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STREET

SHELTER



art by Oliver @allofthenorth
www.allofthenorth.com

SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: As of February 15th there are 1,134 people on the waitlist for shelter in San Francisco.

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BLACK SAN FRANCISCANS WILL BECOME HISTORY UNLESS WE STOP DISPLACING THEM

Olivia Glowacki Black people make up less than 6% of San Francisco’s general population and 34% of the city’s homeless population, according to the 2017 San Francisco Homeless Count & Survey. Other sources put the percentage of homeless people who are Black at 50% and this number has been on the rise since the 1980s. While gentrification and greed grow, San Franciscans who were born, raised, and now raise their children here, are being pushed out to surrounding areas of Alameda, Oakland, and even as far as Sacramento. These folks go to school here, work here, and have seen the city change as a result of capitalistic gain. As housing is and continues to be scarce and the term “affordable” housing means \$4,000 rent per month which only the rich can afford, Black folks are being displaced from San Francisco at astronomical rates.

The city will argue housing subsidies and vouchers counteract this displacement, but this is far from the truth. San Francisco resident of 15 years, Sophia Thibodaux, knows firsthand what it is like to face displacement as an African-American homeless mother. After receiving a \$1,900 housing voucher, she was excited to finally

move into stable housing for her and her two children. “They set me up,” Sophia said, “They gave me a measly voucher and there’s no way I could even afford a studio with it- even if I found a landlord who would take it.” This voucher seems like a golden ticket to those who don’t rely on them for housing. In reality, vouchers are often too small to afford even the cheapest studio and don’t last long enough to keep the individual or family housed. Moreover, landlords often reject housing subsidies and vouchers, so even if you get a voucher, many places refuse to take them. These compounded barriers make it so homeless folks end up back in the revolving door of emergency shelters, transitional housing, or back on the streets.

Others will also argue the city has a plethora of adequately funded social services, programs, and nonprofits, but that is far from the truth. While there are over 70 nonprofits in San Francisco that are focused on homeless relief, these organizations are often grossly underfunded, understaffed, and riddled with broken amenities like faulty washers and dryers, bed bugs, and disrespectful staff. While many of these nonprofits exist in the Tenderloin in District 6, many tend...
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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.

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SUBMIT YOUR WRITING

STREET SHEET publishes news and perspective stories about poverty and homelessness. We prioritize submissions from currently or formerly homeless writers but gratefully accept all submissions.

send submission to qwatts@cohsf.org

URGENT WEATHER MET WITH LAX RESPONSE

Brian Edwards

“During the first heavy storm of February, a really sweet older gentleman who sells the Street Sheet rang the bell to our office. When I opened the door, I could barely recognize him. He was shaking, soaking wet, and couldn’t even walk up the stairs without my help. His hands, bone white and shriveled from the rain, shook so badly that it was nearly impossible for him to drink the hot tea we’d given him. He’d been staying outside in the constant rain for two days in a tent. We scrambled to get him warm clothes and a shelter bed for the night, but it was both heartbreaking and haunting to witness this suffering, a product of the inhumane way the City treats homeless folks. With a severe shortage of shelter beds, SFPD and DPW continued to confiscate tents night and day during this storm, and others before and after it. I wonder where he is tonight.”

That’s Coalition on Homelessness Policy Director Sam Lew, describing her experience with just one of the thousands of unsheltered San Francisco residents who have spent recent storms outside in the cold and rain.

Since January 1, the National Weather Service has issued flash flood warnings and high wind warnings during three major San Francisco storms. Gusts of wind reached over 60mph during all three storms, and temperatures dropped into the low 40s. Up until February 13th, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing’s response to extreme weather events has been to make 25-75 extra shelter mats available. With only 2500 total shelter beds in San Francisco (awaiting updated number from Ben), 75 additional mats create space for about 1.5 percent of those 5,000 unhoused San Franciscans not already in the system, and those mats are only available between 8pm and 7am. Most homeless people aren’t even aware of the additional shelter capacity, as it has become more difficult to notify them since repeated sweeps have caused people to scatter in hopes of escaping enforcement. With limited City resources for extended outreach, many of the additional mats remained empty during some of the recent storms due to poor communication.

