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# STREET SHEET

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## POLICE WON'T END ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE. COMMUNITY WILL.

by Sam Lew

Every day, I see the small bouquets of flowers in front of the apartment. Daisies, pink roses, sunflowers wrapped in beautiful blue fabric. Still there, a week and a half after Vicha Ratanapakdee passed away.

During an early morning stroll in a quiet neighborhood in San Francisco, the 84-year-old grandfather from Thailand was violently pushed to the ground. His head hit the concrete. Despite paramedics administering first aid to him on the sidewalk, he died two days later in the hospital.

Three days later in Oakland's Chinatown, a 91-year-old senior was shoved to the ground. That same day, two other Asian Americans, a 60-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman, were similarly attacked by the same man.

"Have you watched the videos?" my

mother asks. All of her friends have been sharing them in a frenzy. But it is hard to bear witness to these terrible acts of violence against our elders. I cannot bring myself to watch Ratanapakdee's death. He reminds me too much of my own grandfather.

My heart hurts for our elders, for the family that has now lost their grandfather and father. Our community is grieving, outraged, scared. We ask: When will this happen again? And who will be next?

I wish this heartbreak could be just heartbreak, but I am scared about how those in power will capitalize on our pain.

Every time Asian Americans are attacked, robbed, or assaulted, I wonder how we will be used once again as pawns to advance a pro-police agenda, despite the fact that police have not kept our communities safe and have killed so many Black, Latinx, and

Indigenous community members.

Already, politicians like Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf are bottling up our grief and rage and selling it back as a shiny promise to keep us safe with more police, more prisons, less crime. Some of those promises have already come to fruition: The week following the attacks, the City of Oakland created a special police unit to focus on crimes against Asians. There has been an increase in private security guards and a push to bolster networks of digital surveillance.

I am hearing many of us call for more police and more prisons to keep us safe. Asian American celebrities like Daniel Dae Kim and Daniel Wu called for justice, offering a \$25,000 reward to identify the man behind the Oakland Chinatown attack. Steeped in tough-on-crime rhetoric, we ask, "How can we catch these racists and

punish them until we feel right again, until the hurt goes away, until we are no longer angry?"

But we cannot conflate police and incarceration with justice or public safety. They do not keep us or our elders safe, even as much as we wish they could. The justice, healing, and safety our communities deserve will never be realized by adding more police officers or putting more people in prison. It was police officers who brutally shoved 75-year-old Martin Gugino last year, leaving him bleeding on the ground with a fractured skull, nearly identical to the attacks we are seeing against our elders today.

In the past five years, Bay Area police have killed 110 residents, with Black people representing 27% of those murdered and

Story continues on page 3...

WE CANNOT CONFLATE POLICE AND INCARCERATION WITH JUSTICE OR PUBLIC SAFETY

adapted from a photo by Heidi Alletzhauser



# HOW THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED SEX WORKERS

Celestina Pearl, Outreach Director St James Infirmary

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected sex workers? I know this question is not on the minds of most people here in San Francisco, or anywhere else. We should all already know this, as well as in understanding the pandemic's the effects on communities of elders, migrants, folks who are disabled, Black, Asian, trans, poor, living and working on the streets, and anyone marginalized and disadvantaged by the cis-hetero-patriarchal-capitalist system. That is to say, we need to be seeing each other and supporting each other, because we are all we got.

I am a former sex worker and current supporter of the sex worker community, as the outreach director of St. James Infirmary. We are a peer-based health clinic, community services and advocacy organization run by and for current and former sex workers, founded in 1999. We have been going out on the streets to support our communities living and working on the streets since January 2018 in our Naughty Nurse Mobile. Before the pandemic, we offered incentivized HIV/HepC/STI testing and other limited medical services and supplies, safer drug use supplies and seasonal supplies like coats, tarps, hand warmers and more. Since the first COVID-19 shutdown in San Francisco in March 2020, we had to discontinue providing medical services directly from the van, but continued providing all other services including, symptomatic medical services and testing, at our clinic location.

We quickly began trying to figure out how we could best serve the needs of our communities during this time of chaos and confusion. It became immediately apparent that many sex workers were without a job, without any backup support like state unemployment or having to face the very difficult decision to continue working to support themselves and their families and risk exposure to a possibly fatal disease. For those who were working online before FOSTA/SESTA — federal legislation passed in 2018 that affected how sex workers can work online — and who might have just begun recovering financially, work was drying up. Those who were driven to the streets after FOSTA/SESTA found them empty of johns and folks were desperate for work. For those who chose to not risk exposure due to being immunocompromised or living with someone immunocompromised — or any number of reasons — money was running out. People often had very little support and were given very confusing and conflicting information about COVID-19, and ever-changing guidelines, rules and regulations. Many people were reporting a need for basic necessities like food, hygiene items and emotional support.

Sex workers are very resourceful people. We are hustlers! And we gotta have

each other's backs. The outreach team at St. James Infirmary started delivering groceries to those quarantined at home, bringing supplies to homeless encampments as well as continuing to frequently check on our street-based community of sex workers to offer supplies, resources and support. As needs are communicated to us, we do our best to fulfill those needs in real time. We also have many other programs to offer support to sex workers and other communities: Our trans housing program, outreach to trans Latinas, syringe access services, our mental health program and our partnership with The Hope Center all allow us to help with housing, health resources and everyday needs for trans folks, migrants, BIPOC, folks living and working on the streets — especially sex workers — and all the intersections of our communities.

