Before They Haul Your Home

Stella Kunkat

Towing practices have always been a particular plague for poor and homeless people, especially in San Francisco – the city with the nation’s highest towing fees, averaging $575 in the current fiscal year. However, when the current shelter-in-place order was issued, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) stopped what advocates call “poverty tows.” Normally, poverty tows occur when vehicles accrue five or more unpaid parking tickets, a vehicle’s registration has been expired for more than six months; or when vehicles are legally parked in the same place for over 72 hours.

Towing for these reasons disproportionately affect people who rely on their vehicle as a home. The SFMTA’s decision to halt these tows brought relief for many of them. It also brought renewed attention to poverty tows occur when vehicles are legally parked in the same place for over 72 hours.

One may think, “Why not get his vehicle back, he tried to get his belongings remaining in his RV? Eventually, Ron was able to find the person who bought his RV at the auction and thus could get some more of his stuff back. Ron can’t help but think that AutoReturn employees purposefully make things even more difficult for people who are already under stress of losing their home and belongings.

On another day, in May, we met a man, Damar Johnson, who recounted similarly stressful experiences with AutoReturn. When we walked up to Damar and let him know we were interested in people’s towing experiences, he became talkative.

Damar had been towed twice in the past, before the Covid-19 pandemic. The memory and the frustration around it are fresh in his mind. His vehicles got towed in the past because he couldn’t keep track of the many tickets he received. As we have heard from many other vehicle owners, Damar had received tickets because he couldn’t – and still cannot – safely drive his van due to mechanical issues. Hence he receives tickets on street cleaning days.

Damar also told us that the MTA is operating in new ways; up until a few months ago SFMTA enforcers would drive around, write the ticket while physically present at the vehicle, and then place the ticket. This way – assuming that one was present at that moment – vehicle owners had the chance to communicate and, at times, negotiate or move their vehicle.

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 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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Our contributors in this issue include:

Stella Kunkat, Meghan “Roadkill” Johnson, Madeleine Maze, Joseph Jacques, Robert Gumpert, Marin Sun Printing, Ronnie Goodman, the SF Poster Syndicate, Silas Valentino, Jordan Davis, Katie Burman, Mike Lee

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.

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I help people,” she said succinctly, “I help people.”

She’s worked in guest services for the Giants the last eight seasons, guiding people to their seats and offering her assistance as needed. In between baseball seasons, she’ll continue working in guest services.

Moreover, if you wish to get all of your belongings out of the car, you have to have the paperwork proving that you are the vehicle’s registered owner. In Damar’s case, he had lost it, meaning that he had to go to the DMV, hence yet another bill of around $100. When he returned to AutoReturn, they suddenly also expected the paperwork for the insurance of the vehicle.

At the end of the day, Damar gave up, defeated in his battle with AutoReturn to get his vehicle and belongings back, only to be stuck with more payments, more bureaucracy and no success.

Every requirement puts another barrier in your way and imposes an even higher financial burden—a cycle that forces you to give up, as Damar puts it.

Finally, he tells us that even if he had been successful in getting back his vehicle at the AutoReturn auction, he would have encountered another risk. That is because, at the auction center, all license plates are removed from the vehicles. As a homeless person you therefore run the risk of driving a vehicle without a license plate while searching for a spot to stay—since you don’t have a safe garage and home to drive to—and getting pulled over by the police or fined by the MTA first thing after getting your vehicle back.

Damar wants nothing more than to get out of this situation and into a home. For now, he knows that he will be moving soon since the risk of being towed is too high. He will likely have to abandon his van, as it is too damaged to be fixed on the spot, and moving the vehicle constantly is a stressful reality. A reality that Damar has been dealing with for a long time now.

Poverty tows need to end. Far too many people share Ron and Damar’s experiences throughout this city—experiences of cycles into poverty, debt and homelessness. The SFMTA has to start taking responsibility and stop punishing people for being poor and homeless.

If you’re already in the SFMTA’s system: Relationships, bureaucracy and no success. A reality that Damar has been dealing with for a long time now. It’s not a first-come, first-served shelter system. A reality that Damar has been dealing with for a long time now. It’s not a first-come, first-served shelter system.
Almost prophetically, Ronnie Goodman made an etching of people marching in the street and carrying a banner that reads “No More Homeless Deaths,” one in a myriad of drawings, paintings and engravings he produced.

