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SHelter Waitlist

SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE:

As of July 13th there are 1,128 people on the waitlist for shelter in SF.

HOT WEATHER PROTOCOL TAKES SOME HEAT

Armando del Toro Garcia

I appreciated that we have a hot weather protocol for homelessness in the city, but the alert notice published by HSH describing this hot weather protocol made me ask myself some questions. While all of the steps they describe taking in the alert are appropriate, I can't help feeling overwhelmed by the scale of the response given the severity of our homelessness crisis. Is the hot weather being taken as seriously as cold?

It damn well should be. Hot weather can be deadly. Even housed people die in heat waves. Elderly people are at higher risk, as are children, and people with certain chronic illnesses.

I felt that I should try to understand the problem better before I make a judgment on the city's answer to the problem, so I did a little reading on the effects of heatwaves and heat-related illness.

Even without substance use or mental health issues, people living on the street are already subject to additional risk factors. Without adequate access to water, dehydration can occur rapidly. The heat can induce lightheadedness and fatigue. Without the opportunity to cool off, high exposure to heat can result in heat exhaustion or heat stroke, which can be a cause of permanent health effects, including brain or organ damage. A significant proportion of our unhoused neighbors are seniors, and can suffer significant health issues without the opportunity to get hydrated and cooled off.

The situation only gets worse for those San Francisco residents on the streets who cope with mental health or substance abuse issues, which are at higher risk still. A research paper by Lynette Cusack, Charlotte de Crespigny, and Peter Athanasos expands on this. The researchers point out that people with schizophrenia are more vulnerable to heat-related illness due to physiological factors. Certain medications for psychiatric or heart conditions can interfere with the body's thermoregulation, and make people more sensitive to heat-related illness. Alcohol and opioid use both accelerate dehydration and hamper the body's ability to cool itself with sweat. Amphetamines, cocaine, and MDMA elevate body temperature. To complicate things further, withdrawal in extreme heat can be as dangerous as substance use. The withdrawal symptoms can cause pain, additional dehydration, and other complications

that accelerate dehydration and increased risk of heat-related illness.

It seems then that unhoused people are subject to higher risk, and those who are unhoused but struggling with mental illness or substance abuse are at an even higher risk.

That's heavy. Now, given a better idea of how serious the problem can be, the advisory provided by HSH regarding its hot weather response does seem to be inadequate. There is enough ambiguity in their advisory that it's hard to tell whether they are engaging in a robust response. They're increasing HOT (that's the Homeless Outreach Team) outreach, but it's hard to tell whether they increase the number of staff on duty during heat advisories. They claim HOT is providing additional shelter placements, but they are not being transparent about whether or how they are making the additional shelter space available. They provide a list of indoor areas to cool off, but it appears to be a list of resources that are already available during normal weather conditions. They link to additional documents published by SFDPH and the CDC, but they don't link to any public documents detailing their protocols.

We wrote to HSH to ask for more details about their policy and procedure, and were sent an internal document that did describe more of how they manage high heat events. According to the document, HSH activates their Extreme Heat Policy and Procedure when the temperature is "forecast to be at or above 85 degrees Fahrenheit".

A major part of their response is sharing heat alerts and resource information with a list of program groups who work with the homeless population. Homelessness shelters and programs are part of a largely decentralized system, so it is reasonable for the city response to focus on communicating information to these groups. Their policy also describes an effort to track responses and client placements, in order to be able to assess their extreme heat response.

These are good efforts, but there is a lot of room for improvement. The policy document still leaves questions unanswered about the HOT response in extreme heat. The alerts and information they send out are handled through an "email list of local programs, providers, advocates, 311, and city officials", but there isn't an immediately clear way

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 accommodate 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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to register on this list. A local advocate expressed interest in there being open registration for this email list, so that informal groups, volunteer groups, and people on the streets can get this information directly when possible. It also isn't clear how HSH defines success in their response assessments.

I expected to find approval or disapproval of their hot weather protocol after looking into it, but instead I'm just left with questions. My inquiry has become less about whether the hot weather protocol is sufficient to meet needs, and more about the lack of transparency. I'm reminded of Supervisor Haney's proposal to create a commission that can provide greater transparency and public feedback for the

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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department's work on homelessness. Because HSH isn't overseen by a public body like other departments, it lacks the transparency that would make many of these details easily available. As a result, it's hard to thoroughly evaluate their efforts.

If you have any positive or negative experiences to share about the city's response to the hot weather in June, contact us at the Coalition on Homelessness to share. ■

Data on the impact of heat waves on people with substance abuse issues drawn from the following report: Cusack, L, et al. "Heatwaves and Their Impact on People with Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Conditions: a Discussion Paper on Clinical Practice Considerations." Journal of Advanced Nursing, vol. 67, no. 4, 2011, pp. 915-922.

ICE, CBP AND THE (NOT SO) NEW CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Quiver Watts

Two hundred people gathered outside the Federal Building in San Francisco at 8 a.m. on Friday, blockading the main entrance in protest of the abhorrent concentration camps set up all across the country that are currently warehousing more than 53,000 immigrants, including 15,000 children. Conditions in the camps are appalling, with overcrowding forcing people to spend nights in standing room only cells, children being denied such basic provisions and toothbrushes and diapers, and deaths on the rise.