The relief efforts of our government both federally and locally have largely benefited the already privileged, and not the most marginalized. I'm sure the readers here already know that. So out of necessity, many local groups started mutual aid campaigns with cash grants for sex workers like Rad Mission Neighbors, Bay Area Worker Support, and the Tenderloin Cultural District, with many of these organizations offering other resources and support as well. The tragic police murders of Black people in the United States brought together masses in the streets united in mourning and in rage. The recent mass murder in Atlanta brought anti-Asian racism, in conjunction with the stigmatization and criminalization of sex workers and sex negativity, to a head, bringing more awareness to an already devastating problem. Many organizations have made statements in solidarity with Asian sex workers. Much more work needs to be done to support these communities with real reparations to bring healing. Racism continues to be a deadly epidemic. And then there were immediate traumatic, emotional parallels between COVID-19 and the AIDS epidemic. There was much confusion about what contact is safe or allowed, how people can hook up, and much judgement, sex negativity, loneliness and isolation. Much healing will continue to be needed as we move through this pandemic, forge a new future and learn better ways to be in community with each other with patience and compassion.

We here at St. James Infirmary are not perfect, but we strive to support our communities as best we can each day without judgement and with harm reduction in our hearts. We know that there is much pain and suffering, as we are our community and we gotta have each other's backs. We fight the injustices because we love you and we love ourselves. And in the process, we find creative solutions and even joy. ■

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## 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 agendas to us.

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### CONTACT:

STREETSHOOT@GMAIL.COM

## STREET SHEET STAFF

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

Editor, Quiver Watts (they/them)  
Assistant Editor, TJ Johnston  
Vendor Coordinator, Emmett House

Coalition on Homelessness staff also includes  
Jennifer Friedenbach, Jason Law, Olivia Glowacki, Miguel Carrera, Tracey Mixon, Carlos Wadkins, Kelley Cutler, Keegan Madrano, Ian James, Chelsea Crumpler

Our contributors in this issue include:  
*Anisha Tammana, Stella Kunkat, Vicky Walker, Kaveh Waddell, Katie Truong, Roadkill, Christin Evans, Heidi Alletzhauser, Celestina Pearl, Couper Orona, Tammy Martin, Jennifer Friedenbach, Sam Lew*

## POETRY CORNER

UNTITLED by Roadkill

A young girl sitting on a dirty sidewalk, beggin' for change  
Twinkle in her eye, when people look her way  
Hoping in her mind, "Will I get to eat today?"  
But people are passing her by, saying what a waste

If you knew what she's been through and how she got here  
Maybe you'd think twice to judge and lend an ear  
But you won't, you won't, you'll just keep walking past  
'Cus you got a home you take for granted  
But you never know, one day you might be her  
This could be your life...

# WE CANNOT CONFLATE POLICE AND INCARCERATION WITH JUSTICE OR PUBLIC SAFETY

Sam K. Lew

continued from front page...

Asian Americans 10%. Police do not prevent crime; they are the manufacturers of violent crime, of which Black residents are most often victims. As Vietnamese author and artist Thi Bui says, “Asian Americans cannot look for safety from the same agencies that terrorize Black Americans. We have to resist the us vs. them mentality.”

It is easy to demand convictions and harsh sentences. It is harder to address the root causes of racial violence and to commit to the real day-to-day work of collective healing.

The attacks that have taken place over the last several weeks have been labeled as the product of anti-Asian racism; I was quick to think this, too. But I later learned that the young man behind the Chinatown attacks was unhoused and placed on a psychiatric hold. His history of assault demonstrated no correlation with race, but did include a judge noting he had “serious mental health issues” six years ago. I wonder what could have happened if he had received the support and housing he needed when he needed it, if this could have all been prevented.

I deeply appreciate reporters Momo Chang, Sarah Belle Lin, and Darwin BondGraham, who explore necessary and important questions on crime, safety, and race in their two-part piece for The Oaklandside:

Is there evidence that what Chinatown has experienced in recent weeks is racially motivated? Are we really seeing a unique uptick in crime there, unlike years past, and divorced from what’s happening elsewhere and to other communities in Oakland? Why have recent crimes in Chinatown attracted searing attention locally and even internationally, while gun violence has spiked dramatically in parts of East Oakland for months with less sustained concern and civic response? What do Chinatown residents want to see happen in terms of solutions, and whose voices aren’t being heard?

More so than race, Chinatown organizers and workers like Sakhone Lasaphangthong view the attacks as “crimes of opportunity” that target a neighborhood and demographic that is vulnerable to robberies.

While this does not justify behavior or minimize the violence or harm, it does beg the question: What do we view as anti-Asian racism and who do we think of as those who commit them? How does this further pit Asian and Black communities against each other and who benefits from fueling this narrative?