After a lifetime of creating art while homeless or incarcerated, on August 7, Ronnie Lamont Goodman was found dead in his tent outside the Redstone Building in San Francisco’s Mission District, where he intermittently stayed and stored his drawings and illustrations. He was 60.

Goodman was a self-taught artist whose work was prominently displayed in venues ranging from the San Francisco Public Library to MoMA PS 1 in New York to the pages of Street Sheet and other homeless publications to the office of then-San Francisco Supervisor, now Mayor London Breed.

As prolific as his artistic output was, Goodman also lost many of his works to sweeps conducted by San Francisco’s police and public works department. In one such incident in 2017, police detained him for vandalism and ticketed him for illegal lodging when he tried to prevent a Public Works employee from seizing 50 linocut drawings and the tent where he was sleeping.

In recalling that and similar incidents for the Stolen Belonging project in 2018, Goodman described his passion for creating art and the desperation he felt when the authorities deprived him of his handwork and the tools he used to devise it.

“And they took at least over a period of a year, or two years, probably 400 different art items that I need to have,” he said. “What I mean by items, drawings, sketches, drawing books, sketchbooks, painting, paints and supplies and ink and stuff like that.”

“And right now, it’s like I’ve got to go beg for help to get some items so I can create. Because that’s what I like doing. I like drawing, I like creating on the spot. But since I don’t have that stuff, I’ve got to go out and be like everybody else. I’ve got to panhandle for some money in order to get something to eat, or in order to get some art materials, because of what the police and DPW are doing.”

“They’re making my life very, very horrendous, and they’re making it so anti-productive that it’s insane. Because I’m like, ‘hey man, I’m an artist, and this is how I make my living.’ That’s my survival. It’s like, ‘yall man, I’m an artist, and this is how I make my living.’ That’s my survival. This is my work, this is my survival.”

A self-described “hippie child,” Goodman was born on July 25, 1960 and grew up in San Francisco’s Haight and Fillmore districts where art surrounded him and fed his muse.

He started drawing at the age of 6, and was inspired by the political activity and vibrant social experiment of the 1960s. The counter-cultural movement in the Haight was in full swing, redevelopment in the Fillmore uprooted mostly Black residents.

At the same time, Goodman fell into addiction and was imprisoned for burglary. During his eight and a half years in San Quentin State Prison, he made greeting cards and drew portraits in exchange for coffee, cigarettes and anything that could be bought at the prison’s commissary.

When he was paroled in 2010, Goodman continued to devote himself to art and a long-distance running regimen. In 2016, he raced the San Francisco Half-Marathon as a fundraiser for Hospitality House, a homeless service organization that runs a community arts program. Through running the 13.1-mile course and auctioning off one of his paintings, he raised over $40,000.

In 2016, he ran the half-marathon again, benefiting the Redstone Building, which provides space for community-based organizations on 24th and Capp streets.

The Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) was another beneficiary of Goodman’s work. Art Hazelwood, the homeless organization’s self-described “minister of culture,” said Goodman’s images amplified the message of social justice movements.

“In recent years, Ronnie Goodman has been a strong visual voice for WRAP,” Hazelwood said. “I grew up in San Francisco. I’m what you call one of those hippie kids. I grew up in the Haight Ashbury and I been here all my life, other than in prison. I grew up in the Fillmore area also, which back then, was the Black area of San Francisco in the 60s and part of the 70s. I went to Roosevelt Junior High and Washington High School.

I started drawing when I was six years old from my mother’s boyfriend who used to design Harley Davidson’s. He started giving me comic books. They had a lot of community art programs back then, there were a lot of street artists. They would sit there and draw and paint and did beat work and did all kinds of stuff in front of you. I grew up around it. My mother herself wasn’t an artist, but I just became an artist because I started seeing art. My first drawing instruction was from my cousin—he showed me how to draw Batman and all the comic strips.

Growing up here in the city has had a great impact. I’ve seen marches, political activity, seeing people with signs. I was around the Black Panthers and other underground stuff that I barely remember as a child.

I was around what they call the John Coltrane Church—I used to eat there on Divisadero Street.