For San Franciscans forced to spend their days, nights, or both outside during cold and wet weather, a tent can provide shelter and respite from conditions that would otherwise be miserable. During the recent storms, SFPD continued to use the threat of arrest to compel people to handover their tents, sometimes hitting the same folks night after night. Without shelter, blankets and clothes become soaked, and often stay that way until after a storm subsides. Meanwhile, the SFPD Tenderloin Station bragged on Twitter last week about clearing encampments and arresting

one unhoused resident, referring to that person as a ‘camper.’

The problem isn’t limited to San Francisco - the US Conference of Mayors has consistently reported that the number of people seeking shelter during inclement weather exceeds by far the actual number of available beds. San Francisco may not be experiencing extreme temperatures like much of the rest of the country, but for the people here who don’t have access to shelter from the elements, the impact of storms is extreme enough. ‘We’ve received a lot of reports of SFPD taking folks tents,’ says Kelley Cutler, Human Rights Organizer for the Coalition on Homelessness. ‘Before storms, during storms... that’s the new norm in San Francisco. On outreach we regularly hear that this is something people are experiencing on a regular basis, if not daily. People are wet, exhausted and weary. Folks can barely recover from one storm before another one comes along. They need dry blankets, because everything they own is soaked.’

Historically, most injuries and fatalities caused by cold weather have been incurred by soldiers, and the majority of cold weather injury reports in medical literature come from military history. Cold was responsible for more injuries to heavy bomber crews in WWII than all other causes combined, as well as 10 percent of all US casualties during the Korean War. One need not join the army to be at high risk of suffering due to cold, though. Cold weather poses a number of unique threats to people who are unhoused, and can be greatly exacerbated by rain and/or high winds. Tents and other improvised shelters can be blown away or ripped apart, leaving people more vulnerable to exposure. Flash floods can also damage or destroy shelter, and leave homeless residents and their belongings soaked for hours, or even days.

The health risks caused by prolonged exposure to cold temperatures increase in wet and windy weather, and include heart, brain, and kidney malfunction, as well as lowered immune response - for instance, homeless individuals are 75 percent more likely to develop chronic bronchitis than those who are housed. Homeless people in every age group are already three times more likely to die than people the same age in the general population, and those who have a history of cold-weather health issues, such as frostbite, immersion foot (trench foot), and hypothermia have an eightfold increase in risk of death when compared to other homeless individuals.

Hypothermia, defined as having a core body temperature below 95F, can occur when the outside temperature is as high as 50F, or even higher in the presence of rain and/or high winds. Wind increases the rate of heat loss

from exposed skin, and wet clothing causes a twenty-fold increase in heat loss. This is a potentially fatal condition, with mortality rates ranging from 30-80 percent, and can quickly lead to impaired cognition, including one’s ability to know that they are in urgent need of emergency shelter and medical attention. According to the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, people who are homeless have three to six times the risk of hypothermia than people who are housed.

HSH’s Cold and Wet Weather Policy and Procedure for Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness requires forecasts of temperature and rain to meet one or more of the following conditions in order to trigger the automatic expansion of SF’s Adult Emergency Shelter System:

Temperatures forecast to drop to or below 40 degrees for two consecutive days or longer, OR

Rainfall forecast to be 1.5 inches or more each day for two consecutive days, OR

Rainfall forecast to be 0.75 inches or more on each of three or more consecutive days or longer, OR

Forecasts of temperatures to drop to or below 45 degrees AND rainfall to be 0.5 inches or more AND winds of more than 30 miles per hour all within the same 24 hour period for one or more days.

