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STREET SHEET

* THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS HAS MOVED TO 280 TURK STREET * STREET SHEETS CAN NOW BE PICKED UP ONLY AT THE NEW LOCATION *



SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: AS OF OCTOBER 1ST THERE ARE 1,078 SINGLE ADULTS ON THE WAITLIST FOR SHELTER IN SAN FRANCISCO

STATEMENT FROM COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS ON HUD DIRECTOR VISIT TO SF

On the tails of the Trump Administration blasting California cities including San Francisco and Los Angeles for the homelessness crisis, and calling for the creation of camps, members of the Trump administration, including HUD Secretary Ben Carson visited San Francisco’s Potrero Hill housing development.

According to Jennifer Friedenbach, Coalition on Homelessness Executive Director, “Look around any major United States city and one can see people who are suffering as a result of the Trump government’s indifference to poverty and homelessness. Ironically, the government he leads is the very same one that caused this homelessness crisis by cutting the HUD budget by 78% in the early 1980’s. Trump is in a position where he can literally ensure every single person, from children to elders in the United States has a safe and decent place to call home. He has instead cut the HUD budget, increased the military budget, blamed homeless people for his own administration’s deficiencies, conflated Latino immigration with homelessness, and now is proposing to move destitute people into poor camps.”

A report issued by the Trump Administration is proposing to impose service participation requirements for participants after they have been stabilized in housing. The idea is that after receiving mandatory services, these individuals will then be able to transition into non-subsidized housing.

This does nothing to expand housing and develop the millions of units of housing needed, and only further exacerbates homelessness by creating barriers to maintaining housing. Service requirements result in increased evictions when individuals are unable to meet those requirements. It also results in poor quality services, as most efficacy of program outcomes are measured by participant levels; low participation is equivalent to poor services in contract monitoring.

The Trump Administration in their report has findings in terms of the driving force of homelessness that include:

- (i) the higher price of housing resulting from overregulation of housing markets;
- (ii) the tolerability of sleeping on the street (outside of shelter or housing);
- (iii) the supply of homeless shelters; and
- (iv) the characteristics of individuals in a community that make homelessness more likely.”

None of these are factually based, in fact the opposite could be argued as rising rents would indeed be hamstrung by extensive rent control, but as California prohibits vacancy control, landlords push people out to raise the rents. The tolerability of sleeping outside may be related to criminalization efforts, but California has a tremendous number of anti-homeless laws that are vigorously enforced, https://wraphome.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/NVL-Update-2016_Final.pdf and in terms of weather, in every municipality the overwhelming majority of the homeless population were housed in that same area previous to becoming homeless, belying the magnet effect. When people are in homeless shelters, they are still homeless. However, this report literally states that homeless shelters attract people out of housing and into shelter - driving up homeless numbers. Lastly, the characteristics of individuals are not geographically based, it relates to housing capacity; if an individual has a mental illness, and there is housing for that individual, they likely will not be homeless.

The Coalition on Homelessness is calling on the Trump Administration to halt fake solutions, and instead restore HUD funding to pre-1978 levels adjusted for inflation.

Fact Check: here in San Francisco, homelessness among Latino’s has actually decreased from 22% in 2017 to 18% in 2019, indicating that Latin American immigration is not at all likely responsible for the increase in our homeless population, which is generally related to rising housing costs and lack of federal investment in affordable housing.

The State of Homelessness in America Statement from Trump Administration:

ASK US ANYTHING

HAVE A QUESTION YOU WANT US TO ANSWER ABOUT HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING IN THE BAY AREA? ASK US AT STREETSHHEET@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.

THE STREET SHEET NEWSPAPER IS NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED AT OUR NEW LOCATION:

280 TURK STREET

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 to streetsheetsf@gmail.com

[<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/The-State-of-Homelessness-in-America>]

"While Federal policies over the past decade have dramatically shifted the program landscape, the evidence does not necessarily indicate that this approach has more successfully reduced homeless populations. The Trump administration has sought to improve on these results by reforming the Housing First approach in the major HUD homeless assistance program that provides competitive funding to CoCs. While the program maintains a commitment to providing housing with no preconditions to program participants, the latest 2019 Notice of Funding Availability allows communities flexibility to impose service participation requirements for participants after they have been stabilized in housing. This reform

will allow for greater local flexibility and innovation to drive successful outcomes for vulnerable homeless individuals. Moreover, to the extent that better results for homeless individuals allow them to more quickly transition to private housing, homeless assistance programs can be more quickly freed up to serve homeless people still living on the street. In conjunction with this reform, HUD has also strengthened its emphasis on self sufficiency as a key component of homeless assistance programs. Increasing employment and income of homeless individuals can reduce durations of homelessness and increase stabilization in housing after exiting homelessness. These reforms may more successfully reduce homelessness and address the underlying problems that people experiencing homelessness face." ■

HOW SAN FRANCISCO CAN FIX A GLARING LOOPHOLE IN CALIFORNIA TENANTS RIGHTS LEGISLATION

STATE LAW GIVES NEW PROTECTIONS, BUT THERE IS STILL MORE TO BE DONE

Sasha Perigo

This piece was originally published by the SF Examiner, reprinted with permission

Sasha Perigo is a data scientist and fair housing advocate writing about the San Francisco housing crisis. You can follow her on Twitter at @sashaperigo. She is a guest columnist and her point of view is not necessarily that of The Examiner.