When I went to prison, I became a prolific artist. It was a dark time, but it also became my light. I came to learn how to create. I was around nothing but artists in prison: tattoo artists, con artists, muralists—all types of artists that you could think of. By me drawing there, it was the only way I could buy things from the canteen, I had to draw for my living. I used to make greeting cards and trade them for a pack of cigarettes. Zuzus and wam wams, they were called. Coffee and cigarettes. I did family portraits and people bought things from the canteen. It’s illegal to do that in prison, but we got around that. My only way to survive was to make art. If I didn’t do good art, I didn’t get good money. I became so good at it that it worked. I was around no one, but I worked for one of the best portrait artists. Nobody sent me no money.

I was in and out of prison. Four counts of bank robbery. Burglary. I was a drug addict. I thought that I was a thug. I was under the false illusion that it was only my way out. I didn’t have a mentor, no direction, nothing to grab onto. No one was in my life there to influence me except pimps, players, and prostitutes.

When I got out, I went to Precita Eyes, and that’s when I started how to be an artist and how to make a income. I got to do a mural on Third and Carol named “Soul Journey.” It made me learn that you can make a small income from your art, and I thought it was one of the best things in the world. I got involved with Art Hazelwood, and I got me involved with the Street Sheet and I thought it was one of the great things that we got, to get involved. I started donating art, and I didn’t think my art would be able to support different programs like Hospitality House, but I helped raise a lot of money for their art program.

When I got out of prison, I had no choice but to be homeless. I would get a tent and a sleeping bag and do the best I could. But my art was created to bring a light to homelessness. I went to Hospitality House and it was a safe haven and they held onto your artwork if you’re homeless. You just have to suck things up and try to stay
Bay Area homeless activist, Guy “Mike” Lee, has died in Berkeley at the age of 64. Lee, aka “Sam Spade” to his many Facebook friends and followers, was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) and had recently been hospitalized for his debilitating respiratory condition.

Lee was an ardent community activist and a passionate advocate and defender of homeless rights. He led protests and participated in the occupation of People’s Park and proudly served as a member of HAWG, (Homeless Advocacy Working Group) that established policies and monitored how homeless people were treated and often abused in the City of Oakland. Lee sued Berkeley for violating his first amendment rights after police allegedly confiscated and later destroyed personal property in the process of disbanning the homeless encampment he lived in.

Mike moved to the Bay Area from Portland, Oregon when he was a teenager, but spent the majority of his life living on the streets of Berkeley. In 2018, Mike moved into an apartment by way of the Coordinated Entry System, which prioritizes the transition of homeless individuals into permanent housing based on vulnerabilities due to age and physical health conditions.

In 2016, Lee ran for mayor of Berkeley on a platform focused on homelessness and affordable housing. With $100 in his campaign war chest; he narrated a dialogue that provoked the confrontation of issues of homelessness across the entire field of mayoral candidates. Without the participation of Lee, issues regarding homelessness in Berkeley may not have been hot topics for discussion during the campaigns of other candidates for mayor that year.

“I am saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Mike Lee. Mike dedicated his life to fighting for justice and cared deeply about Berkeley,” said Mayor Jesse Arreguín in a statement. “He worked to protect People’s Park, save our Downtown Berkeley Post Office and was a powerful and effective voice for the homeless.”

According to Arreguín, Lee’s 2016 campaign for mayor made the needs of the homeless population a central focus for Berkeley. Arreguín added that Lee’s activism resulted in policies and programs to help the most vulnerable people in the city.

Derrick Soo, a friend and fellow advocate to Mike Lee, had worked together in Oakland. Lee’s vision was to implement a pilot project for “tiny homes” and to reinstate the self-governed city-sanctioned 77th Street Berkeley Post Office and was worked to protect People’s Park, save our Downtown Berkeley Post Office and was a powerful and effective voice for the homeless.

Lee’s activism resulted in policies and programs to help the most vulnerable people in the city.

“Stay creative and stay focused and don't try to overthink anything. Come from the heart and how you feel. Try to step back a few steps and listen to others opinions and reflect on it. But don’t stop, don’t ever stop creating.”

"He was always ready to hold elected officials accountable," says Elder.

"He was very outspoken and always willing to go down into the homeless encampments to help and protect the most vulnerable residents.”

Lee was critical of what he called the social services industrial complex and he always expected a greater contribution from society and government towards homeless solutions.

Lee said this about the current systems that deliver homeless services and care to persons experiencing homelessness.