None of this year’s storms have met those conditions. However, HSH responded the same way they would have if one or more of those thresholds

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had been reached - by adding an additional 25-75 shelter mats. 25-75 extra mats for the 5,000 San Francisco residents living outdoors with little or no protection from the elements. That’s it. In order for HSH to consider additional service expansion, such as ‘pop-up’ emergency shelters, the thresholds are even higher, although the protocol does allow for situations such as flooding or high winds to be taken into account. Both of those conditions occurred several times already this year, often at the same time, but no further expansion of services beyond the initial 75 mats was offered until Wednesday, February 13, when an extra 80 mats were added to the 75 HSH opened up earlier in the week. That’s still only enough additional space for 3 percent of the 5,000 homeless San Franciscans not already in shelters.

The City’s current policy for shelter during inclement weather is almost comically inadequate, and puts our unhoused neighbours at serious additional risk of health and safety issues, especially while SFPD and DPW continue to ramp up sweeps and tent confiscations. It will take years for San Francisco to have the shelter capacity to meet the needs of the its homeless residents, and while cruelty and indifference continue, city officials have yet to propose any robust, workable solutions.

‘I wonder,’ mused Kelley Cutler. ‘Will the City refrain from doing sweeps and taking folks’ survival gear during the next storm? And the one after that? They didn’t during the last ones. The worst sweeps I have ever witnessed all happened during storms. Will they continue to keep kicking people while they’re down? It’s cruel.’ ■

THE SHELTER

Darnell Williams

I will never forget that day. It was July 17, the day I first arrived in San Francisco. It was a cold, wet and rainy day when the Greyhound bus pulled into the station. I couldn’t help but think to myself, “What happened to the summer?” because two days before, I was in Phoenix and it was 115 degrees. I knew right then that I needed to find a shelter, and fast.

I was freezing, so I saw some men walking with backpacks. I asked one elderly gentleman, “Could you please tell me where is the nearest shelter?” He told me to follow him, and I did.

It wasn’t what I expected, but it had to do. Home Sweet Home, it wasn’t, but at least I wasn’t cold, wet and hungry any more. For that, I was truly grateful for the shelter.

Some years later, I was walking home last night, and I watched an elderly woman engaged in a fight with the streets of San Francisco. She was no match for the cold, wet and mean streets, because the streets had help from the elements, tag-team style. First, the cold winds attacked her, then the cold winds from the Pacific, then the hot sun came and burned her skin.

Then, it was the streets’ turn. The streets took her tent, blankets, meds and a citation. Just when the streets thought they had her beat, along came a stranger and offered her shelter. The shelter gave her, which gave her a place to stay until they gave her housing. Then they gave her a job. Now she is giving back to society, thanks to the shelter.. ■

SHELTER SYSTEM Q&A

IS THERE A WAY YOU CAN REPORT STAFF ABUSE?

They do have ways, yes. I would say that most of the time you can report it to staff and they handle it from there. If staff does something you're supposed to be able to report it to staff, and there is number you can call. Or you can go to the advocacy program. People don't feel safe reporting to the stuff cuz it has a tendency not to go anywhere or be handled. And people are worried the staff will retaliate. - EH

You can file grievances, but it seems to be a total waste of time. -TM

WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING ARE REQUIRED OF SHELTER STAFF?

The qualification requirements vary for different positions, but generally speaking the only requirement for 'frontline staff' is a high school diploma or GED (although this is not always the case). And while individual shelters do routinely hold de-escalation, mental health and domestic violence trainings, most staff workers do not have prior 'formal' training in these areas outside of personal experience. Keep in mind that the pay rate for shelter staff is barely minimum wage, so many of the frontline staff are formerly homeless, currently homeless or 'precariously' housed themselves. Because the whole system is underfunded it is hard for service providers to have a 'competitive' pay rate to attract outside talent with specialized training. On the one hand the experience and compassion that staff bring to their work is admirable, but on the other hand, the lack of training does lead to situations being unnecessarily escalated or mishandled. - SCA

HOW ARE HOMELESS PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DECISION MAKING PROCESSES REGARDING THE SHELTERS?