I hope, too, that we can see beyond the young men who assaulted our elders. Yes, they are individuals who caused great harm. But if we are going to talk about violence, let’s also talk about the violence of systemic racism we face every day as Asian Americans. Let’s speak up about the violence of family separation when loved ones are deported by ICE back to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam. Let’s talk about how our communities suffer when 118,100 Asian Americans are locked up in federal prisons. We must broaden our understanding of all the violence that threatens our survival in order to eradicate it.

So what does this world without violence look like?

In the face of tragedy, many are working tirelessly to answer this question, from Asian Americans to Black and Brown folks who are speaking up against anti-Asian violence and demonstrating the cross-cultural, interracial solidarity we need to build true community safety. Many others have been doing community safety work for years. The Oakland Chinatown Coalition

is organizing a volunteer foot patrol, whose aim is not just patrolling, but also “building relationships with community members and visitors, and cleaning up trash.” More than \$150,000 has been raised for organizations already engaged in the everyday work of building community safety.

Burgeoning discussions with hundreds of people are taking place about what community safety can look like for all of us — without the police. I am inspired by organizers who are resisting fear-mongering and anti-Black narratives incited by politicians and instead shouting at the top of their lungs, We will not let you use us. We will call for accountability without turning to institutions that destroy Black and Brown communities.

In response to violence, these are acts of love. They are unabashed, bold proclamations of resistance, a commitment to ourselves and to each other that we will fight for collective joy and liberation. It is this love we have for each other that will keep us safe. ■

SHARE THE DEMANDS OF 40+ BAY AREA ASIAN ORGS CALLING ON SAN FRANCISCO & OAKLAND TO:

+ Ensure victims and survivors of all backgrounds and language abilities receive full supportive services so they

can recover and heal.

+ Expand intervention- and prevention-based programs and invest in basic needs and community-based infrastructure that we know will end the cycle of violence and keep all of us safer.

+ Resource cross-community education and healing in Asian American and Black communities that humanizes all of us rather than demonizes or scapegoats any community of color.

## WE KEEP US SAFE

+ Volunteer with the Oakland Chinatown Coalition’s safety team.

+ Report hate crimes at Stop AAPI Hate and learn more about the history of anti-Asian racism.

+ Learn about anti-Blackness in our communities, what racial justice looks like, and the histories of Asian/Black solidarity

+ Anti-Blackness starts and ends at home: Have this conversation with your fam.

+ Donate and organize with AAPI community organizations doing community safety work like the Asian Prisoner Support Committee, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, and the Chinese Progressive Association.

# GLIDE TO HOST COVID VACCINATIONS IN TENDERLOIN

TJ Johnston

Unhoused San Franciscans in the Tenderloin will now have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, thanks to a successful pilot program at Glide, the neighborhood nonprofit announced.

Glide’s website said that the March 25 pilot will lead to a weekly clinic as part of the Tenderloin Community Resource Hub. Glide has not provided an exact start date as of press time.

“It will be a pop-up, but the hope is [it will] be a recurring one — like the COVID testing site at Glide now,” Glide communications director Robert Avila said in response to a query from Street Sheet.

Glide operates in the middle of the Tenderloin, which has the third-highest overall case rate among city neighborhoods, behind Bayview-Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley, and is ranked 28th out of 38 neighborhoods in vaccination rates.

“Together we are reducing barriers to vaccine access and serving some of the most marginalized people in San Francisco,” said CEO Karen Hanrahan in a statement published on Glide’s website. “There are significant challenges in providing access to COVID vaccinations to the housed and unhoused residents of the Tenderloin. Bringing a weekly neighborhood vaccination site to the Tenderloin is an absolute accomplishment.” Glide will also recruit community members to do outreach as part of its “ambassador” and “champion” programs, senior programs director Kenneth Kim said at a District 6 service providers’ meeting on March 19.

The 300 block of Ellis Street, where Glide operates, has been a service hub since the pandemic began last year, providing a COVID testing site and table space for several community organizations. Glide has long served unhoused and marginally housed people in the neighborhood with several programs, providing free daily meals, clothing and hygiene items, as well as harm reduction services to as many as 3,500 people per week, according to its most recent newsletter.

Glide’s announcement came three days after the California Department of Public Health said that it will expand vaccine eligibility to people aged 50 and older on April 1, and people aged 16 and older on April 15. That same day, residents of San Francisco’s single-resident-occupancy apartments — regardless of age — automatically became eligible when clinical experts from the City’s public health department determined that SROs meet the state’s criteria of high-risk congregate settings.

A week earlier, the City announced that unhoused people would be among the next groups of people to receive the vaccine under the state’s prioritization plan. They join people in other congregate settings, such as correctional facilities and residential medical facilities.

In a statement released earlier in March, the City’s COVID Command Center said that people in encampments, residential treatment centers and outdoor, amenity-provided camps known as “safe sleeping villages” should be prioritized for a vaccine because they “could transition

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# A TIMELINE OF SURVIVING HOMELESSNESS AND COVID-19

## 2020

February 25

**MAYOR BREED DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY.** This centralized power in the hands of the Mayor and Public Health Officer Tomás Aragón in order to respond quickly to the crisis, but significantly weakened the power of the progressive Board of Directors.