“The basic message is to teach homeless people you have to be helpful," said Lee. “We have a system that is broken. It has no priorities. Their only solutions are criminalization or charity."

“My focus is to provide a hand up and not a hand out,” Lee once said.

The story of Guy “Mike” Lee should inspire persons experiencing homelessness and their advocates everywhere to become more active in the process of creating solutions that end homelessness.

Mike once said, “In order to solve this problem we must include the expert opinion of the homeless themselves. When you need a tooth pulled do you go to an expert or an auto mechanic?”

The pure wisdom and persistence of Guy “Mike” Lee will remain in the memories of the many people that he helped and defended for a very long time.

This piece originally ran in Homeless Perspective.
THE EMBARCADERO NAVIGATION CENTER DEBUTS

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and go, but all were encouraged to shelter in place.

Meals are provided, laundry is avail-
able, shower and bath facilities are kept clean and there’s computer access near a communal television. Beds are laid out in dormitories and housed under structures from the company Sprung who specialize in industrial and commercial markets, as well as homeless navigation shelters.

Dormitory B waits for occupants and for now is mostly empty. The Embarcadero Navigation Center was designed to serve up to 200 guests at a time but amidst COVID-19 abiding by DHF guidance regarding bed spacing and layout, it now has 88 active beds at the site.

Dormitory B is an airy space, well venti-
tilated for having no windows and smells like fresh polyurethane-coated fabric. At the front desk of the dorm is a copy of DeVon Franklin’s “The Success Commandments” next to some sticky notes and a nasal Narcan device. The L-shaped dorm cubicles have a few drawers for storage and clothing and the navy-blue cots are doubled padded.

Each guest is assigned a personal care manager who assists in signing up for the General Assistance Program and housing programs. If a guest is exhibiting a concern for safety of those around them is threatened.

The first Navigation Center opened March 2015 and its 5-year mark with six shelters in operation and two more on the way expected by the end of the year: seven beds for a Transition Aged Youth center located at 888 Post Street and 200 beds set for 33 Gough Street. From 2015 through the end of 2018, 46% of Navigation Center exits were either to permanent housing or reunification with family or friends through the Homeward Bound program.

Abigail Stewart-Kahn, director of strategy and external affairs with DSHH, explained how the success of Navigation Centers, with nearly 2,500 individuals finding homes over the last five years, should not necessarily be gauged by the number of people who did not exit homelessness.

“The majority of those exits, the other side of the coin, were people leaving on their own. They either declined services or left by their own choice,” she said. “It’s important to emphasize that success should not be measured that way. The success is if people what to come inside the center, do they stay, do they build a community—do they get safe?”

In reference to folks who decline ser-

vice or an invitation to the Navigation Center, Ms. Stewart-Kahn says the Home-
less Outreach Team understands they need to remain consistent and dependable to eventually earn the trust of a person living on the street while respecting their individual situation.

“You say great, we’ll come back and see you tomorrow,” she said. “If we can pivot away from the idea of what’s wrong with you to what happened to you, then we can start to build that compassion and better help people.”

The flat parcel of asphalt along the Embarcadero was only a parking lot with tire marks and erosion last baseball season, often used by sports fans before the half-mile stroll south to the Giants’ stadium.

All that remains of the former function of Sewall Lot 350, the 3-acre plot across from Piers 39-41, is a canvas of painted white lines used to separate parking spaces.

Sewall Lot 350, once used for temporary parking, has been adapted into temporary shelter for some of the Embarcadero neighbor-
hood’s more vulnerable residents. It’s the latest Navigation Center to go up from the Department of Homelessness and Support-

ive Housing. It’s large enough to provide temporary housing for eventually 200 guests with room, board, safety and social services. As well as 200 new opportunities for them to find a way home.

This Navigation Center is not only the largest shelter yet in terms of its quantity of beds, but it was perhaps the most disrupted, receiving pushback from local residents, businesses and other non-profits who coaliced to form the Safe Embarcadero for All community organization to voice con-
cerns about public safety. There were dual fundraising efforts, either supporting the construction or the delay of the homeless shelter, and a months-long legal dispute that ended in favor of the center’s construc-
tion.

Opened during the final days of 2019, the barren blacktop now supports three granite grey fabric membrane structures, about two stories high and maybe half-afootball field in length each. They encompass nearly the entire lot with an outdoor center area with neon-colored chairs and planter boxes for growing saplings courtesy of the Friends of the Urban Forest.