There are 'official' channels for policy making in regards to the shelters the city provides funding for. However homeless people are generally excluded from the decision making process which is largely internal and handled between shelter staff and the Department for Homelessness and Supportive Housing. - SCA

DO SHELTERS TAKE PEOPLE'S WORK HOURS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN ENFORCING CURFEWS?

No. Some clients have to work days and hours when they are supposed to check in, and the shelter will just refuse to accommodate them. A lot of those folks end up getting DOSed (Denial of Service) because the paperwork didn't go right or something got mixed up. - EH

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF SURVEILLANCE IN THE SHELTER FACILITIES?

In the transitional shelter, there are cameras in certain places in the building. We have to sign in and out every time that we leave the facility. - TM

At my shelter they have to show ID, and the security guard wands them down. Some people are offended by that, and I was offended when it happened to me. But then when I thought about it more I think it was intended to keep people safe. A lot of people are angry and on edge. So if they snap and they have a knife or a gun, then we all in trouble. - EH

DO SHELTERS EXPECT ELDERS & DISABLED FOLKS TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR?

Yes. Elders and disabled folks are expected to sleep on the floor, or in chairs, if they are accessing an emergency shelter or drop-in center. The city does accommodate people with disabilities and medical issues on a case by case basis, however many of the shelters are not ADA compliant. - SCA

We asked our readers and social media followers to send in questions about the shelter system in San Francisco, and then invited shelter clients and their advocates to answer the questions to give us an on-the-ground perspective about the conditions in shelters around the city. These responses are not comprehensive, but they paint a picture of the systems strengths, and its weaknesses. The questions were answered by Roadkill, Tracey Mixon, Emmett House, and a shelter client advocate.

IS THERE A WAY YOU CAN REPORT STAFF ABUSE?

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You can file grievances, but it seems to be a total waste of time. -TM

ARE FAMILIES WELCOME IN THE SHELTERS?

I've been to several family shelters, when I was a kid with my mom and sister, and now with my partner and my children. Hamilton Families is where I've been with my kids. Most of the time staff are pretty good about being nice the first week, but then the whole honeymoon period goes away and you start getting a sense of their attitude towards you. I know that in the single occupancy shelters, things are rougher. And that's usually because in the family shelter there is a little more compassion because you have children. But when it's just you they could f***ing care less. - RK

RK

DO SHELTERS LET YOU BRING IN YOUR PETS?

Not many shelters let you bring dogs, so most of the time I would just tough it out on the streets because I didn't want to leave my dogs. Normally if you get a temporary bed at a shelter, meaning you have to go and reserve it, they don't let you bring pets unless you bring in ADA paperwork. So they won't let you bring in emotional service animals. And a lot of people can't afford to get their animals ADA approved, because there is a lot of work involved. But when you have a more permanent bed you can bring your emotional service animal with you. - RK

- RK

WHAT ARE THE BEDS LIKE IN A SHELTER?

The beds are like they are in jail, but they are just on the floor instead of strapped to the wall. It's a mat and a bunk. After a while you have to get used to it, but sometimes the mattresses are really thin. People tie sheets around them so they can be plumped up a little bit, somewhat comfortable. In jail, in order to prop up your head you have to take your shoes off, put them at the head of your bed, and put your mattress over them. It's somewhat near the same in the shelter. The stuff they get to put in the shelters comes from the county, it's the same stuff goes to the jails. - EH

- EH

DON'T SEE YOUR QUESTION ANSWERED HERE? SEND IT IN TO STREETSHEETSF@GMAIL.COM!