March 17

**SAN FRANCISCO ANNOUNCES IT WON'T ISSUE CITATIONS FOR UNMOVED VEHICLES,** a move celebrated by vehicularly housed San Francisco residents who live in fear of their vehicles being stolen by the City.

March 16

**SAN FRANCISCANS ORDERED TO SHELTER IN PLACE.** Unhoused people were stuck: They had nowhere to shelter in place to keep themselves or loved ones safe.

March 18

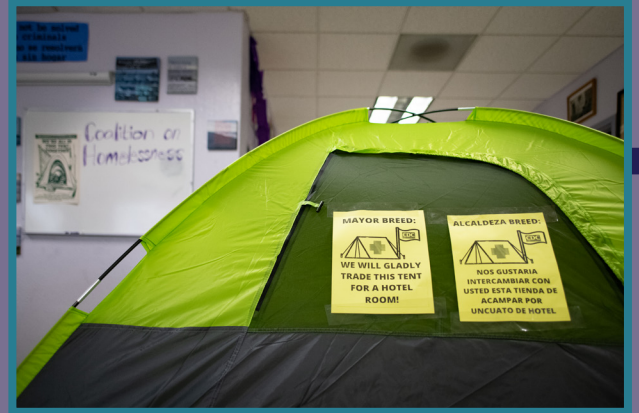
**GOVERNOR NEWSOM ANNOUNCES \$500 MILLION THAT CAN BE USED TO FUND HOMELESS SERVICES.** This funding paid for a myriad of things, including hotel acquisition and putting people up in hotels.

Late March

**MUTUAL AID NETWORKS START OPERATING AROUND THE CITY.** San Franciscans did everything from setting up shopping trips for neighborhood seniors to distributing food and tents to folks forced to stay on the streets.

March 23

**SAN FRANCISCO SHELTERS EXTEND RESERVATIONS BUT SHUT DOWN SHELTERS TO NEW RESERVATIONS.** This was to keep folks inside shelters safe, but left thousands on the street with no shelter access.



May 26

**HOMELESS BAYVIEW RESIDENTS GET ACCESS TO RV SITE.** Earlier in May, faced with inaction from the City, Mother Brown's and Beds4Bayview in the Bayview set up a safer tent camp site for unhoused community members in the neighborhood. Thanks to their efforts 98 people get a step up in sleeping accommodations and are moved into RVs.

**CDC ISSUES GUIDELINES INSTRUCTING CITIES TO AVOID CONFISCATING TENTS AND TO ALLOW PEOPLE IN ENCAMPMENTS TO REMAIN IN THEIR LOCATIONS.** For a period of time, mean-spirited sweeps were halted and the City went to encampments to offer hotel rooms, rather than forcing displacement.

May 1

**TWO QUEER HOMELESS WOMEN MOVE INTO A VACANT HOME IN THE CASTRO IN AN ACTION ORGANIZED BY HOUSE THE BAY.** They are removed within hours, but help build momentum to turn vacant homes into housing for homeless San Francisco residents.



May 25

**GEORGE FLOYD IS MURDERED BY POLICE IN MINNEAPOLIS.** His death sparked nationwide demonstrations and propelled the movement to abolish police into mainstream consciousness.



May 4

**UC HASTINGS FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF TENTS IN THE TENDERLOIN.** The Coalition on Homelessness, along with Faithful Fools and Hospitality House, intervened in the lawsuit with the intent of preventing sweeps and getting tangible services and housing for those on the streets.

June 2

**SEAN MONTEROSA, A BLACK LIVES MATTER ACTIVIST WHO GREW UP IN SF IS MURDERED BY POLICE IN VALLEJO, REINVIGORATING THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND POLICE ABOLITION.**

November 19

**ADVOCATES HOST A DIE-IN OUTSIDE THE MOSCONE CENTER PROTESTING THE LOSS OF EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR SHELTER RESIDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC.** While resident of traditional shelters had a formal grievance policy to fight back against wrongful eviction, SIP residents have no recourse when booted from the hotels.

January 25

**GOVERNOR NEWSOM ANNOUNCES A CHANGE TO THE VACCINE ROLLOUT PLAN, REMOVING HOMELESS AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE FROM TIER 1B.** Homeless people can still qualify for vaccines if they are 65 or older, or if they work in healthcare, education and child care, emergency services, or food and agriculture.

June 23

**BLACK HOMELESS LIVES MATTER PROTEST DRAWS HUNDREDS TO THE TENDERLOIN.** The action highlighted the impact of encampment sweeps on Black unhoused folks and called for an end to policing.

September 26

**CITY ANNOUNCES PLAN TO SHUT DOWN SIP HOTELS.** It said it would close seven sites by December 21, without a plan for the nearly 600 residents to be safely rehoused. Public protests and outcry succeeded at halting the shutdown. However, this didn't last long.

December

**NEWS REPORTS RECORD HIGH NUMBERS OF OVERDOSES** in San Francisco during the year, significantly outpacing COVID deaths. The influx of fentanyl as well as the increased isolation of the pandemic are contributing factors.