The clamon of the city behind the wooden fence, intensified by the constant rush of traffic from the Bay Bridge a mere block away, becomes white noise inside the triangu-
lar lot. Guests can spend their full days inside the safety of the shelter or choose to go out wherever they return, they sign in, receive a full paid down with a metal-detector and if they possess a weapon, they log it to be stored during their stay.

Mike Tillman is one of the multiple em-

ployees with Five Keys, a nonprofit charter school operator contracted by the city to operate the Navigation Center. He wears the uniform of a sky-blue shirt and is the key master for the bicycle storage facility near the front door.

Five Keys and Heluna Health, the service that runs the Homeless Outreach Team, are always hiring—particularly people who have been homeless them-

selves. Both organizations have job boards on their websites with a multitude of open positions for a variety of positions and skill-
set. Learn more at forekeyscharter.org and helunahealth.org under the careers tab.

Mr. Tillman was part of the team that set up the Embarcadero Navigation Center, which opened on January 30. “I was helping to bring in tables and break up boxes,” he said. “At first, there were five people then I looked up and there was 20 people—then 80!”

The Embarcadero shelter was an-

nounced in March 2019 and was swiftly met with push back from residents in the neighborhood. Critics challenged the city’s planning department’s decision to exempt the project from an environmental review to expedite the construction of the shelter and argued that the shelter would attract further public alcohol and drug consump-
tion, police interventions, property crime, personal assaults and additional homeless encampments.

Two online fundraisers through Go-
PundMe were created in response, to raise money for the legal fees to counter the Center for its cleanliness and even offer to contact the Center if anything needs to be picked up, cleaned or removed. The Center’s operators explained that camping in the parameter is discouraged and folks are informed that it does not enhance the likelihood of an invitation.

Ms. Stewart-Kahn says that she’s received a number of positive calls and emails from neighbors who commend the Center for its cleanliness and even offer to help volunteer. She acknowledges the concerns from disappointed neighbors and encourages a little extra empathy.

“That’s the work and we’re thankful they’re raising question,” she said. “We just hope they raise those questions and understand the humanity and dignity of the people who are in homelessness. Then we’re very happy to engage with conversa-
tions.”

Wallace Lee, speaking on behalf of the organization Safe Embarcadero for All, said such meetings have been a good way for the community to let the City and Naviga-
tion Center operator, Five Keys, know about problems.

“I have found that the City and Naviga-
tion Center representatives genuinely want to be helpful in resolving the issues, but they don’t really have the ability to do any-
thing meaningful, which can be frustrat-
ing,” Mr. Lee said.

He described his disappointment in an increase of open drug use, drug dealing and improperly discarded syringes he’s observed in the area around the Naviga-
tion Center since its opening. He also said he felt betrayed by the City’s promises that the Navigation Center would not attract encampments.

“While the City has generally been responsive to reports of blocked sidewalks and menacing behavior towards pedestri-

ans, encampments have been appearing at an increasing rate around the Navigation Center,” Mr. Lee said. “Some of the encamp-
ments are from those seeking to get a space in the Navigation Center, but surprisingly, some have been from Navigation Center guests who refuse to sleep indoors.”

Posted around the Embarcadero Navi-
gation Center are blue, lanced notices with a phone number advising neighbors to contact the Center if anything needs to be picked up, cleaned or removed. The Center’s operators explained that camping in the parameter is discouraged and folks are informed that it does not enhance the likelihood of an invitation.

AUG 15, 2020
PAYING TOO MUCH FOR RENT? #30RightNow!

Starting in August, all tenants in Direct Access to Housing (DAH) program will be paying only 30% of their income towards rent. Previously, while most supportive housing units (and all units that have come online since 2016) were at 30%, 6,989 tenants in the DAH program were paying literally half their income towards rent, a legacy of backwards and cruel policies from the city and county of San Francisco.

The funding that was released came from a $1 million allocation that came as a result of me hunger striking for rent relief in 2019, and since it would cost roughly $1 million to get DAH tenants down to the Department of Housing and Urban Development standard of 30%, it was agreed that the DAH tenants who were paying 50% would be covered.