THE CITY IS DISPLACING BLACK PEOPLE

Olivia Glowacki

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... to forget about the other homeless hotspot, the Bayview in District 10. The 2017 Point in Time count logs 3,680 homeless folk in D6, and 1,275 in D10. These two districts account for 66% of the total homeless population in San Francisco, but there is a major disparity between access to services in the Tenderloin and in the Bayview. For more than a thousand homeless folks in Bayview, there are only a handful of shelters to access services. Mother Browns, Salvation Army, and Providence are among the select few places homeless folks can go for drop ins or overnight shelters. These places often offer a hot meal and mat on the ground, as well as a stringent curfew to enter and exit the shelter. Although the services are not ideal and often lack dignified resources, Providence fills with 125 folks for the night, and the rest who are not lucky enough to reserve a bed, are back out on the streets.

Tracey Mixon, a San Francisco native, born and raised in the city, is a single Black mom experiencing

homelessness. She has family and connections in Bayview but currently lives in a shelter in the Tenderloin. Before she had her child, Tracey was bouncing from SRO to SRO every 28 days all around the Tenderloin and in Sunnysdale. Tracey has been homeless for 22 years and her daughter, Maliya, has been homeless for all 8 years she's been alive.

Tracey and her daughter have a very close relationship; "it's me and her against the world," she explained.

Tracey makes sacrifices so that Maiya can go to private school in the city and get the best education possible. Her daughter, in third grade, already reads at a sixth grade level and talking to her, you would expect her to be years older than she is. They both reside in a shelter now where they've been staying at for 5 months already. While they're thankful to have a place to rest their heads at night, finding permanent, stable housing is near impossible and the staff at the shelter have not been helpful in identifying places.

"The only option they give me are all over California, not in the Bay Area, and at market rate housing," she explained.

Tracey said the shelter staff have tried to displace her to San Bernardino and San Joaquin but her work, Maliya's school, family medical care, connections, and friends are all in San Francisco. Moving would mean Tracey and Maliya would lose these valuable connections, Maliya would have to adjust to a new school despite her excelling in her current school, and a transportation for commutes to the city would be an added expense to the family budget.

What Tracey has been told from shelter staff is unfortunately common. Lots of folks here, especially brown and black folks, have a history of being displaced. From 1970 to 2010, San Francisco's African-American population has decreased 50% and the Fillmore neighborhood, which was once called the "Harlem of the West," is now a white-washed, gentrified home to techies and other outsiders. Both

sides of Tracey's family have roots in the Fillmore and Tracey's mom knew Etta James when she performed and toured around the neighborhood. Currently, only a handful of Tracey's relatives can afford to live in the Fillmore while most of her family has been displaced beginning in the early 1980s. Her grandmother was displaced to Oakland and other folks were moved out of their family homes under the guise of "renovation" and got priced out when they returned, ultimately displacing them out of San Francisco.

Tracey summarizes, "San Francisco doesn't want families of color or poor people living here." She's seen firsthand how her family has been displaced out of the historically Black neighborhood and is experiencing the threat of displacement now. It is clear that unless actions are taken to support our unhoused neighbors, especially our African-American ones, Black families will become history in San Francisco. ■

LIMBO AT THE DROP-IN

TJ Johnston

"Limbo At The Drop-In" was originally

published in the August 15th issue of Sreet Sheet in 2014. It originally ran without a byline, but after many years as our Assistant Editor and a journalist with the Street Sheet, the author is ready to run the piece with his name on it.

It's 4 p.m. and I've been waiting two hours already to get a seat at the MSC South drop-in. I spent the last two hours outside waiting in line with about 10 or 12 other homeless people ahead of me — that is, if nobody cuts ahead.

I want to get a bed for the night, and the only things standing between me and that bed are the gate at the entrance, security guards whose searches put the Transportation Security Administration to shame and an empty chair.

Inside already are about 40 or 50 people sitting in plastic chairs watching '70s reruns on the 20-inch TV overhead or sleeping on cots most of the day.

The drop-in can accommodate 70 people — or should I say "guests," according to the San Francisco fire code.