The action was one of a series organized by the group Never Again Action, which is mobilizing Jewish activists across the country to draw comparisons between the concentration camps set up by the Nazis and the current camps set up for asylum seekers. Outside the federal building, demonstrators raised chants of “Never again is now!” and sang songs in Spanish, English and Hebrew. A banner stretched across Seventh Street, shutting down traffic, read “Nancy, Close the Camps,” a response to the \$4.6 million bill to fund the detention centers that Democratic leadership signed onto at the end of June.

Whistleblowers who had worked in detention centers have come forward to report serious human rights abuses taking place within the camps. The Intercept reported that solitary confinement, a form of psychological torture, was being used against people with mental illness or those at risk of suicide. NBC obtained reports of case workers in a camp in Yuma, Arizona, detailing sexual abuse of children at the hands of guards, and children being forced to sleep on concrete floors. While the Trump administration officially stopped separating children from their families, there are still at least 2,000 children who have not been reunited with their parents and thousands more who were taken in without their families.

Protests against the camps has continued to grow as more actions organized by Never Again Action have led to dozens of arrests across the country. Here in San Francisco hundreds gathered outside Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) headquarters at 630 Sansome Street on both Thursday and Friday in protest of the continued operations of ICE despite the city’s sanctuary status. In San Diego activist rose up en masse after 20 people were taken in targeted ICE raids throughout the week.

Political leaders and the general public have been forced into a corner as attention is called to the inhumane conditions detainees are undergoing in the camps. Immigrants are being held and tortured in order to coerce support for

increasing funding to improve conditions for detainees, while public outcry demands that the camps be closed and ICE be completely defunded. The more funding is directed to the camps, the more permanent and sustainable they will become, and the sooner the urgency of closing them entirely may fade from the headlines.

“The reality is that not only was the money they sent was nowhere near enough to meet the humanitarian need,” said Marco Amaral, a member of Bridge of Love Across the Border, one of the groups involved in San Diego’s anti-ICE rally on July 12th. “but it was mostly spent reinforcing ICE, reinforcing the militarization of the border. To me, it really is as simple as we are making it seem. We need to talk about how we’re going to end the atrocity, not just how we’re gonna slow down Donald Trump. If we aren’t talking about stopping fascism, if we’re only talking about moderating fascism, then we are ignoring the fundamental truth of fascism, which is that it will find a way to decimate our communities. We have to find a way to stop fascism.”

As public pressure continues to build against the concentration camps at the border, the Trump administration is mounting a campaign of violence against immigrants, trying to put a citizenship question on the 2020 Census and defending the detention centers despite reports of seriously appalling conditions. Trump also publicly called immigrants who are gang members “animals, not people.”

The Trump Administration has also threatened thousands of families with homelessness, proposing a new HUD policy that would force families with mixed immigration statuses out of public and Section 8 housing. According to the ACLU this new rule threatens 25,000 mixed status families, including 55,000 children currently living

in units with “ineligible” family members. Those who would be considered “ineligible” under the new rule includes both undocumented immigrants and some documented people. For example, survivors of domestic violence who have temporary visas will also be forced from housing units.

While the situation has certainly been in the spotlight and abuses more glaring under the current administration, according to an article by Bea Bischoff published in Slate, the human rights atrocities are nothing new. The author points out that during Obama’s administration a lawsuit was filed decrying the atrocious conditions, including overcrowding and dangerously low temperatures, in the same Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) facilities that are currently facing scrutiny. Obama also deported more people (409,000) in one year (2012) than any other president, including Trump, whose record so far is 256,000 (2018). However, Trump has deported 282,000 people so far in 2019, and is on track to exceed Obama’s deportation record.

Also in the spotlight are the many businesses that have been contracting with and supplying ICE and CBP. Over 300 Microsoft employees collectively signed a letter to their CEO demanding that the company end its contract to offer cloud services to ICE. Hundreds of Wayfair employees staged a walkout to protest the company’s agreement to send beds to CBP camps. Amazon, Salesforce, and other main

players have also felt the backlash from their workers. Stock in the private prison company GEO Group fell dramatically over the last month as investors pull out of supporting concentration camps. On Monday, July 15th, activists will gather outside Amazon’s Market Street office in San Francisco to protest the company’s collaboration to provide facial recognition software to ICE and local police to target undocumented immigrants for detention and deportation.

Marco Amaral believes the time is now for activists to demand an end to the concentration camps on the border, and that we have the power to end this atrocity.

“Among the left, even among those of us who can see, smell and truly imagine a better future, there is a false sense that we don’t have enough people, that we need to waste so much energy on changing people’s minds,” Amaral said. “But the truth is that during the Civil Rights Era, less than 1% of the black community participated in the movement. And we actually are enough. We need to acknowledge that and take advantage of this moment.” ■



SCAN HERE for a list of organizations working to close the camps



Image by Rini Templeton, activist and artist. Reprinted from riniart.com. Text from website: “For Rini, nothing was more important than solidarity between workers on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Her drawings of people in the border world of poverty, hope, trying to enter through sewer tunnels, harassment, arrest and deportation are often used today by migrant rights organizations.”



KEEPS PASSIN' ME BY

Zachary Karnazes

Under federal law, people with disabilities are supposed to have the same access to government-funded services and public transportation as everyone else. Many disabled people suffered and fought for the passage of the ADA, or the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, which recognized for the first time many basic rights of disabled people. It was the closest thing we've had to a civil rights movement.