<https://www.sfexaminer.com>

Starting this January, San Francisco renters will see an unprecedented expansion in their rights thanks to statewide legislation.

Well, some of us will.

Thankfully, our Board of Supervisors has the power to fill in some gaps.

On Wednesday housing justice organization ACCE celebrated the legislature's passage of AB 1482 on Twitter:

"We still can't believe it.

Last week, the tenants rights movement won a huge victory by getting the strongest anti rent gouging and just cause law passed in the nation — expanding protections to 8M more tenants across CA!"

AB 1482 was authored by San Francisco's very own Assemblymember David Chiu, and its passage was a major accomplishment in a legislature widely regarded by housing justice groups as unfriendly to tenants. Last year Chiu introduced legislation to repeal Costa-Hawkins, the California law banning the expansion of rent control, only to see it overwhelmingly shot down.

AB 1482 contains two key provisions: annual rent increases are capped at 5 percent plus inflation, and landlords are now required to specify "a just cause for eviction."

Tenants living in buildings built at least 15 years ago are covered by AB 1482. The 15 year window is a rolling deadline: new buildings will become covered overtime as they age.

According to data from the Planning Department, over 5,000 additional San Francisco tenants who live in buildings built after 1979 but before 2005 will gain rights under AB 1482 in January. Many tenants

living in buildings built prior to 1979 are already covered under our stricter citywide rent control ordinance.

Unfortunately, seemingly arbitrary carve-outs in AB 1482 keep some San Francisco tenants from coverage. Tenants living in single family homes owned by a "mom and pop landlord," as opposed to a corporation, are not protected. Neither are tenants living in government subsidized housing.

Still for San Francisco tenants who are covered by the legislation, AB 1482 inspires hope.

Brandon Harami, who does not live in a rent controlled unit, is one tenant who will benefit from AB 1482. Though he has a positive relationship with his landlord, Harami rent was hiked 10 percent rent increase annually for the past nine years he's lived in San Francisco.

"My upstairs neighbor is having some health problems right now," Harami said. If she were to receive another large rent increase, "I don't know where she'd go."

Expansion of just cause for eviction will also help tenants facing retaliatory evictions. Currently only landlords of buildings covered under San Francisco's limited rent control ordinance have to state a reason for evicting a tenant, which makes it challenging to prove intent in court.

While Chiu is celebrating AB 1482's historic passage, he is disappointed that the final version of the bill passed by the legislature contains carve-outs that don't protect all tenants.

"My goal has always been to give as many renters the strongest protections as possible," Chiu said. "The original bill we introduced did not include any carve-outs, and that is the version of the bill I wanted to pass. Tenant bills are notoriously



difficult to pass in Sacramento, and to get this one over the line, we had to make some concessions."

In the California legislature, our representatives have to contend with powerful real estate lobbyists and build consensus with Republicans, but these are issues that our Board of Supervisors does not face here in San Francisco.

Our Board of Supervisors can and should respond to local tenant advocates calls to close loopholes in the legislation.

Lupe Arreola, director of statewide tenants organization Tenants Together, wants the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to lay out a plan to enforce AB 1482.

As it stands, tenants must enforce their own rights. In order to prosecute a landlord in violation of the law, a San Francisco tenant must notice an illegal rent increase and report it to the city rent board. AB 1482 will necessarily lead to a greater caseload for the rent board, which Arreola says is already overworked.

Some City Hall movers and shakers are already stepping up to provide leadership on these issues.

Supervisor Matt Haney has expressed interest in expanding the just cause protections outlined in AB 1482 to apply to more San Franciscans:

"The creation of just cause protections statewide is a huge and important victory, but it doesn't

Photo by Daniel Alberto

go far enough. I'm committed to building off this momentum, filling in the gaps and expanding just cause locally."

Tenants rights attorney and socialist candidate for District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston has promised to make big progress on tenant protections if elected. "I've been pushing for just cause within housing circles for years," he said.

Preston supports a "landlord licensing" program in San Francisco. This database could close the data gap that the city faces in enforcing AB 1482 by tracking which rental units are on the market, when they were constructed, and how much landlords are charging in rent.

While state legislation under Costa-Hawkins prevents our Board of Supervisors from expanding rent caps at the city level, there are no shortage of other ways San Francisco elected officials could strengthen AB 1482 locally.