However, the program will last only one year, unless Mayor Breed renews it, and importantly, there are still more than 2000 supportive housing units where tenants are paying half or more of their income towards rent. Many of these units are in dilapidated SROs master-leased by the city. One of the biggest offenders is the Tenderloin Housing Clinic (THC), run by known slumlord Randy Shaw, who has benefited from lucrative contracts from the city. I live in a building managed by THC and know the challenges within, and it was a hard fight to even get this funding. Given the realities of COVID-19, it will be even harder to get rents for every tenant in supportive housing down to 30% of income.

In late 2014, I came here homeless from Pennsylvania seeking a better life and new opportunities as a disabled transgender woman. I am a “graduate” of the first navigation center, and was placed in a THC building, where I was shell-shocked by bad policies, a dilapidated physical plant, and most of all, high rents. Through organizing around SRO issues, I learned all about the twisted politics of supportive housing and SROs, and how difficult it was to build power.

I eventually was appointed to one of two tenant seats by the Board of Supervisors to the Single Room Occupancy Task Force, an advisory body composed of landlords, Collaboratives, department officials, and two tenants. It was hard to get any truly progressive change there and the rhetoric was really toxic. In early 2019, I introduced a resolution calling for rents in supportive housing to be only 30% of income. Through a sunshine request of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, I was able to calculate that it would cost a total of $75-8.8 million per year to correct all the rents in supportive housing down to 30% of income. Despite all that, passing the resolution at the Task Force was really difficult.

The landlord representative, Sam Patel, who has sued the City over an ordinance preventing residential hotels from being converted to tourist use, claimed it would harm owners, even though the city would fund the difference. Clifford Gilmore, who represents the Central City SRO Collaborative, made comments about how tenants will use the extra money to buy drugs and be irresponsible, which is in line with Randy Shaw’s support for Care Not Cash, which took cash away from assistance programs on the theory that tenants will drink and do drugs. Dion Roberts, who has ties to the mayor and who runs the supportive housing site, the Mary Elizabeth Inn, bogged down in technicalities that were beyond the Task Force’s purview, and E’Shan, the other tenant rep, who is also employed by the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, would mansplain that the numbers were all in my head. The meetings are all audio-recorded and publicly available on the Department of Building Inspection’s YouTube channel.

I was eventually able to win by a very narrow vote in June 2019, but only after I was 15 days in a hunger strike, which made the Examiner front page. On the day of the vote, another THC tenant gave a powerful public comment opposing the measure and opposing the anti-poverty rhetoric of some members. Later that day was the budget hearing for HSH, and after a question from Supervisor Haney, HSH admitted the issues, and said that all new supportive housing would be at 30%.

It is very likely that revenue measures will bring in needed funds, and I hope that you all can vote for the ballot propositions that will fund this needed assistance, and hopefully, we can get the roughly $8 million to be spent, many of whom are Black, brown, LGBTQ, and disabled. To get plugged further into the campaign and to receive updates when legislation is introducing, please email 30rightnow@gmail.com.

A Dangerous Message in Dangerous Times: HUD’s Transphobic Shelter Ban

If you are a woman and happen to exhibit facial hair, a certain height or a noticeable Adam’s apple and you’re looking for a place at a federally funded single-sex or sex-segregated homeless shelter, you may soon be under particular scrutiny by the admissions staff. In other words, discrimination based on gender identity could result in you being denied access to a shelter that is not single-sex, because of an advisory body composed of landlords, Collaboratives, department officials, and two tenants. It was hard to get any truly progressive change there and the rhetoric was really toxic. In early 2019, I introduced a resolution calling for rents in supportive housing to be only 30% of income. Through a sunshine request of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, I was able to calculate that it would cost a total of $75-8.8 million per year to correct all the rents in supportive housing down to 30% of income. Despite all that, passing the resolution at the Task Force was really difficult.

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In the midst of a deadly pandemic and vicious housing crisis, what is San Francisco offering residents without housing? Barricades! The racist, classist and ableist lawsuit by UC Hastings lays bare how City officials and San Francisco institutions treat homeless folks as a “public nuisance” that needs to be forcibly removed. People need housing, not barricades! Join us in a march and rally to say no to these barricades, no to violent sweeps by the cops, and no to racist lawsuits “removing” homeless residents without adequate plans to provide housing.

Meet at 3pm at Turk and Leavenworth.

* MASKS ARE MANDATORY * KEEP YOUR DISTANCE *