However, just because something is law doesn't mean that people are following all the rules. Anyone using a wheelchair in San Francisco today quickly faces the sobering reality of disenfranchisement and social segregation. MUNI buses routinely pass up wheelchair users, with drivers who ignore us completely, yell out to us, "catch the next one", berate us like children, or worse. It is not uncommon to wait for three or more buses before a driver will stop to board a wheelchair user. If we are fortunate enough to get a ramp lowered we can expect to be confronted by angry passengers yelling obscenities at us for daring to use public transportation in the first place.

Much of this of course has to do with the overcrowding of our public transit system. However, some of it is outright hostility and ableism, a set of beliefs or practices that devalue and discriminate against disabled people. This poses a serious problem for people who primarily use public transportation to go to doctors appointment, pickup medications, or other basic life needs. Aside from that, it keeps us from leading meaningful lives in the community where we can depend on the same things that able-bodied people have access to. If you can't get from point A to point B, or you think you might have to confront a bus

full of angry people and a hostile driver, you're more likely to stay at home and hide away from it all. The fear from one of these horrible incidents can also scar you, and make you afraid for your safety every single time you try to board a bus. The fear and humiliation can drive us to segregate ourselves, even more than society already does.

So what can we do? Driver's don't report the abuse of passengers and supervisors are not monitoring driver conduct for the bigotry we face. Instead, disabled people like myself have to sacrifice our time to engage in a grueling complaint process. Search around the internet and you will find a 311 form to file online for a "discourteous driver." It uses confusing language, offers limited accessibility, and requires you to input a lot of your personal information. When filing, it is easy to miss the small check box with an option to request an ADA hearing. The times I called in a complaint over the phone this option was rarely presented to me, and on multiple occasions 311 staff simply didn't know it existed.

If you're able to navigate the confusing bureaucracy to get to a hearing, you are given a hearing date over email. These emails are cryptically signed, "Muni Customer Service" without a staff persons name or ADA contact info. The faceless sender also rarely answers important questions about accessibility.

Assuming the email gives you the correct info (one time it gave me the wrong floor and room), and you can make it to 1 South Van Ness, past security, up to the 3rd floor, through the locked security door, and up to the receptionist desk, eventually you will be left in a small board room facing a so-called "neutral" hearing officer. This person will decide if any wrongdoing

was done, effectively acting as a judge for your complaint. But here's the screwy part: that person is employed by SFMTA, the same organization responsible for the discrimination the first place! Needless to say, the hearings are a biased mess, something more akin to an interrogation where the hearing officer fires dozens of questions at you in an attempt to discredit your complaint. They effectively act as a judge, jury, and prosecuting attorney against you. Meanwhile, the driver under investigation has a union representative by their side to answer every question on their behalf, defend the driver's case, and represent them as a legal and policy advisor. When I asked SFMTA if they would provide an advisor or disability ombudsman to serve on my behalf they said no, and that no such option would ever be made available.

Over time, I've been getting some practice learning about the corrupt procedures and psychological obstacle courses SFMTA has constructed for us. I've been learning how to climb up onto my wheelchair to metaphorically jump through the many hoops they wave over me, fighting for my own access, as well as for the thousands of disabled San Franciscans like me. I'm not naive enough to believe that my experiences are isolated ones. I've seen bus drivers pass up many disabled people that were unable to speak up for themselves, including those suffering in silence while trying to board hooked up to an oxygen tank. I know a United States veteran from my neighborhood who also uses a wheelchair. He says buses only pick him up fifty percent of the time.

My first ADA hearing in May of 2018 completely caught them by surprise. It is extremely rare for a disabled person to make it all the way through to the hearing process and they clearly

weren't expecting someone with my cognitive abilities and legal know-how. Anticipating some of their aggressive legal maneuvering, I calmly composed myself and responded quickly to the barrage of questions and intimidation tactics. I corrected the hearing officer when he tried to cut me off. I spoke up when the officer only wanted to read half of my complaint for the record. And, best of all, I brought a video camera to record the whole thing to show the world on YouTube.

The officer tried to stop me from recording, but I reminded him that these were public hearings and that I was well within my rights. The online video now has 600+ views (and counting).

The first hearing was ruled against me. Even though video footage caught the driver saying, "catch the next one" while speeding past me in a half empty bus, this somehow didn't count as discrimination. I was told that SFMTA ADA hearings have no appeals process whatsoever. Their ruling was final.

However, the second hearing did deliver a blow to SFMTA's bigoted status quo. In addition to making video footage of their inaccessible bathroom stalls (could you believe that I couldn't even close a bathroom stall at my own ADA hearing?), I brought a friend and a city commissioner with me as witnesses. Armed with a video camera, footage of the incident, and two caring souls by my side, I persevered.

I was flabbergasted to find that SFMTA had actually been forced to rule in my favor. The driver did violate ADA policy, they said. Would I be compensated for my time and effort in bringing the complaint to them? Would I be given compensation for my missed doctors appointment? Nope. SFMTA doesn't see any problem with forcing the public to sacrifice their time and personal well-being to educate the transportation authority about discrimination.