As for Costa-Hawkins? Tenants, take notice of the expansion of your rights under AB 1482 and demand further.

While wages remain stagnant, a 5 percent rent cap is insufficient to protect renters from our severe housing crisis. Join the San Francisco Tenants Union and learn your rights.

We're just getting started! ■

CLIMATE STRIKE!

MILLIONS MARCH GLOBALLY TO PROTEST UNSUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES AND POLICIES

Quiver Watts

Young children crouched with paintbrushes over brightly painted murals as Food Not Bombs volunteers wandered around offering cups of water or slices of watermelon to beat back the scorching heat. An ATM machine was blocked by a banner bearing a menacing depiction of Brazilian authoritarian Jair Bolsonaro while hand painted signs carried strident demands for climate action. Crowds swayed to the beat as musicians strummed and sang, their voices carried by bike-powered speakers.

This was the scene set at Montgomery Street on September 25th, as thousands of demonstrators shut down two full blocks in the Financial District demanding that businesses stop investing in companies that are actively harming the climate and decimating indigenous communities. The area was painted with two dozen

circular murals by various groups demanding justice.

From September 20-27, millions of people from all over the world converged on city centers, financial districts, bank offices, consulates, and other sites to demonstrate the urgency of addressing climate change and the failure of global leaders to take meaningful action. Many of these demonstrations were led by youth who are going to be most impacted by changing weather weather patterns, rising tides, ecofascism and resource depletion.

“I am a youth, and as a youth I know most youth don’t get a chance to speak out, or they’re scared and can’t speak out because they are afraid,” said Amiya Butler with Youth Vs. the Apocalypse, a youth coalition based in Oakland fighting for a livable climate and an equitable, sustainable, just world.

Butler says that as a Black person, she feels called to speak up for people of color whose voices aren’t being listened too, even though they stand to bear the brunt of the impact of climate change. Coming off the last week of strike, she is heartened; “I feel inspired too because I didn’t expect so many people to come out to fight for the climate. Especially seeing the adults out there standing up for us and fighting for our future.”

The numbers are staggering: news outlets have reported between 5 and 7 million people participated in strikes or demonstrations during the week. From here in San Francisco, to Taiwan, to Ghana, to New Zealand, people walked out of work and out of classes to demonstrate their support for action to address the climate crisis.

Indigenous-led groups played

Photos by Kelly Johnson Revolutionary Photography.

TOP: Five young people walk carrying signs supporting climate action.

BOTTOM: Extinction Rebellion’s “Red Brigade” creates a powerful spectacle kneeling around on the many murals painted on Montgomery Street

a significant role in organizing the Climate Strike, and the priorities of indigenous leadership were represented in the murals painted on Montgomery Street. A mural painted by Brazilian Solidarity Network called for a “Return to the Old Ways”, while ColombiaConexion’s mural called for an end to the ongoing murders of climate activists in Colombia, Brazil, the Philippines, and Mexico. Another mural by Pacific Islander Climate Justice read “Migration is Natural, We Are All Related”.

The Climate Strike list of demands also made clear a priority to respect the leadership of frontline communities who are directly harmed by

extraction and climate crisis, reading “Frontline communities must have a voice and leadership role, and we look to indigenous communities to lead the transition to a just and sustainable world.” During the week of action Idle No More also organized a youth demonstration outside of the Chevron refinery in Richmond to protest the oil behemoth’s extraction of natural resources, harming of frontline communities, and pollution of its Bay Area neighbors.

How Homeless People Are Impacted by the Changing Climate

Critically, many of the organizations calling for action are drawing connections between the climate crisis we are currently facing and the broader social problems of poverty, imperialism and capitalism, pointing out that poor people and colonized people are facing the effects of climate change first.

“Climate change is inherently class war,” said Jesse Dekel, an activist with the International Workers of the World (IWW) union in Montreal. “In the winter homeless people are freezing to death because of rapidly increasing temperature spikes, and in Summer they’re dying of heat exhaustion and dehydration. During heat waves you see people passed out because of heat stroke, and I really don’t think passing around bottles of water is enough.”

As San Francisco finds itself facing dramatic weather changes we are already experiencing what Dekel describes. The Department of Homelessness and Housing (HSH) has dragged its feet in releasing any detailed information about how it handles heat waves, it’s “Hot Weather Protocol”, besides sending out email alerts to service providers and sending HOT Team members out with water bottles to distribute. But with temperatures over 90F over the last few weeks, homeless people are at increased risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, which can be a cause of permanent health effects, including brain or organ damage. ■



FACTS ON FENTANYL:

Glide Harm Reduction Services Director Paul Harkin Demystifies Fentanyl and Shares the Known Solutions to the Opioid Crisis

Friday, August 30, was Overdose Awareness Day, dedicated to remembering lives lost and lives saved in the opioid crisis, as well as to informing the public about humane and evidence-based ways to mitigate the risks and fatalities associated with drug use. This day and everyday, it's important to remember that there are things we can all do to reduce risks and harms in our community.