By now, the bed-sleepers have left, and their beds are disassembled to make room for more chairs for us outside. And it's vital we have a seat not just to get off our feet but also to be

eligible for the 5 p.m. sign-up for shelter reservations.

Staff walk over to guests one by one with a clipboard and ask them for their names, last four digits of their Social Security numbers (or birth dates) and choice of shelters.

And then we wait for them to call our names and assign beds that are available. For that night.

I forgot to mention the lottery in place here. The rows of chairs are numbered 1 through 10. After taking our reservations, staff mixes up the numbers — for example, 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. At 5:30, the staff post the now-randomized numbers, and beds are given out in the newly assigned order.

Those lucky enough to have their names called by 7 p.m. can make the shelter's check-in time AND dinner! The others who don't must subsist on donated sandwiches — usually, ham and cheese or turkey (I wonder how vegetarians fare?).

In the meantime, guests have to remain at the drop-in until their reservation is confirmed. If they leave before that time, they risk forfeiting their chairs and have to line up outside once more. The only exception to the rule is for smoke breaks at appointed times, and that requires a ticket to re-enter the drop-in.

As guests exit to the shelter, new people who were still in line outside make their way inside the drop-in. And they must sign in and take a chair until people in the 5 p.m. lottery are placed. For these latecomers, it could very well take all night, depending on the availability of beds. Staff at the desk search on the computer for vacancies. Maybe someone missed a shelter's curfew, leaving that bed empty. That could be a lucky break for another guest waiting for a place to lie down indoors.

Believe it or not, this process used to be more difficult.

People would wait outside before the crack of dawn outside reservation centers. At MSC South, guests would line up for numbered wristbands given out at 8 a.m. There was a lottery system at work at that time, too, prioritizing people from the wristband line. The first 40 were instructed to return later that day to find their place in the order. That in-between time was the equivalent of a full eight-hour workday. A lucky few scored 90-day reservations, while some got a one-night stay. The rest who didn't make the top 40 would have to return to the drop-in for sign-up at 5 p.m.

Now, there's a waitlist for 90-day reservations exclusively accessed by dialing 311. That went into effect in February. Having a cell phone helps,

but reservation centers also have direct lines to 311. Assuming, of course, that one is in the system called CHANGES (short for Coordinated Homeless Assessment of Needs through Guidance and Effective Services — yes, that's the actual name).

To register, people give their name and "last four" or date of birth, and they have their photo taken. Also required are a thumbprint to verify identity (used only within the system) and a TB clearance from the Department of Public Health.

While guests wait for a voice message or text from 311 notifying them of an available 90-day bed, the drop-ins still issue one-night reservations and see people waiting in line at all hours of the day, their lives on hold and in a state of limbo. Groups of homeless people continue to stay overnight outside Glide and Mission Neighborhood Resource Center.

What about those still waiting for shelter? Sometimes, they spend a long, uncomfortable night in a drop-in chair. Lying down is not allowed, so guests have to perform acrobatics while sitting. At MSC South, the lights go out at 10 p.m. It's the city's only 24-hour drop-in, so more people wait outside for an available chair. And some of them have been waiting all day... ■

SAN FRANCISCANS FIGHT FOR WINDFALL FUNDS

TRACEY MIXON AND SOPHIA THIBODAUX AT CITY HALL FIGHTING FOR A FAIR BUDGET

PHOTO BY MIKA TOSTON



On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approve a spending deal that will fund upwards of \$200 million for salary raises for public school teachers and childcare providers as well as affordable housing and homeless services.

The funds originate from the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Established in 1992 by the state of California, the fund essentially takes away money from counties in the form of property taxes to be used for school districts, while simultaneously taking away the same amount in state funding. However, once the revenue from taxes reaches a certain cap, the excess money is returned to counties. And, for San Francisco, this could be the case for the foreseeable future to the tune of around \$200 million per year, barring any changes in state law.