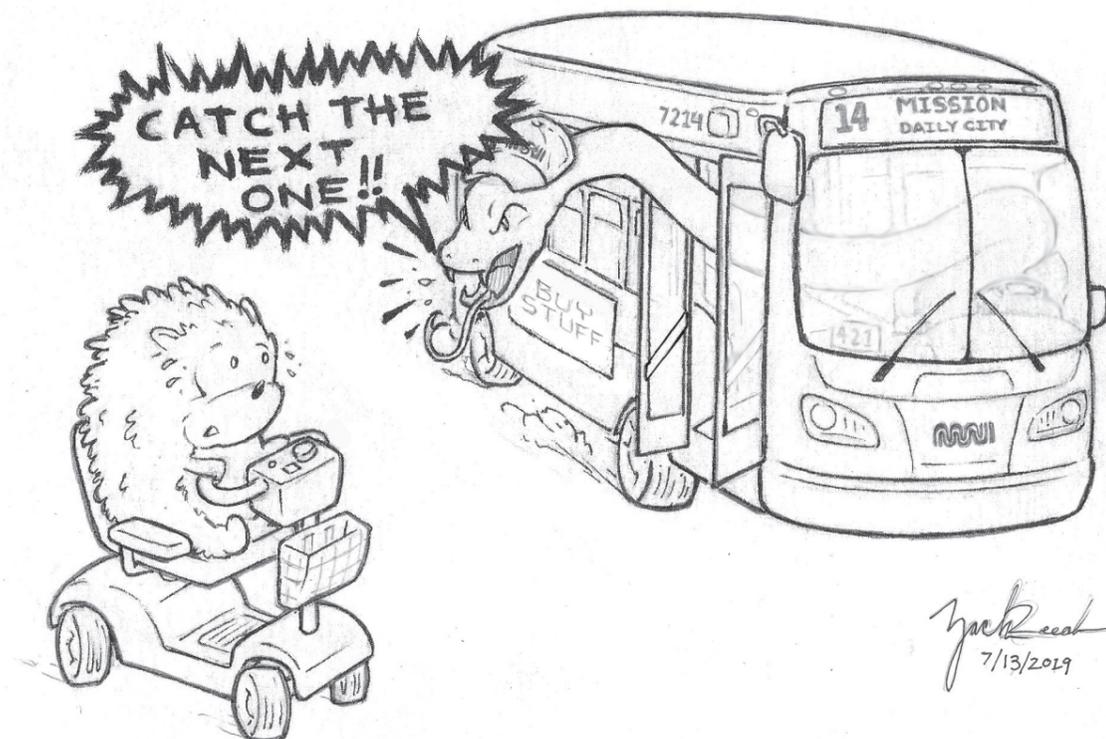
Still, the victory was won. And what's more, while filing my third complaint (currently in progress) I've been informed that they've made important changes to their ADA procedure because of me! Part of the changes are to cover their butts legally, but the other part of it is their arm being twisted - ever so slightly - to do the right thing. I plan to speak up and record these incidents of abuse and discrimination every chance I get. I plan to keep twisting. And, maybe one day, SFMTA staff will have to grow a conscience and do the right thing. Maybe one day I will be able to plan out my travels and move from point A to point B with the human dignity of an able-bodied San Franciscan.

continues on page 7



SCAN HERE to see
the video Zachary
Karnazes submitted
to the MTA

Artwork by Zachary Karnazes





PROP C WINS BIG IN INITIAL COURT PROCEEDINGS!

Hundreds of San Franciscans joined in a unity rally to show support for November 2018's Proposition C. The measure, which was passed by the majority of San Francisco voters, will generate \$300 million annually by taxing a small number of the City's wealthiest corporations and will provide thousands of homeless people with housing and homelessness services. Three business associations representing large corporations are suing the proposition, including the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California Business Roundtable, and the California Business Properties Association. Proposition C and the associations faced off in court on July 3.

Judge Ethan Schulman of the San Francisco Superior Court released an order in favor of Proposition C under the State Constitution. Judge Schulman's order released in the Proposition C case is the first big step towards realizing the intention of the majority of San Francisco voters that millions of dollars should be raised in taxes to support services for homeless people.

He also ruled that June's Proposition C, which was also being sued by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, will provide \$130 million annually for childcare and early education, was constitutional.

In both cases, he held that, consistent with the California Supreme Court decision in California Cannabis Coalition, the supermajority requirement in Proposition 13 or Proposition 218 did not apply to the voter-qualified initiatives. He also ruled against the assertion of several taxpayer associations, including the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association, that both propositions violated the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco.

In the November Proposition C case, Judge Schulman's decision articulates several reasons for his conclusions:

"The Court's resolution of the parties'

competing contentions turns largely on the language of the constitutional provisions in question, the legislative history of the voter constitutional initiatives by which they were added to the California Constitution, appellate authority construing those opinions, particularly California Cannabis Coalition..., and general principles concerning the people's initiative power."

The breadth and analysis of Judge Schulman's order lay the foundation for an ultimate ruling by the Court of Appeal or Supreme Court that the

two-thirds vote requirement for cities, counties and special districts does not apply to voter-qualified initiatives.

The plaintiffs — Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California Business Roundtable, and the California Business Properties Association — will likely appeal the decision. An appeal will then bring the case to the California Court of Appeals.

The Our City Our Home Coalition, a grassroots group of organizations, homeless people, business owners, and concerned citizens who passed

Proposition C, released this statement: "We are proud and grateful to the court of SF for affirming THE PEOPLE'S constitutional right to shape the policy of our city. This decision to uphold the will of the voters will result in immediate relief for San Francisco's homelessness crisis. We appreciate the City Attorney of SF for defending this case against corporate special interests, and all the grassroots efforts of San Francisco's residents, especially the homeless people on the front lines of the crisis, who organized to make Prop C: Our City Our Home a reality. Lives will be saved from this decision today." ■

WHAT WILL PROP C DO?