January 21

**BIDEN ANNOUNCES FEMA WILL COVER 100 PERCENT OF SIP HOTEL COSTS.** Previously under Trump, FEMA was covering 75 percent of the costs. The Biden announcement was retroactive to the beginning of the pandemic and forward to October of 2021. The city could extend the program for two more months on top of that with state funds.

August 5

**CITY ANNOUNCES PLAN TO STOP LEASING HOTEL ROOMS.** The original vision of getting to 7,000 was abandoned.



**September 9th VICTORY FOR UNHOUSED SAN FRANCISCANS!** Prop. C tax to fund housing for homeless people finally codified in a legal victory after several years in court.

December 1

**CITY AGAIN ANNOUNCES PLAN TO WIND DOWN SIP HOTELS BY FEBRUARY, CITING EXPENSE.** This was done without a solid housing plan in place for tenants, leaving folks and confused and freaked out.

August 7

**SAN FRANCISCO MOURNS THE DEATH OF LOCAL HOMELESS ARTIST AND ACTIVIST RONNIE GOODMAN WHO DIED IN HIS TENT.**

December 15

**BOARD PASSES EMERGENCY LEGISLATION RELATED TO SIP HOTELS.** This required the City to have a housing plan for everyone in the SIP hotels, and to place 6 unhoused persons for every 10 former hotel residents who were moved into permanent housing.

September

**SFMTA RESUMES ISSUING PARKING CITATIONS.**

## 2021

December 15

**#30RIGHTNOW CAMPAIGN WINS A RENT CAP FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TENANTS!** Tenants can no longer be asked to pay more than 30 percent of their income toward rent.



March 23  
**HOTELIERS OFFER MORE THAN 8,000 VACANT HOTEL ROOMS TO THE CITY TO USE FOR UNHOUSED PEOPLE AND FIRST RESPONDERS.** This created a massive opportunity to move people off the streets.

March 25  
**SUPERVISOR DEAN PRESTON SECURES PRIVATE FUNDING FOR THE FIRST SIP HOTEL.** This allowed two shelters to move families and women from congregate church-based shelters sites to private hotel rooms.

April 14, 2020  
**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES LEGISLATION TO RENT 8,250 HOTEL ROOMS FOR UNHOUSED PEOPLE, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.** Mayor Breed publicly announced that she would not respect the Board's decision.

April 17  
**FIRST TESTING SITE IN SAN FRANCISCO OPENS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VERILY, A GOOGLE AFFILIATE.** The site initially required people to drive in and to register online, making it inaccessible to most homeless residents. Continuing issues around equity led to the County of San Francisco discontinuing the Verily contract by the end of October.

March 4  
**AT A BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING, ABIGAIL STEWART-KAHN, THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, REVEALED THAT THE CITY IS PAYING \$5,000 A MONTH PER TENT IN SAFE SLEEPING VILLAGES.** FEMA will not reimburse for tents, begging the question of why San Francisco is paying more than market rate for an apartment to keep people in outdoor tent villages during a pandemic.

March 14  
**UNHOUSED PEOPLE ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE, BECAUSE THEY ARE AT HIGHER RISK FOR COVID-19.**

April 3  
**MAYOR BREED CHANGES COURSE ON HOTEL ROOMS.** Breed announced a plan to allow unhoused elderly or COVID-vulnerable people on the streets to move into hotel rooms that were first available only for COVID-positive people. Mayor Breed said, "We are not going to be able to solve our homeless problem in San Francisco with this crisis."

March 27  
**MAYOR BREED ANNOUNCES PLANS TO OPEN A MASSIVE 400-BED SHELTER AT MOSCONE CENTER WEST.** This was met with concerns from homeless activists and health professionals alike since congregate settings exacerbate COVID risks.

April 10  
**COVID OUTBREAK** at San Francisco's largest shelter, Multi Service Center South. The first positive test was on April 6; within days 70 people were infected. The shelter was shut down, and everyone moved into some of the 945 hotel rooms recently opened in case of an outbreak. This was after weeks of faith, medical, and homeless activist community members had been calling on the city to shut down congregate sites and open up hotel rooms. Human Services Agency director Trent Rhorer told Street Sheet that "it wasn't fiscally prudent" to offer hotel rooms to homeless people until they were already infected.

April 3  
**COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS ORGANIZES A CAR CARAVAN WITH SF RISING.** The caravan called for hotel rooms for homeless people. It received broad media coverage and interrupted Mayor Breed's press conference at the COVID Command Center.

April 6  
**PHOTOS ARE LEAKED TO STREET SHEET FROM THE STILL-UNOCCUPIED MOSCONE WEST WITH NO PARTITIONS OR HAND-WASHING STATIONS.** This led to huge public outcry at how dangerous it would be to pack 400 people into one room. That same day the city halted plans to open the shelter.

April 8  
**THE CITY ANNOUNCES PLANS TO LEASE 7,000 FEMA-FUNDED HOTEL ROOMS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND HOMELESS PEOPLE.** They made it to about 2,500 in the first week of August and stopped there.



## COVID TESTING SITE SET TO OPEN AT GLIDE

TJ Johnston

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into congregate settings at a short notice."