With such a large and unexpected amount of money, community groups scrambled for a piece of the pie. Most notable were three groups who all passed voter initiatives last year that are now all tied up in court: Props C and G in June, which raised salaries for childcare providers and teachers, and November’s Prop C, which raised funds for homeless housing and services. Mayor London Breed also introduced her own budget proposal, which allocated all of the funding for affordable housing and homeless services.

The budget proposal that has passed — and was co-sponsored by all eleven supervisors — includes

\$88.5 million for homelessness housing and service. The money will be spent on 300 shelter beds, 550 housing units and 86 beds for those with acute behavioral health needs.

The Our City Our Home Coalition, a group of advocates, frontline service providers, and people with lived experience of homelessness which were the proponent of November’s Prop C, voiced concerns over the allocation of homelessness funding. Namely, that there was a stark absence of funding for homeless families and youth, two populations that have been historically underfunded, but represent the majority of the homeless population.

Indeed, all funding for shelter and housing will be going towards the homeless adult population, targeted specifically at the chronically homeless population, a move that elected officials have been keen on supporting to reduce street homelessness, rather than addressing the issue equitably.

The other concern? An allocation of \$4.5 million for mental health beds at St. Mary’s. The hospital beds would be located in a locked facility (meaning that patients would not be able to exit services by their own will) and cost upwards of \$142,000 per bed per year — an incredibly ineffective

way to use limited resources. Studies have shown that locked facilities do not improve mental health outcomes more than voluntary mental health services. Advocates instead maintained that there should be an investment in community mental health care.

The City will be receiving an estimated additional \$200 million in June. Hopefully, this time Supervisors will put their money where their mouth is — and remember the homeless families and youth in the budget process. ■

HOUSING		
Construction of modular housing on 7th and Mission (Adults)	\$42 Million	250 Units
City Leases 5 Single Room Occupancy Hotels (Adults)	\$15 Million	300 Units
Housing for Homeless Youth - \$0		
Housing for Homeless Families - \$0		
SHELTER		
SAFE Shelter (Adults)	\$15 Million	200 beds
Navigation Center Expansion (Adults)	\$7 Million	100 beds
Shelter for Homeless Youth - \$0		
Shelter for Homeless Families - \$0		
BEHAVIOR HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES		
San Francisco General Hospital Substance Abuse Beds	\$5 Million	72 beds
St. Mary’s Mental Health Beds	\$4.5 Million	14 beds
TOTAL FUNDING FOR HOMELESS HOUSING AND SERVICES: \$88.5 million		

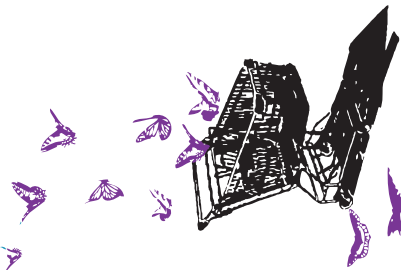
SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