The first step is educating ourselves on the facts about drugs and drug use, including the known health interventions out there. Current media attention on fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid helping to fuel overdoses in the Bay Area and across the country, is too often inclined to focus on the sensational or to even trade in misinformation. We know that sensationalistic stories only make matters worse.

So to learn more about fentanyl and the proven health interventions that can reduce the risks it presents, we spoke with Paul Harkin, director of GLIDE's HIV/Hep C and Harm Reduction Services. The following conversation has been shortened and lightly edited for clarity.

Can you give us some context for the current focus on fentanyl?

Paul Harkin: I came to San Francisco in 2000 to work at the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center. My first week at work I saw people who were using fentanyl. Even back then, there were people for whom that was their drug of choice, because it's fast-acting and it doesn't last as long. There was not the same hysteria around it then. I just saw it as another opioid among the many opioids that are available to people, whether it's a pharmaceutical or street drug.

About three years ago, we saw a real uptick in fentanyl in the drug supply in San Francisco. One of the first things we saw was Xanax

pills that were counterfeit and had fentanyl. So, you've got people that are taking a pill that they thought was a benzodiazepine and it's full of fentanyl, and they died, or they overdosed.

It was very perplexing. You're wondering, who would do that? We don't know if some of this is cross-contamination. There's been fentanyl traces in a lot of different substances.

And we're still seeing a lot of opioid users dying from fentanyl overdosing because it's very strong and the onset is so quick. If I were doing heroin, an overdose is probably about 30 minutes from the shot to the point where I have respiratory failure. There's quite a decent window there to save me, if there's anybody around. With fentanyl, that respiratory failure can happen within five minutes.

What's the approach you and GLIDE take to this situation?

[Fentanyl] has been here for a long time. It's given to pregnant mothers in maternity wards during childbirth. Any approach that's hysterical is counterproductive. We just need to look at it rationally: It's an opioid. It's a strong opioid. It's a fast-acting opioid. People have used it for years and not come to harm. Other people have used it once and died. Like with a lot of drugs. We can't be shaming, stigmatizing, sensationalizing. We just have to educate people that overdoses are reversible. No matter how much somebody takes or how quickly they go into an overdose, if somebody there has Narcan they're going to be able to reverse that overdose. That means we need to have Narcan distribution.

But we also have to create a climate where people are not using alone, because then nobody can reverse your overdose. It's like having a designated driver, having somebody with you when you get high. For some folks that's a challenge because they don't want to be outed—they might be

using drugs secretly. That's an ongoing community intervention, trying to de-stigmatize use so that people can feel safe to have somebody with them.

Can you elaborate on the life-threatening consequences associated with stigma?

When we look at stigma, whether it's drug use or sexual behaviors, it's always been counterproductive. It makes people want to keep secrets; it pushes people further away. By de-stigmatizing substances and substance use you make it easier for someone to talk about it. You can check in with them. "Hey, I've noticed you're getting high a lot more lately. What's going on? Is everything OK?" You can have that conversation. That's what we have to get to.

It's just like with gay men and HIV. We saw that stigma helped promote the infection, because people were feeling unable to discuss their status or getting tested—there was shame, there was stigma, there was criminalization. All of these things are counterproductive. We need to move away from that model. People need the facts, told in a calm and composed way. And then we work with them, based on the facts, on how to reduce the harms.

What are the known health interventions that can reduce or eliminate the threat of overdose deaths?

When we talk about the shocking uptick in opioid overdoses, we should also be talking about the known solutions.

Number one is having overdose prevention available to you through Narcan. If everyone who used had somebody sitting there with Narcan there would be no more overdoses.

Another intervention would be having safe consumption sites where people are medically supervised, or they're supervised by community

members trained in overdose prevention. We have these all over the world. There's never been a single overdose death in any of them.

Another intervention that we use at GLIDE is giving people fentanyl test strips. It's not sufficiently adequate because it's just saying, yes, there is fentanyl in this drug. It's not telling you the degree of contamination, the percentage of the drug that is fentanyl. However, if you bought ecstasy and it tested positive for fentanyl then that's a big deal. Now, if you're buying heroin and it tested positive for fentanyl, that's also a big deal but it's still in the same class of drug. So maybe you take less of it. You do a test shot, or you smoke a bit. There are different tried and tested methods that reduce the possibility of overdose.

With those test strips, another good thing about them is that they help us generate conversations about overdose and make sure that people are very aware of how strong fentanyl is and the uptick in the incidences of overdoses, including fatal overdoses.