Adds **150 million** to fund housing. Including construction, rehab, prevention and operating subsidies adding housing for 4-6,000 people to receive housing including families and youth.

40 million to homelessness prevention (including eviction defense programs and rental assistance), providing 7,000 households to receive legal assistance, subsidies and assistance to keep them housed.

30 million for immediate needs including 1,000 new shelter beds, showers, and bathrooms. Eliminating the shelter waitlist.

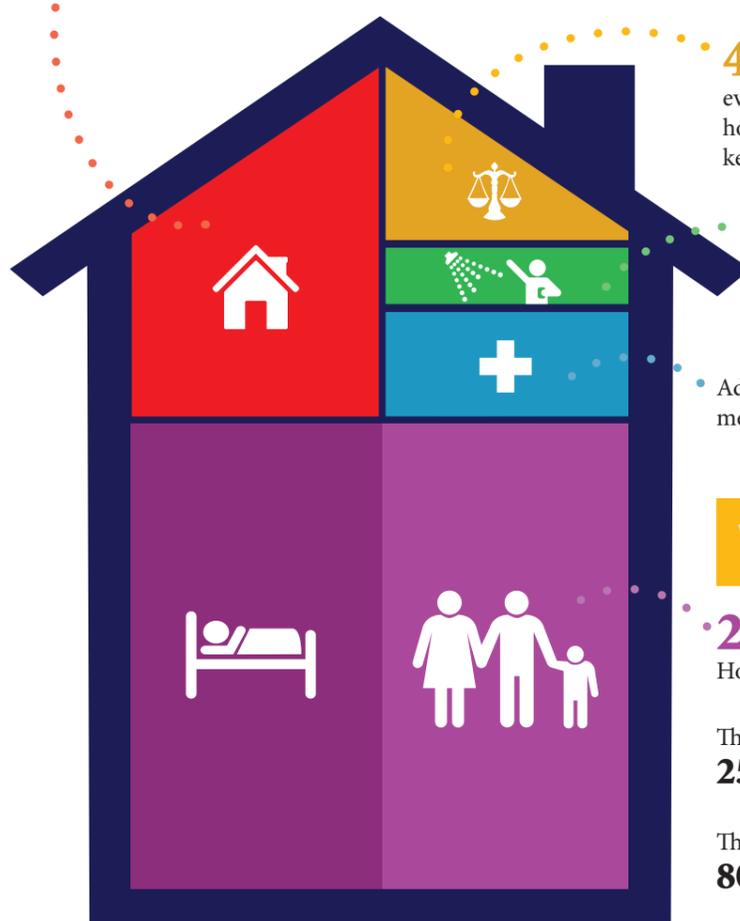
Additionally **75 million** to serve the underfunded mental health and substance abuse system.

WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

257.7 million dollars are being spent on Homeless now, approx.. 3% of the San Francisco Budget

This is providing: housing assistance for **7000+** residents and **2500** temporary shelter beds

This still leaves **1000+** people on the waitlist for shelter beds, **8000** people on the waitlist for housing subsidies



No New SF Jail Coalition July 2019 communiqué

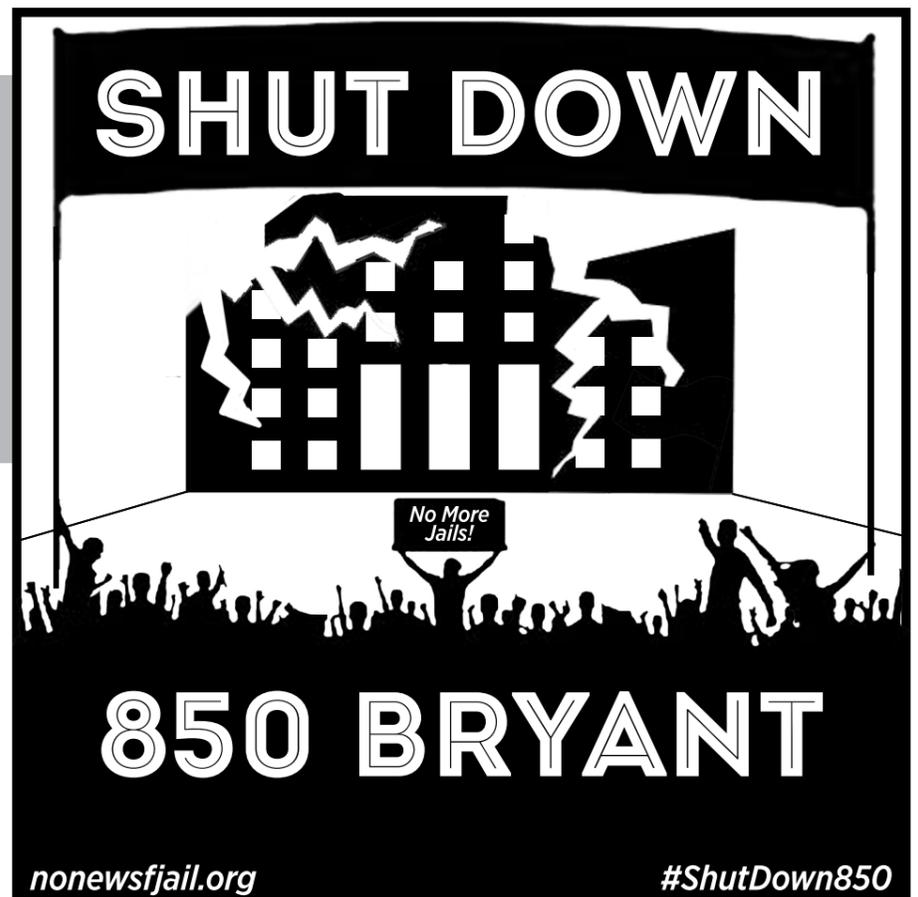
SHUT DOWN 850 BRYANT!