<p>FEB 16</p> <p>BAYVIEW STORIES: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE</p> <p>WHERE: BAYVIEW LINDA BROOKS-BURTON BRANCH LIBRARY 5075 THIRD STREET @1-5PM</p> <p>The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project will host a storytelling booth at the Linda Brooks-Burton Branch library. Residents of and community members with a meaningful connection to Bayview-Hunters Point are invited to view the San Francisco city model on display and contribute oral histories to a collective narrative of the past, present, and future of the neighborhood.</p>	<p>FEB 16</p> <p>MOBILIZATION FOR THE ANCHOR UNION!</p> <p>WHERE: HAIGHT & FILLMORE 311 FILLMORE ST @5-8PM</p> <p>The workers at Anchor Brewing have just gone public with their effort to form a union with the ILWU with the help of DSA SF’s Labor Organizing Committee. We’ll be canvassing around the Haight, Hayes Valley, and the Castro, talking to bars, businesses and neighbors in support of the Anchor Union!</p> <p>Exact location to be announced.</p>	<p>FEB 16</p> <p>POLICING IN THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY: A PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>WHERE: TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH; 1188 12TH ST, OAKLAND</p> <p>The Oakland Police Commission invites all to its first public hearing on “Policing in the Homeless Community.” Affected members of the unhoused community will comment on their experiences.</p> <p>ACCESS: Free rides will be provided for our unhoused neighbors.</p>	<p>FEB 22</p> <p>POVERTY SCHOLARSHIP- POOR PEOPLE CREATE THEIR OWN THEORY, TEXTBOOK & SOLUTIONS</p> <p>WHERE: TIA CHUCHAS CULTURAL CENTER & BOOK STORE @7PM</p> <p>Poor, Unhoused and Disabled “Poverty Skolaz” release a book sharing their truly innovative solutions to homelessness and poverty and launch a national theatre production on poverty, homelessness and criminalization of poor people</p>
<p>FEB 23</p> <p>SF CITY WORKERS RISE UP AGAINST RACISM</p> <p>WHERE: NEW VALENCIA HALL 747 POLK STREET @1-5PM</p> <p>Join a broad coalition of LGBTQ San Francisco city workers are organizing against daily racist and sexist harassment on the job, dangerous working environments, and abusive conditions faced by long term at-will employees. This multi-racial panel features city employees who are building a movement to end these practices that endanger workers and the public alike.</p> <p>ACCESS: Wheelchair accessible. For information or childcare:</p>	<p>FEB 24</p> <p>POVERTY SCHOLARSHIP- POOR PEOPLE CREATE THEIR OWN THEORY, TEXTBOOK & SOLUTIONS</p> <p>WHERE: SF MAIN BRANCH LIBRARY - KORET ROOM @1PM</p> <p>Poor, Unhoused and Disabled “Poverty Skolaz” release a book sharing their truly innovative solutions to homelessness and poverty and launch a national theatre production on poverty, homelessness and criminalization of poor people</p> <p>ACCESS: Wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY BLACK FUTURES MONTH</p>	

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THE
NAVIGATION
CENTERS
AN INSIDE LOOK AT
ALL OF THEM

Shy Brown

Since the first Navigation Center opened like five years ago, there have been multiple popping up all over San Francisco. Let’s take a look at all of them:

The first one was on 16th and Mission, it is currently closed down. That was the very first one to open, with multiple flaws that came along with that as well, and from personal experience I had bad experiences there as well.

Second one was the Civic Center Hotel. They are currently still open. Unlike the other Navigations, here you have your own room. I’ve experienced some traumatic events while being there. Ex: people jumping out of windows and people dying on the daily there. Oh and did I mention it’s haunted as well? And you work really tightly with case management.

The third one was 26th and South VanNess. That one was not at all organized. They are currently closed down as well. They were always changing the rules and they had unorthodox practices. If I wanted that kind of attitudes I would have stayed outside in the streets and dealt with that shit.

Now the last four

Navigation Centers I can’t personally talk about because I haven’t been to any of them. But there are people who are in there who I talked to whose names are left out for confidentiality reasons.

The fourth one which is currently open is in the Dogpatch (Waterfront). Clients there said that it reminds them of Pier 80, very prison-like setting except you can come and go as you please. The staff there, from what I heard, are very rude and uptight, and they put themselves on a pedestal. Wow and they only do six month and seven day beds

The fourth one which is currently open is at 13th and Division. They only have 30 day beds and people say they can’t stand the environment

- meaning the clients and the staff has f***ed up positions about themselves.

The last one, the current one that’s only been open give or take 6 months is the one in Bayshore. From what I heard they are more laid back there. You can come and go as you please. Also they only do 30 day beds unless you are a priority one client. Wow, being here sounds like a vacation paradise.

Well here are all the current Navigation Centers here in San Francisco.

I just wish Mayor London Breed would get a copy and see how to some way some how bring it in to her Budget Analysis when it comes to funding the homeless community