These moves address equity concerns about access to the vaccine. In the week leading up to the expansion of eligibility, District 6 Supervisor Matt Haney and community leaders called for the City to ramp up outreach to its houseless constituents. The situation is so especially dire for residents of the 94102 and 94130 ZIP codes — both of which are in Haney's district — that the state deemed the areas among the most vulnerable to the pandemic and the highest priority for equitable vaccine distribution.

The addition of Glide as a vaccination site is a welcome development to Code Tenderloin director Del Seymour. At a March 9 press conference with Haney and other neighborhood homeless service providers asking the City to add more sites to the neighborhood, Seymour suggested Glide, among other Tenderloin locations.

"We need multiple sites in the Tenderloin," he said. "We're only putting a needle in someone's arm, not doing surgery."

Less than one mile away from Glide's center of operations, another mass vaccination center is operating at the Moscone Center, which has the capacity to vaccinate 7,000 to 10,000 people per day, according to the City's COVID Command Center.

But Seymour says that is too far to travel for unsheltered people, especially those with disabilities. When Street Sheet reached out to the command center before

Glide's announcement, it said it had been piloting mobile vaccination units at Vera Haile Senior Housing on Golden Gate Avenue and a shelter-in-place (SIP) hotel that was not identified because of possible medical privacy restrictions.

Since then, mobile units have also visited about a dozen other sites, including navigation centers and SIP hotels, in the first two weeks in March, with a couple of dozen more mobile events planned for

the next three weeks, according to the command center.

"Due to its demographics and high density of congregate living settings," the command center said in a statement, "the Tenderloin will be a primary beneficiary of the City's mobile vaccination efforts, which are focused on bringing the vaccine directly to community members with barriers to accessing traditional health care." ■

### VACCINATION INFORMATION

The three vaccines approved as safe and effective by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. The administration determined all three offer protection against COVID death and hospitalizations.

Sign-ups for vaccinations are also available at Walgreens pharmacy locations in the Tenderloin and South of Market, including those at 456 Mission St., 88 Spear St., 1301 Market St., and 825 Market St.

Muni allows anybody to ride its buses and trains for free to and from a vaccination appointment. Riders are advised to have their appointment form ready.

A mobile vaccination unit will visit Treasure Island the next two Saturdays, April 3 and April 10, to vaccinate eligible residents.

The vaccination site will be part of the Tenderloin Resource Community Hub on the 300 block of Ellis Street, between Jones and Taylor streets. For more information, call (415) 674-6199 or email [300resourcehub@glide.org](mailto:300resourcehub@glide.org).



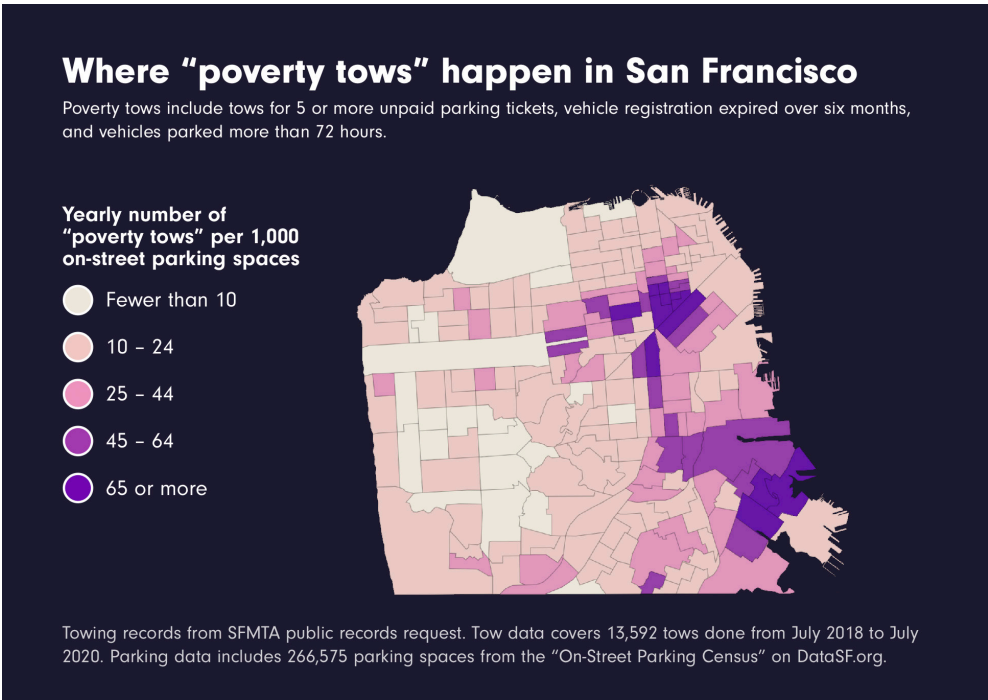
A RETURN  
TO THE  
MISERY OF  
POVERTY  
TOWS?

Stella Kunkat

After months of moratorium on poverty tows, San Francisco may soon fall back on the inequitable practice.

As the map pictured here makes brutally clear, the towing practices of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) are highly inequitable and disproportionately target San Francisco’s low-income communities of color living in the Bayview and Tenderloin. Welcome to the reality of poverty tows!