After the 2015 victory in stopping a new jail from being built, the No New SF Jail Coalition worked alongside city players to try to bring down the jail population in order to close the jail at 850 Bryant without constructing or reopening any jails. While there have been several policy changes, programmatic expansions, and some creation of new resources these have not resulted in a decrease in the jail numbers. In fact, the population size is staying the same or increasing. At the same time, more cops have taken to the streets and there has been a concerted effort to remove and criminalize houseless people. As a result, a staggering 40% of people in the jail system are houseless. Newly published findings showed that 474 people incarcerated in SF were homeless, 25% spent at least one night in jail or prison in the past year, and 13% were on probation or parole.

In the past, the city has spent at

least \$20 million of the city budget every year criminalizing houseless people through quality of life laws. Plus, this year the city's proposed budget includes increased funding for the police-led "healthy streets operation center" that involves sweeps and increased targeting of houseless folks in the name of "clean streets". Instead of criminalizing houseless people, the No New SF Jail Coalition calls for more funding for supportive housing and community based co-located services. The city does not need to increase city money towards policing or jails!

Even though city officials agree that 850 Bryant needs to close, they are stalling in order to put forward their replacement ideas that include sending imprisoned people to Santa Rita Jail in Alameda County, refurbishing and reopening the closed County Jail 6 in San Bruno, or building a new jail. Each of these proposals is unacceptable and we can't wait any longer to



get imprisoned people out of the building and close 850 Bryant. We are emboldened by recent efforts to legislate the closure of Juvenile Hall and know the same is possible for 850 Bryant, a seismically catastrophic building. Now is the time and we believe with your support we will pass legislation by the end of this year to close 850 Bryant.

We are at a crucial moment in this campaign. Our coalition is growing and we are building a movement to Shut Down 850

Bryant and end racist policing of our communities. We know that more resources for our communities like housing and community based services are what we need, not jails and police. Together we can build a better San Francisco! We urge all residents of San Francisco to begin calling and writing their supervisors to demand the closure of 850 Bryant immediately and help us build pressure in City Hall! Follow our campaign on social media @ ShutDown850 and our website www.nonewsjail.org. ■

SOMEONE TO LOOK OVER HSH (IF MEASURE WINS)

Carlos Enrique Wadkins

In a proposed amendment to the San Francisco Charter, city supervisor Matt Haney has called for the creation of a Homelessness Oversight Commission to "oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing." The commission would hold the same authority as other city commissions and would seat seven members; three appointed by the mayor, three by the Board of Supervisors, and one by the City Controller. Of those members, two seats must be held by people who have personally experienced homelessness, two seats by experienced front-line service providers or advocates for the unhoused, and one seat each by experts in family homelessness, mental health/substance use, and finance.

According to supervisor Haney, an oversight commission will create a more streamlined

and coordinated Department, allowing for more transparency, accountability, and public input and outreach. This is especially necessary because the Department of Homelessness currently consists of a complicated "patchwork" of six advisory committees that "fails to provide effective oversight." Haney also argues that this is long overdue, as almost all major city departments have oversight commissions. Supporters of the proposal include the Our City, Our Home Coalition, the Eviction Defense Collaborative, Hospitality House, HESPA, and members of the LHCB and Board of Supervisors Rules Committee. In support of the commission during public comment at a rules committee meeting, Coalition on Homelessness representative Sam Lew argued that community feedback is currently not being heard by the Department of Homelessness, citing policy barring pregnant women from accessing family homeless shelters

that took three years of public pressure to change. Lew agreed with supervisor Haney that the creation of a commission would allow public feedback to be more clearly and easily heard, allowing in turn for quicker changes to harmful policies.

However not everybody agrees that more oversight is a good idea. Although refraining from openly opposing the commission, HSH director Jeff Kositski has voiced concerns several times that additional bureaucracy will slow down progress rather than streamlining it, especially with regards to approving contracts for shelters and navigation centers. In agreement with Kositski, a representative of the SF Chamber of Commerce argued to the rules committee that the committee would be "an advocate of obstruction rather than oversight." This argument seemed particularly strange coming from the Chamber of Commerce,

especially to those in the room who were strong advocates of the campaign for proposition C in 2018. The Chamber of Commerce was a very strong opponent of prop C, arguing passionately that more money should not be given to the Department of Homelessness due to their lack of transparency and accountability, which the commission they're opposing would create. To Kelley Cutler, an organizer with the Coalition on Homelessness and sitting member of the LHCB, these conflicting positions show the Chamber to be "hypocrites" who "put a lot of time, money, and energy into obstructing" rather than bringing solutions to the table.

The Rules Committee has voted unanimously to support the proposed commission, and should it get the approval of the rest of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor it will be on the ballot this November, where San Franciscans will decide its fate. ■

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE! NO PRIDE IN HOMELESS SWEEPS!

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS TAKES THE PRIDE STAGE

Jay Rice

It's always complicated to participate in San Francisco Pride. Against the background of disproportionate LGBTQIA+ homelessness in San Francisco, a supposed "queer mecca," and the corporate- and cop- washing of a movement rooted in riots and resistance, we carefully considered declining the offer to appear on the main stage.

