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COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS MAKES CITY BUDGET DEMANDS

Jennifer Friedenbach

Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said “the budget is a moral document,” and that is certainly the case in San Francisco. Decisions about how we prioritize our spending can be a matter of life and death; whether we are investing in law enforcement or health care or housing has real life consequences. The Coalition on Homelessness (COH) has several budget campaigns operating simultaneously this year. If they are not included in the Mayor’s budget we will fight for that funding at the Board. We also push to have problematic or harmful items taken out of the budget, such as decreasing funding for carceral systems.

The City charter, which is kind of like the City’s constitution, requires that the Mayor release her budget on June 1. San Francisco is a strong mayor city, meaning the Mayor has tremendous power in the budget process. The Mayor lays out the budget for the City, and the mayor-appointed Controller projects how much money she will have to apportion. Once the Mayor releases the budget, the Board of Supervisors can only move dollars around—they can cut money out of the budget and then put money back

in for other things. Then that all goes into an ordinance that the Mayor can veto. The board can override the veto with a supermajority, but ultimately the Mayor has spending authority. She can decide not to fund what the Board is asking her to, and then the money will just sit there and roll over into the next year’s budget.

WHAT WE WANT TO CUT

There are \$136 million dollars in the sheriff’s budget that should be cut. These reductions were proposed by No New Jails SF, Budget Justice and DPH Must Divest. This amount would be saved by reducing unneeded staffing from the jail closure of 850 Bryant St., which employed about one quarter of the Sheriff’s deputies, and removal of deputies from all Department of Public Health facilities, such as hospital rooms and clinics, as well as removal of deputies who serve as guards at the elections department and polling places, MUNI, and the deputies working the entry of the water department. The groups also proposed reductions to the police department.

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EXIT STRATEGY FOR MOSCONE RESIDENTS: HOUSING OR BACK TO SHELTER?

TJ Johnston

The City of San Francisco is set to “reopen” in June, while the temporary shelter at Moscone Center West will close at the end of that month. But where some 100 otherwise unsheltered residents will go afterward, or how they will get there, is not yet clear.

The state has announced one hard deadline, though: June 15, when California will lift most of its COVID-19 restrictions.

As the City sees nearly 7 of 10 adult San Franciscans complete their vaccinations and the weekly average number of COVID-19 cases drops to its lowest level since the emergency order in March 2020, unhoused people remain in shelter-in-place hotels, authorized and unauthorized outdoor encampments, as well as socially distanced congregate shelters.

But on June 30, the shelter and the COVID-19 Command Center based at the Moscone Center complex, which has acted as the nerve center of the City’s pandemic response, will revert to its previous role as an event center hosting trade shows and exhibitions.

At Moscone West alone, where the shelter operates, the lobby and the first floor exhibit hall cover an area comparable to a city block at more than 124,000 square feet; the ceiling height is a cavernous 27 feet. The shelter made room for up to 115 people at the height of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Moscone guests — as well as homeless advocates — wait to see if an exit strategy takes them into housing — or leaves them out on the street.

At the same time the City lodged more than 2,000 unhoused people in shelter-in-place hotels, most ostensibly on a path toward housing. But the remaining Moscone guests are likely to wind up in another congregate setting.

Street Sheet obtained a Five Keys Housing Services memo dated April 19 to staff, and it confirmed that many guests might be transferred to Site S — the shelter formerly known as Next Door — which accommodated about 300 people before the pandemic.

Another memo issued to guests on April 20 from the COVID-19 Command Center announced Moscone’s impending closure and a halt to accepting new clients. Though the center tried to assure them that City employees and contracted shelter staff would do their best in facilitating a smooth transition, its letter never mentioned housing.

“We understand this news can be scary and stressful. Please know that Five Keys, Bayview-Hunters Point Foundation and the City agencies are working diligently together,” the center wrote. “We will work with you to identify your needs and make

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every effort to offer you another shelter placement.”

The Coalition on Homelessness, which publishes Street Sheet, learned that the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing is urging clients to enter the coordinated entry system, which serves as the City’s homeless database.

Alan Nego, a guest at Moscone, is still waiting for housing after completing the intake for Coordinated Entry two years ago. He said his history of abuse as a child and trauma should have sped up his entry into housing. Nego is also waiting on a replacement of his state ID, which he needs for housing applications, among other things.

“I’ve been lowest to the lowest, but I did not qualify,” he said.

Despite the City’s inclination to shuffle people off to other shelters, staff say other placement options could be carried out. As Moscone guests are assessed for their exit, their avenues to housing could be determined by their age and COVID vulnerability as would that of people in SIP hotels, according to a prioritization plan that they shared with the Coalition.