There are three types of poverty tows: tows for five or more unpaid parking tickets, tows for vehicle registrations that are more than six months out of date, and tows for legally parking in the same location for more than 72 hours. Based on information from an SFMTA public records request, Chris Arvin, a volunteer with the Stop Poverty Tows Coalition, compiled the data on poverty tows occurring in each district. Arvin found that 25% of all poverty tows happen in District 10, with a total of 3,405 poverty tows between July 2018 and June 2020. This makes it clear



# THE BEAT OF THE STREET:

## What has Changed for Unhoused San Franciscans in the Last Year, and What Hasn't

Couper Orona

This last year of the COVID-19 pandemic has been hard. There has been a lot to adjust to, because there are not very many positive resources in San Francisco due to our City leaders and how our mayor is running things.

One thing that has changed in a negative way is that the City has been very hands-off when it comes to addressing homelessness. I mean the City is not giving people anything besides harassment, so people are learning to use their environment to survive. That is creating even more distance between unhoused folks and City leaders, so it will be harder for anyone to even try to ask for any kind of help when the city does get back to normal.

City leaders are digging a hole for themselves by not taking care of folks that are unhoused during this pandemic. It just showed even more that the City has no heart, and it's sad. It's heartbreaking for me, because people depend on their City and they want their City to take care of them but they really aren't getting the support they need.

Rather than offering services, what they have done is they have intensified encampment sweeps. So what that means is that at night time or just whenever it rains? Boom. They come sweeping people and taking everything they have. They are being more aggressive, and then of course folks don't really have any place to go again. Some people got lucky and got into Shelter-In-Place (SIP) hotels, which is good. I know several people who were in encampments who got placed in the hotels, so now they are inside and waiting to get permanent housing. But the majority of people are just getting shuffled around and it's really been business as usual.

The city should have just stopped the sweeps. For a few months they did, and people outside got to rest. We got to actually be normal for a second without having to worry every five seconds about being harassed by the police or DPW. And after a few months, because there are no bathrooms and no water sources for people out on the streets in San Francisco, the City finally put out some spigots and some port-a-potties. But the problem is that they later take them away. One big thing that they should have done is provided more healthy clean water, more places for people to use the restroom so that they don't have to go in Mr. Businessman's parking lot. But of course the City missed the ball on that because they keep giving a few little things to the unhoused — the bathrooms, the water — that are essential to survive, and then they yank them away. So people out here really have nothing stable to rely on. If you want to help make things better, leave these resources there so people can brush their teeth, wash their bodies, give their pets some water, and get themselves

some water, cuz we need that to survive.

The City should also be a little bit more helpful; it should make the services that it offers more real. I mean, the services are real, but no one can really access them. The City really needed to do more community outreach; City leaders should have been out canvassing the streets, talking to people, getting to know what they need — but that just wasn't done. Our leaders really should put in the work to learn about what's going on in their community. So those are things that stand out to me; I think the City did a really poor job of taking care of its residents.

But of course there's always a little bit of positive even in the worst-case scenarios, and I always try to see the positive. It's hard when I'm presented with so much negativity, but I always can find the positive, because otherwise you can't go on existing, and I wouldn't be smiling like I do.

One thing that I have noticed is that people in the neighborhoods who live in houses are actually coming out and getting to know some of their unhoused neighbors, starting to become allies. That's huge, because now when the City does sweeps, that neighbor will come out and be like, "Hey! What are you doing to John?" and start filming. And that's a positive shift I've seen — we now have neighbors helping neighbors — because before there was just a lot more separation. The City seems like it wants unhoused people to not have allies or anyone to help them, so it's inspiring to see so much neighborly love. Unhoused folks are your neighbors, and you are their neighbor, so I've really noticed that shift, because those folks would never normally give a f\*\*\*. It's nice to see that when they see something happening, when they see someone's stuff getting thrown away, they are going to ask and they are going to video and it's amazing to me that people are doing that.

I've had a lot of folks want to know how to get involved! People have come and asked me or I got a phone call from so and so to talk to someone who wants to learn about how to better help their community. On more than several occasions I've taken people on these little encampment walks to get an understanding of what is happening in our communities, and that is pretty badass to me, too, because it's showing that people are listening, people are caring. If the City won't come outside and help people, then we have to come together as a community. People are doing that on their own; they're seeking me out, or the Coalition on Homelessness, to find out what they can do to make this better.

Another huge positive is that a few of the folks that have been out here on the streets for years are now in permanent

housing, and more than a few — at least fifteen that I know of — are now in SIP hotels. Some of these folks are inside for the first time in 10 or 15 years, and it is amazing to me that they are inside now and not having to deal with everything out here, and that they are happy. I visit the hotels and check up on people and it's amazing to see them living there, living normally and being inside, because I know how they lived before, and they seem so much happier having a place that is stable and secure. And that makes me smile, it really makes me happy, because all I ever wanted is for people to be treated fairly and to be safe. And for a lot of people this is the first time they have felt safe in almost half their life, and so to give that to people is something amazing. That's why we need permanent housing, so that we can get folks off the street so that they can feel that same way.