The event itself celebrated politicians who have terrible and oppressive policy histories that are counter to queer liberation, who donned Pride colors to campaign under the guise of celebrating with our community.

Police have long been enemies of all marginalized groups, and despite

persistent (and loud) calls for "cops out of Pride", the SFPD continues to center their presence in the celebration. This year the police brutally attacked peaceful protestors in a stark reminder of why they have no place in our liberation, and in sharp contrast to the reason we needed Pride in the first place, to counter police targeting and brutality against our community.

Nevertheless, we took to the stage on Pride Sunday, in front of City Hall, to spread the word to housed folks and tourists that LGBTQIA+ homelessness viscerally exists in this City, and that we are all complicit in invisibilizing and marginalizing these family members who are swept out of the way for a celebration that does not celebrate them.

"NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

NO PRIDE IN HOMELESS SWEEPS!!"

"THIS CITY is targeting and oppressing members of OUR family. Our family that is already at massively increased risk of violence, of trauma, of homelessness.

Every day and every night our unsheltered neighbors get no rest or respite. Every June our unsheltered neighbors are swept out of the way for the Pride parade. There is NO PRIDE in homeless sweeps.

All the rainbow-colored police cars in the world could never bring us the future we deserve. There is no Pride in homeless sweeps.

In the words of Stonewall veteran Miss Major:

"The police are destructive to mankind in general, especially to our trans and gender nonconforming community. They are monsters, they are the worst thing to ever happen. Who invited these motherfuckers to be at Pride?"

Our speakers today exemplify resistance, they exemplify resilience."

The audience chanted with us, they booed the cops, they cheered at our critiques of the City, and of corporate Pride, and they listened carefully to the stories of formerly homeless LGBTQIA+ San Franciscans, who shared impassioned narratives of surviving despite the odds, despite a City that does not care if they live or die as it profits from a "Pride" that is a lie, an insult, when it neglects the most marginalized members of our community. ■

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND JOIN THE FIGHT?

Here's a few things you can do to improve SFMTA for disabled people. You do not need to be disabled to make a complaint:



continued from page 4...

1. Keep a notepad close by to record any incidents of discrimination that you see or experience.
2. If available, make a video or voice recording of any incidents of discrimination. All buses are automatically recorded by SFMTA, so you have every legal right to record on a bus as well.
3. Make a note of
 - a. the bus line and direction (14 Daly City, 49 Van Ness, etc.)
 - b. the date and time of the incident
 - c. the bus number (a 4-digit number in black, on the side of the bus near the top and also the back of the bus).
 - d. the location or nearest intersection of the incident.
 - e. general description of the driver (they record everything though, so dont worry too much about this).
4. Visit <https://sf311.org/services/sfmta-muni-complaint> to file a complaint. You can call 311 (or 415.701.2311 outside of SF) and go through the prompts..
5. Make sure to check YES for the following:
 - * "Is your feedback regarding an alleged Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violation?" and
 - * "If your feedback is related to the conduct of a Muni Operator in relation to your ADA violation, would you like to receive information regarding neutral accessibility hearings?"
6. Include a detailed description of what happened. Include your email and make sure to demand a record of the video footage.
7. Often times SFMTA will not give you the bus video footage when asked for. In that case, you can make a request using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). You can make a SFMTA Public Records request at: https://sfmta.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/_rs/supporthome.aspx. Make sure to include: "Under the California Public Records Act § 6250 et seq., I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of all public records that are related to case numbers..." and include the case number 311 gave you. Make it clear that you are asking for the video footage of the incident (include start/end date and time). Make sure your request includes a time 10 minutes before and after the incident to make sure you dont miss anything.