But, to me, we're not going to get beyond the opioid deaths until we get to safe consumption sites. There's really no downside, except for people who see it as a moral failing and they're morally outraged. It's coming from an ill-informed position. Let's talk to drug users, and let's talk to people who work with drug users and have expertise. You'll see that the evidence shows that this is a highly efficacious intervention.

It's like people who say our thoughts and prayers are with you after mass shootings, but they don't want to touch gun legislation—saying you're outraged at the opioid crisis and all these deaths, but you won't implement evidence-based solutions. It's really time for the people who work with this population, the medical experts, to say we need to do these interventions. The time has come.



SAVE THE ARF: When Being Loud Pays Off

Mirjam Caroline Washuus

“The San Francisco Department of Public Health’s top priority is patient care. (...) We share the urgency to improve the lives of San Franciscans who are experiencing homelessness, mental illness and substance use disorder.”

These were the opening lines of a September 20 statement from Public Health director Grant Colfax in the wake of a prematurely adjourned Health Commission meeting three days earlier. It was shut down by a coalition of activists and nursing professionals who showed up with signs, slogans, and demands.

This was the second action in four weeks at which members of the community came together to bring attention to an inexpedient upcoming plan regarding the San Francisco General Hospital’s Adult Residential Facility (ARF).

The commission was meant to discuss the ARF and a conversion of 41 of its 55 long-term residential beds into 12 temporary, short-term shelter beds. The proposed ARF closure was just the latest threat to reduce the City’s supportive housing capacity for its most vulnerable citizens who are unable to live independently - since 2013, the City has seen an almost 50% decrease in board and care beds. The City has offered a

myriad of explanations to why the existing beds stay empty: staffing shortage, laborious and time sensitive bureaucratic requirements, potential emergency admissions, infractions, and maybe more importantly, dishonesty and lack of clarity.

According to Jennifer Esteen, a psychiatric nurse with Public Health, the plan poses a series of problems ranging from an obvious loss in permanent, supportive solutions to bad ethics and broken promises. Earlier this month, the Mission Local published that ARF employees had been informed by management that the ARF and Residential Care for the Elderly were on probation due to infractions found within the facility, and thus precluded admittance of new patients.

Adding to this, Esteen explains that the upcoming changes were to be kept a secret from the residents; an approach that is “unethical and also unfathomable in the face a growing homeless population, many of whom are suffering with mental illness.” Often the residents of board and care facilities are too ill or impaired to attend treatment programs, let alone being transferred to temporary and independent housing options. This population is at greater risk of being

nudged into a downward psychiatric spiral due to the stress of being transitioned into an unstable future.

So somewhere in the murkiness of the City’s explanations lies the reality that homelessness cannot and will not be reduced by displacing and destabilizing the most vulnerable San Franciscans.

Closing permanent mental health beds in the midst of this homelessness crisis just doesn’t add up.

While members of the audience at the Health Commission meeting physically blocked their ears to cut off the furiously loud chants, others have felt obliged to listen. Listen to the voices of experts: those experiencing homelessness, mental illness and substance use disorder, in need of support and housing, and the people working alongside them every day.

In Colfax’s statement, he explains that the changes at the Behavioral Health Center are on pause until Mayor London Breed and the Board of Supervisors reach an agreement on “how to proceed in a way that accomplishes our shared goals of patient safety, stability and expanded access to services.” Colfax explains that Public Health

is willing to try new approaches and listen to the community in the coming months. Similarly, during the action Health Commission representatives stated that the commission is willing to hear from members of the community individually.

Yet, it seems that the department still had not succeeded at incorporating the fierce day-to-day expert voices until it was forced to. Following the traditional rules of offering public commentary at commission meetings and consistently providing necessary data/facts has yet to show a sincere effect on decision making. On the contrary, being furious and loud did.

The outcomes of last week goes to show that it is vital for mental health consumers, public health professionals, doctors, nurses, families, and other activists to come together with San Franciscans in need. These are experts on homelessness and mental health and their input must be heard and incorporated in the solutions to the problems the City faces. Only as a community it is possible to push loudly for supportive social change can be necessary in order to reach the common goal of “patient safety, stability and expanded access to services”. ■

HOMELESS GETS THE BLAME

Darnell Boyd

Market Street has a problem, and who gets the blame? If you guessed “homeless people,” you are absolutely correct.

There is a certain mall on Market Street that cannot be filled, and the first and only reason that the developers gave was that it’s too many homeless residents, drug dealers and people with mental health issues that’s the cause.

This is my opinion, developers: your rent is too high. Lower your rent, and there wouldn’t be many people without homes, and your malls will be filled with stores.

It’s your rent so high that the stores are homeless, your rent so high that the store wouldn’t make a profit; your rent is so high that the people can’t afford to spend their money on anything else but your high rent.

Notice that I keep stating that your rent is too high. Lower your rent It’s the high rent, stupid! ■

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION VOTES TO UPDATE JOBS-HOUSING LINKAGE FEE

Amanda Wheelock

The San Francisco City Planning Commission voted in favor of increasing the city’s Jobs Housing Linkage Fee following a hearing on September 19th, where members of the community voiced their support for updating the fee during public comment.