This last year has been a test for all of us. It has tested us at our weakest moments, at our most heartbreaking moments. I think people learned a lot about themselves, about what they can go through, what makes their heart beat, or what makes them angry. It seems like now people are more vocal when they see something unfair. So this last year has really made a lot of us think about things we never thought about before. And one thing that I want to say is this: Remember the things you learned and the things that you saw. Never forget how this last year affected you. If you spent this last year inside your house, and you've been impacted during this time, just imagine if you weren't housed. Imagine what this last year would have been like for you if you were on the street. Just put yourself in someone else's shoes for like 30 seconds. What would that be like? And then take those feelings and all that emotion and go do something about it for the people who are on the street. Just be part of your community, because we're all humans,

we're all San Francisco residents, and we need each other, because if our City government is not helping us then we need to help each other. I want that neighborly love to continue; be positive, smile at people when you walk by, just basically don't forget we still exist, and we exist amongst each other, so we need to take care of each other. This last year, with the masks, the COVID pandemic, this whole thing is such a weird thing to go through, so let's not just forget that it happened and let us not forget where we want to go in the future. And don't let such f\*cked up sh\*t happen to your neighbors. If this last year taught anything to anyone, just don't forget it.

This was a really long year for me. My work hasn't changed at all. I'm still doing all this stuff because my city doesn't take the time to take care of its people, so I've been riding from one side of the city to the other. Sometimes I wish that I had a little bit of help going out there. I mean, there were nights I didn't sleep because I was riding across the City going to fix people because they didn't want to go to the hospital. Unhoused folks didn't want to go to the hospital because they were worried they would get the virus, which they probably would have. So instead, most unhoused folks are just going to stay put and they're going to suffer and they're not going to get medical attention. So I was so busy, so busy, so busy, but even when I was the most tired I still kept riding my bike, I still kept pushing because the City lets people down all the time and I wanted folks to know that if I say I'm going to be there, I will be there. Sometimes I'm sore, I ache and I just want to lay down, but I can't, and I wish that the City could feel that, so that it would know not to give up — give up on people that live in San Francisco, pandemic or not — and just take care of people. ■

### In Memory of Marvin Vitas Fair born January 28, 1979 by Tammy Martin

Marvin was a lefty, so I raise my left hand to say farewell.

Marvin was not a bad person; he always got a job. He did not indulge in stealing and crime or drugs. He loved the video world of games. He had a family; he lost a family to circumstances beyond his control. But it did not change him into a bitter person. He adapted to a situation as best as he could. He had a backbone for stability in his life from his Uncle Gaylon. He lived with him for eight years after turmoil in his life occurred.

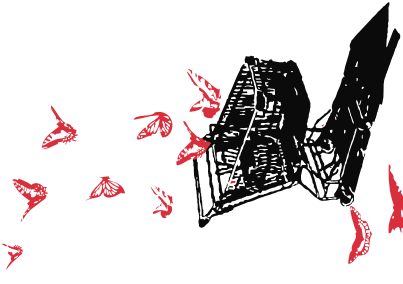
#### Time

There is a space in your heart only time can deal with for you. Time, second by second, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year. Time is the only one that will heal that pain or ache or sorrow in your heart. It is like the waves in the ocean; it never stops. Time of sorrow has no warranty, no color, no gender, no age. Time does not discriminate. It's a time to be born and a time to die.



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

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# STREET SHEET

is now accepting submissions for our first ever

# DISABILITY ISSUE

We are seeking articles, narratives, poems, artwork, comics etc focusing on personal experiences with disabilities and well as disability justice issues.

Submissions can be emailed to  
**qwatts@cohsf.org** or mailed to  
**280 Turk Street, SF 94102**

**\*payment may be available for submissions from people experiencing homelessness, please contact the editor for more information\***

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STREET  
SHEET

APR 1, 2021

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SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

CBS CORPORATION, f/k/a VIACOM INC., successor by merger with CBS CORPORATION, f/k/a WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION; CERTAIN-TEED CORPORATION; CROWN CORIC & SEAL COMPANY, INC., individually and as successor-in interest to MUND ET CORK CORPORATION; FOSTER WHEELER ENERGY CORPORATION; GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY; INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS CORPORATION f/k/a THE CARBORUNDUM COMP ANY; INGERSOLL-RAND COMPANY; JOHN CRANE INC.; KELLY MOORE PAINT COMPANY, INC.; METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMP ANY; SOCO WEST, JNC.; UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION; And DOES 1-850, INCLUSIVE, Defendants.

AND

JAMES BENSCOTER,

Nominal Defendant.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

THEA HANSEN, individually and as successor in interest to AMOS T.

BENSCOTER, deceased.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

CASE NUMBER: (Número del caso): 18STCV02307

The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Stanley Mosk 111 N. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

BENJAMIN D. GOLDSTEIN (SBN 231699) CRYSTAL G. FOLEY (SBN 224627) NICHOLAS J. ANGELIDES (SBN 250127)

SUMMONS HANLY CONROY

100 N. Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 1350

El Segundo, California 90245

Tel.: (310) 322-3555

DATE: Oct. 25, 2018

(Fecha)

Clerk, by

(Secretario)

STEVEN DREW

Deputy

(Adjunto J)