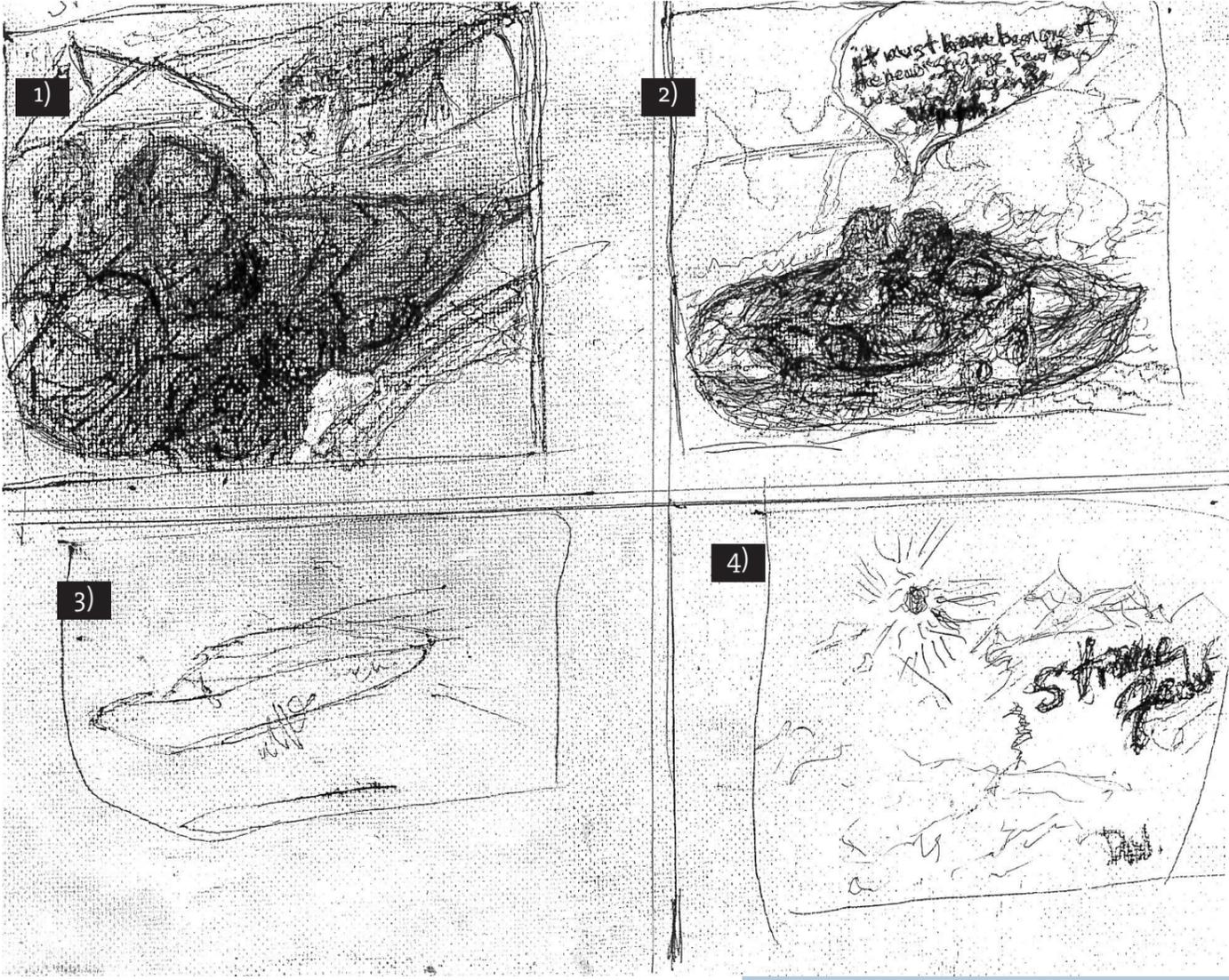
The is more information on complaints here: <https://www.sfmta.com/accessibility-complaints>

Artwork by Zachary Karnazes

STRANGE FEW

Derek Williams

Strange Few evokes a consciousness of a kind of liberatory feeling that is in the world as a reactionary phase against the general way of looking at things



1) The first panel evokes an image of a loner, someone kinda misunderstood, sitting in a vehicle that is a technical experiment and the result of automation. The vehicle is in a body shop but upstairs is the dome where there is possibly a higher tech laboratory.

2) In the second panel we see a boat, with two figures in the boat, possibly the same figures from the first panel. Behind the boat we see mountains in India. We can assume that the vehicle from panel one has been transformed into the boat. Derek says "Strange Few implies there is a misanthropy you might not be able to explain. That's what's strange about it." It may be that our main figure has the ability to transform things, or it might be that automation has created the change. The character wonders out loud, "it must have been one of the new strange few toys we're playing with"

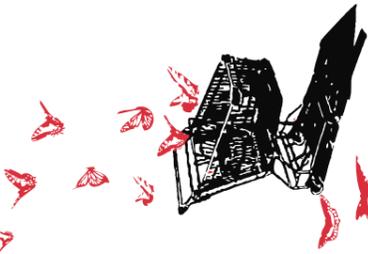
3) This panel shows another possible future of what could happen if automation took over. So the car could either be turning into the boat or into the plane.

4) In the final panel we see what happens when the main figure hightails out of the car in the first panel. It is too late and the automation is already underway, so there is no way to stop it. ■

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Coalition on
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San Francisco

Home

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"At first when I lost my house I literally was just sleeping on the street in front of libraries. I finally got hotel vouchers for two weeks so at least I had somewhere to go. During that process you have to look for permanent rentals. Obviously I couldn't get one, especially with no job or childcare, so I ended up back on the street. After receiving welfare I use that on emergency nights when it's stormy, or we're sick and I'll get a hostel in the Tenderloin for the night, thirty bucks, fifty bucks, but that's better than what could potentially happen."

"(On the street it's) me, my stroller, my blanket, and that's it. I get really scared that people will see us, especially me with a stroller and a baby and call the police and try and have my son taken from me. I always make sure to be in a place that's very hidden at night. There have been times where (an area) a lot of the homes can't see underneath in the doorway because they have a little roof so when it's raining I get in the corner, they can't see me, they don't know I'm there, and it's just for the night. I'm gone before anyone wakes up."

"A really hard thing about being the street is not having a frig or having a way of heating up you food. You actually get driven crazy by not eating hot meals; everything is room temperature or cold. When you're trying to make your food stretch and you can reheat it and you can't refrigerate it, it grows bacteria and you get sick."

"Secretly the hardest thing is boredom. When you're in the mood to just go home and turn on your TV and relax, you can't. You're on the street, bored, and people watching. It's hard when everywhere you walk there's always houses. And when people come home, you see them watching TV and you're like, "Man I really miss that""

"It's really hard. I didn't think I could grow up this much in 6 months. Even when I was pregnant with him, and like wow I'm going to be a parent, I did not grow as fast as I did when we ended up on the street. I just turned 21 but I feel 31."



Name: Alexia Castaneda, 21 and Oliver Castanegas, 1 1/2 years
Date: 5 June 2019
Place: Compass
Without a home: 6 months sleeping mostly on the street