The Jobs-Housing Linkage Fee, enacted by the city in 1996, is placed on businesses and corporations developing new facilities in San Francisco that increase the city’s overall commercial office space by 25,000 or more total square feet. According to the San Francisco Planning Department’s 2019 executive summary of the ordinance, the funds generated by the fee are allocated towards “permanent supportive housing and the preservation and acquisition of affordable housing,” which help offset the impact of corporate office

development on the city’s growing housing crisis.

The Commission’s vote signifies an important victory for tenants and housing justice advocates across the city, who believe low and middle income workers should be able to live in the communities in which they work, and existing residents ought to be protected from the displacement exacerbated by the city’s growing job market and increased demand for housing. Members of the community who spoke at the September 19th Commission hearing emphasized the city’s present responsibility to hold business and corporate developers accountable for their role in creating the housing crisis. Proponents of the fee increase argued the city ought to prioritize its interest in protecting tenants and preventing displacement over its business interests. ■

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

OCT
3

SDA ANNUAL CELEBRATION 2019

WHERE: THE RUEFF ROOM AT A.C.T.'S STRAND THEATER @5:30-8PM

Senior & Disability Action's annual fundraiser will be held on Thursday October 3rd from 5:30pm to 8:00pm at ACT's Strand Theater, 1127 Market Street, in San Francisco. The event will include entertainment, wine and food, and a short program, as well as a drawing for donated prizes and a silent auction. Join us in celebrating SDA!

OCT
3

REMEMBERING A POLICE RIOT: THE CASTRO SWEEP OF 1989

WHERE: THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 4127 18TH STREET @7-9PM

The Castro Sweep remains the single most massive police attack on LGBTQ people and people with AIDS in the history of San Francisco. To mark the 30th anniversary, a panel of veteran activists will recount their memories of the sweep and its aftermath and will discuss the evolution of relations between the SFPD and the LGBTQ community. **ACCESS:** ASL interpretation provided upon request. Please write at least three days in advance of event to leigh@glbthistory.org. The space is wheelchair accessible. Must RSVP to attend.

OCT
4

SURVEY BLITZ FOR TRANS, GNC, & NB FOLX EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

WHERE: COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS, 280 TURK STREET @10AM-3PM

As a part of our comprehensive needs assessment of San Francisco's homeless services, we are conducting a survey asking folks currently experiencing homelessness what they would like to see change within the current system. Eligibility requirements: Must identify as trans, GNC, or NB and must currently be homeless **ACCESS:** The Coalition on Homelessness is finally in a wheelchair accessible space! Enter through 290 Turk to access the elevator up to our second floor office.

OCT
7

NARCAN TRAINING

WHERE: KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER 745 BUCHANAN STREET @7-8PM

Want to learn how to save a life? Join the Coalition on Homelessness and the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association for a Narcan training session with the DOPE Project's Kristen Marshall, to be held at the HVNA's October Public Safety Committee meeting. Learn the signs of an opiate overdose and how to reverse one with Narcan (naloxone), as well as receive info on where in SF to pick up free Narcan nasal spray kits. Narcan is an essential tool in the fight against overdose deaths, and you never know when you may get a chance to save a life, so come get trained!

Please be aware there will be a police presentation at the beginning of the meeting, this is something we don't have control over.

OCT
17

MENTAL HEALTH HEARING

WHERE: CITY HALL ROOM 250 @10AM

This hearing wil cover competing measures to address the loss of permanent board and care beds.

ACCESS: City Hall is ADA accessible.

OCT
21

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEBATE

WHERE: 1 BUSH STREET, SAN FREANCISCO @12-2PM

For the first time in over a century in San Francisco, this year's election is an open race with four new candidates. Come hear the candidates talk about issues such as mental health, mass incarceration, violence as a health issue, and whatever other issues YOU can think of. Questions will be community/audience-submitted! Submit your question at bit.ly/dadebateQA.

ACCESS: RSVP via the Facebook event

OCT
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YAH! FUNDRAISER AND MEMBERSHIP LAUNCH

WHERE: VIRGIL'S SEA ROOM 3152 MISSION ST7AM-5PM

Come through and support Yes to Affordable Housing (YAH)! as we hold our first ever fundraiser, and launch our Membership. We'll have some dope YAH! swag, voting guides, music, and lots more.

Tickets are \$8 in advance, and \$10 on the door, with all proceeds going to YAH!

ACCESS: Virgil's has no steps into the building, ADA accessible bathrooms, and an accessible patio area.

OCT
30

MENTAL HEALTH SF KICKOFF EVENT

WHERE: CITY HALL STEPS @12 NOON

Mental Health SF is a ballot measure by Supervisors Ronen and Haney to implement universal mental health care in San Francisco. Join us for a rally and march to support Mental Health SF!

