay hydrated, and if outside wear a N95 mask! ■



Coalition On Homelessness
468 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-346-3740
www.cohsf.org
streetsheetsf@cohsf.org

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STREET SHEET

NOV 15, 2018

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STREET SHEET
VENDOR
MEETS
PASTOR

Too often those with homes walk by those without, with no acknowledgement, eye contact, or offer of support. The Street Sheet hopes to address this disconnect by providing a point of engagement between homeless individuals and their housed neighbors, who can also learn through the newspaper about ways to support the struggle to house all San Franciscans.

Charles Davis is a Street Sheet vendor who has really been able to use the Street Sheet to build bridges with the broader community. Most recently Charles began selling his newspaper to the congregation at Calvary Presbyterian Church, and he made such a good impression on the pastor there that he was given his own booth from which to sell the

paper after the service.

Recently Charles invited Pastor Victor Floyd into the Street Sheet office for an interview, and we learned more about the Pastor’s connection to the paper and to homelessness as an issue.

“I’ve been reading the Street Sheet for at least 20 years, ever since I got here.” Floyd told Charles. “When I moved here from Atlanta I thought Street Sheet was just the best idea I’d seen out there in a long time and I always buy one when I can. I read the SS in seminary and shared it with a lot of my fellow students.”

Floyd says he first went into ministry as a gay man after making a deal with God that he would only continue the work is everyone could be treated equally.

“As time went on my little blinders fell from my eyes and I started to see how so many people were treated unequally,” Floyd recounts. “And thanks to church I got to know the homeless community better. Right now I feel like especially in the aftermath of the UN report that calls us cruel and and inhuman and

compares us to the worst places on earth for injustice I really think this is a wake up call for San Francisco to step forward and put our money where our values are.”

For Charles selling papers at the church is both lucrative and personally rewarding. He says the congregation has welcomed him graciously. “I felt like this is kinda like a new home to me, like a new family.” He says he will be attending the church’s annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Quoting from the Bible Charles says “be kind to strangers for you know not if they be angels”. Pastor Floyd looks over and nods; “Jesus said that”.



VISIT STREET SHEET ON FACEBOOK TO SEE THE FULL INTERVIEW!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A STREET SHEET VENDOR TO SELL OUTSIDE YOUR BUSINESS OR PLACE OF WORSHIP, PLEASE EMAIL US AT STREETSHEETSF@GMAIL.COM

elevators. Soon Dawe was in the conference room of the City’s Chamber of Commerce, putting a sandwich on a paper plate, grabbing an apple juice and finding a seat among a small audience of about 20 people. He was there to attend a talk by an upper level official from the City’s government. Dawe’s boss at the pest control company had asked him to attend the talk as the official’s topic related to City Hall’s environmental policies. Those policies might affect the pest control company’s contracts with the City so Dawe’s employer wanted him to find out if City Hall was making any policy changes that might impact those contracts. The Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce hosted the event and after about 20 people had settled in, he introduced the speaker. The speaker had recently joined the City’s government. Like many in City

Hall, the speaker had worked for the Leader. After starting, the speaker gushed about the Leader and the Leader’s “vision for our country.” To Dawe, the way the speaker said “our” made him feel as if he and many others weren’t really included in that “our.” The former messenger nibbled his sandwich as the City official droned on about various issues. The speaker concluded and then the Chamber’s Vice President opened the floor for questions. The official fielded several questions, stating that in each case the City government acted as the will of the people. Towards that ideal, the Leader and City Hall listened to the opinions of various community groups including, the official noted - the business community. Sitting nearby, the Chamber’s Vice President acknowledged the credit with an approving nod. But of course, the City official added, after giving all communities their chance to offer input, the City would decide its policy. The

speaker then asked for a final question. Dawe raised his hand and was recognized. After introducing himself and stating that he was speaking only as an individual citizen and not for his employer, Dawe continued to his question. “Many in the cycling community and other advocacy groups hope that the City will prohibit privately owned cars from downtown,” he began, “or charge them a toll to decrease traffic congestion, make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists and also more efficient for public transit. What will City Hall do about this?” “The Chamber of Commerce will not allow that,” the Vice President of the business group said. Dawe was disappointed but not surprised that a City policy had been determined by the Chamber of Commerce. The official from the City government stated at the floor in silence.

MR.

DAWE’S

CIVICS

LESSON

Howard Isaac Williams

On a sunny winter day early in this century’s second decade, Jack Dawe locked his mountain bike outside a Financial District skyscraper and sauntered into the neo-Gothic building, so familiar to him from his messenger days.

He strolled through the lobby, nodded toward the security guard who acknowledged Dawe who then tapped the “Up” button next to one of fifteen