ACCESS: There is space at the bottom of the steps that people usually gather.

OVER 50 AND HOMELESS

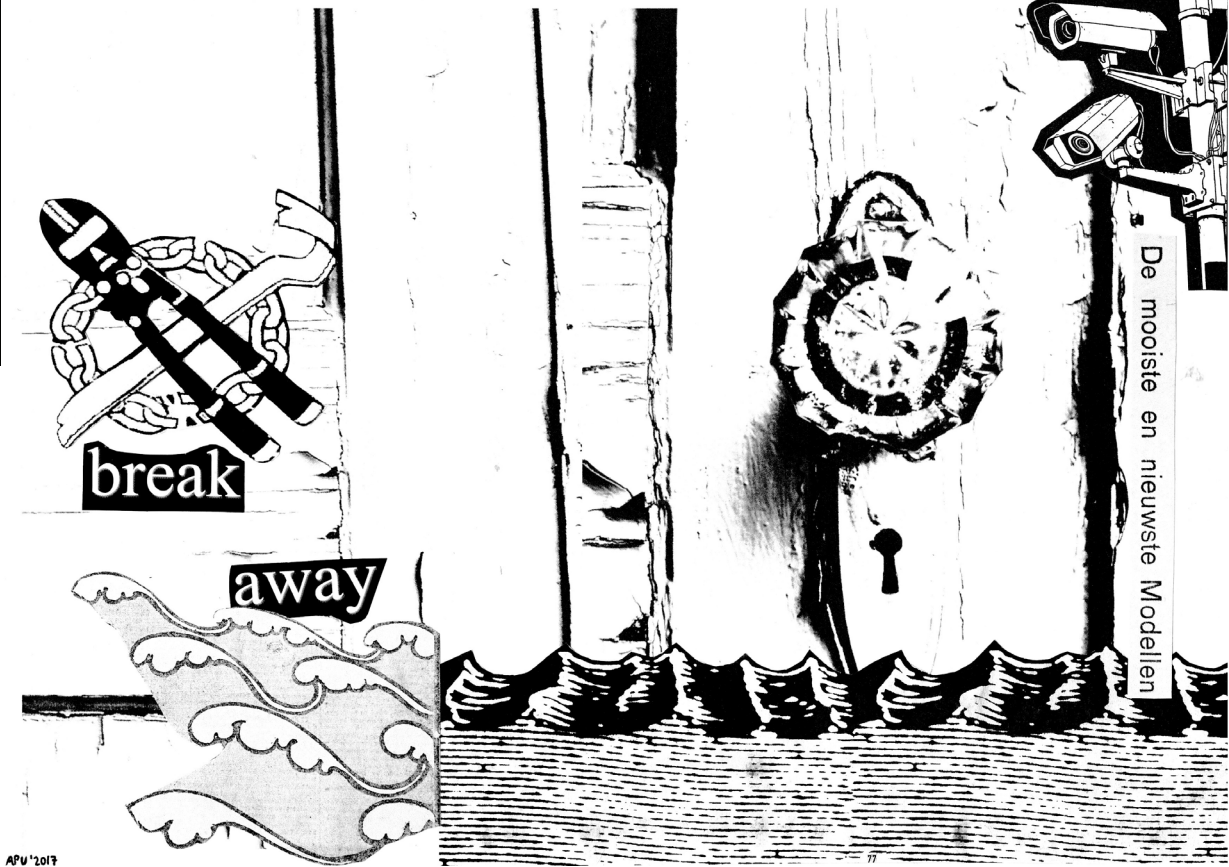
Darnell Boyd

I heard that 50% of the homeless population is over 50 years of age.

How could this be? You mean to tell me that the seventh-largest economy on Earth will allow elderly people to sleep under a bridge in dirt with rats running around?

I've even witnessed amputees sleeping in their wheelchairs. We have marathons for this disease and walkathons for that disease, but for homeless people with mental health issues and elderly, houseless folk, we want to declare him or her incompetent., a nuisance, dangerous, alcoholics or bums. So they only offer them a one-day bed, or a 10- to 30-day bed.

If a homeless person has nowhere to go or live, and you don't have a permanent bed to put them in, then leave their tents alone and stop criminalizing them. Leave homeless people alone you don't want to help. ■



Apu is a 36 years old queer enby punk, organic gardener/farmer and collage diy artist workin' and livin' on a organic seed breeding farm near Bremen/northern germany. She's creatin' collage artwork for more than 18 years now (doin' a lot of coops with zines, bands, solidarity projects, collectives...) and is part of a small diy art collective named Theo Collective <https://theobeam.wordpress.com/about/>

No War Is Won Alone: Help Jaron Find Stability

Some of you may remember our beautiful sister Jackie Henderson, who fought for welfare rights and against domestic violence, who passed back in 2004, leaving her two wonderful sons behind. She was staff here at the Coalition on Homelessness doing Family Rights and Dignity work, and then worked for Women, Inc. Her sons have been struggling ever since, and are fighting to get stabilized as they grow into men. Jaron is Jackie's first son and he set up this go fund me

to help him buy a car. If you have anything to share -- please do! If you remember her, I am sure you remember her smile. It was bright and lit up a room. If you give I think you will feel that smile!

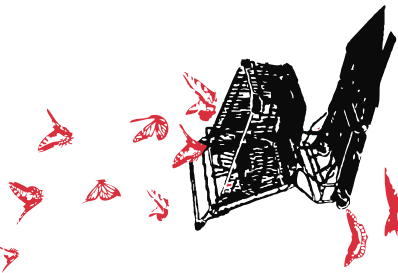
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/1rjo5x27tc>



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San Francisco

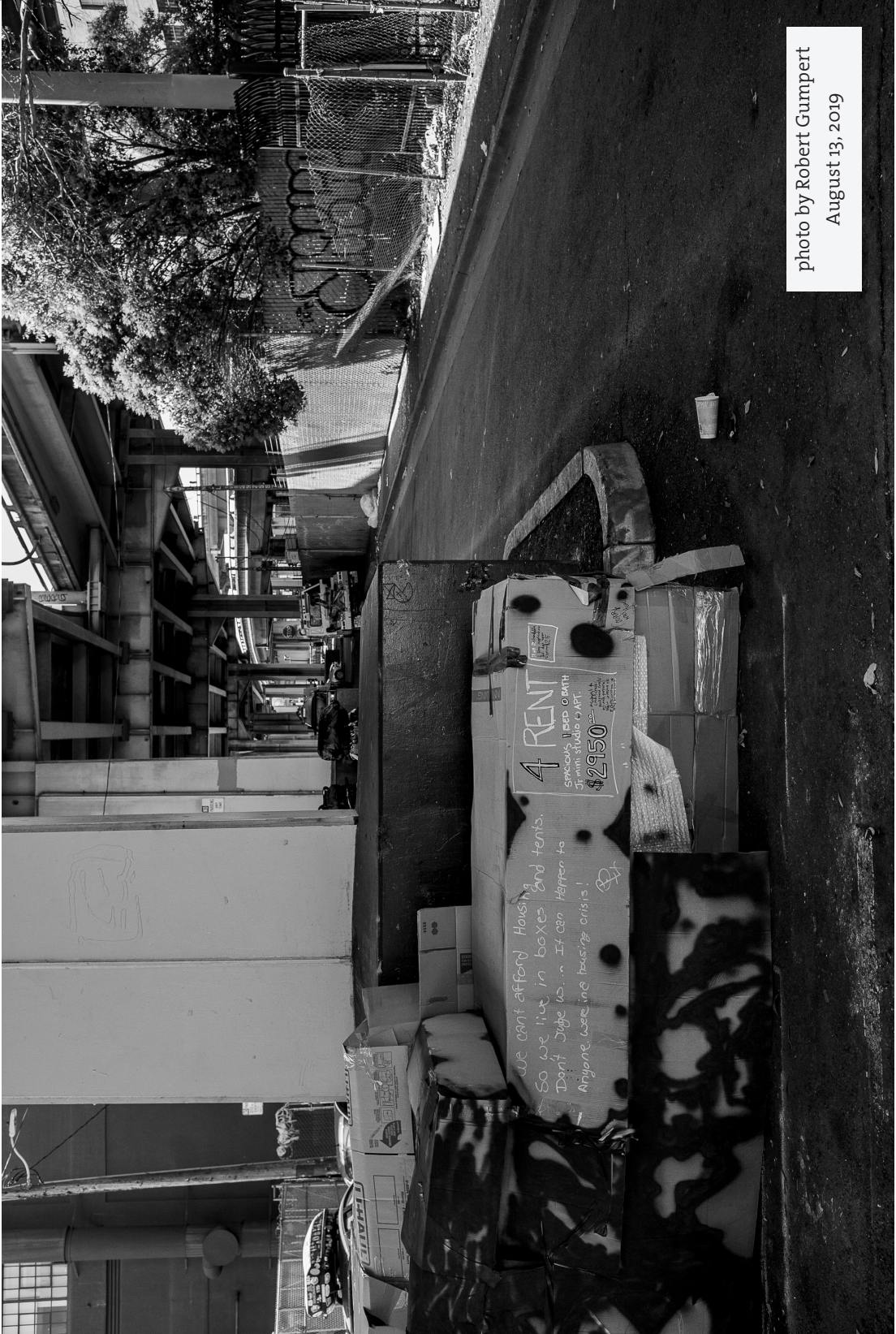


photo by Robert Gumpert
August 13, 2019