One possible track in this plan is housing referral; people who have been triaged through Coordinated Entry are assigned to this status with the goal of placement in permanent supportive housing.

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.

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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Another involves giving permanent housing subsidies to people 60 or older with medical conditions. They would likely be placed in permanent supportive housing geared toward an older population.

Those younger than 60 but still medically vulnerable may enter a rapid rehousing plan funded by the City for a temporary subsidy that allows them the flexibility to apply for private-market housing.

People younger than 60 and with no COVID risk would be assigned to “problem solving status,” which entails examining potential barriers to housing and providing short-term housing assistance.

Carlos Wadkins, a human rights organizer with the Coalition on Homelessness, said that the plan would be a good test case for unhoused people in all forms of shelter-in-place housing.

“If you’re eligible for housing, then you’re prioritized. If you’re not, you have access to additional resources,” he said. “We need more housing to offer, and we’d like to see the pool expanded to the people in Moscone and the safe sleep villages.”

Wadkins added, “What we have to see in Moscone is whether the City can make the same commitment to housing, as compared to what they’re doing for hotels.” ■

CART, PROP. C AND SERVICE PROVIDERS: WHAT THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS DEMANDS IN THE CITY BUDGET

Jennifer Friedenbach

continued from page 2...

ment, which would require forgoing replacement of operating vehicles, ending its mounted, marine and ATV sections, and not funding additional academy classes.

WHAT WE WANT TO FUND

Compassionate Alternative Response Team

Advocates with the Coalition on Homelessness and other organizations have observed a longstanding pattern of SFPD responses to calls related to unhoused people resulting in problematic, harmful, and at times deadly outcomes. In January 2019, the San Francisco Police Commission passed a resolution that called for an end to police response to homelessness and called for the Board of Supervisors to create a stakeholders’ group to develop an alternative. Preliminary meetings were pulled together in February 2020 under the leadership of Police Commissioner John Hamasaki to design an inclusive community process involving community members and key City departments and elected officials. The Departments of Public Health, Emergency Management, Homelessness and Supportive Housing, as well as the Mayor’s Office, were identified as key departments to be involved. Staff from offices of supervisors with high numbers of unhoused residents were invited, including the offices of Supervisors Matt Haney, Dean Preston, Hillary Ronen, Shamann Walton and Sandra Fewer. Organizations that had a stake in the creation of an alternative to police response were invited as well. The budget process set aside \$2 million on reserve for this program.

The planning process was sidelined for a few months when the pandemic hit, but started up again in July 2020. The COH hired Patrick Brown, a senior consultant from the Justice Collective, to facilitate the process, and various organizations provided other forms of in-kind support. Next, the COH convened a large group of stakeholders, including community organizations, City departments, elected officials, unhoused constituents, service providers, advocates and academics to establish a working group to devise an alternative to police response to homelessness. Brown assisted over 50 participants in the decision-making process. From the start, the group was intentional about centering unhoused individuals in the design of the alternative, seeking their input to form the foundation of the work through a citywide street survey.

Three subcommittees were formed: research, dispatch and communications. Collectively, the committees created a system that no longer relies on unnecessary police responses, which it called the Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART).

It would change police codes to health codes. About a dozen emergency police codes related to homelessness would have a CART response rather than a police response. These codes include trespassing and sit/lie complaints. The new team would be government funded but community based, and consist of well paid, deeply trained individuals who reflect the unhoused community. The team would respond to and solve problems, conduct conflict mediation and address concerns. It would also be well resourced and ensure unhoused neighbors are connected to the services they need whenever possible. This would decrease unnecessary criminalization but also build up the resilience in the community to address homelessness, while being much more effective than the police. The program would cost about \$4.6 million, on top of the \$2 million already set aside for this purpose.

Fully Fund Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee Recommendations

The COH designed, wrote, gathered signatures for, placed

on the ballot and eventually passed “Our City, Our Home,” or Proposition C, in November 2018. The measure taxes corporate income over \$50 million at an average of one-half percent and generates funding for homeless housing, shelter, mental health treatment and homeless prevention. The initiative requires an oversight body to recommend and oversee spending, with the intent of preserving the initiative as a people’s endeavor centered on the experience of unhoused community members themselves. The oversight body collected input from 850 people, mostly unhoused, as well as other experts such as service providers on how the money should be spent. Many proposals came from the community as well as from City departments, and the body created an investment plan that attempted to balance community and City requests while formulating a cohesive strategy to move the dial on homelessness in the most effective way. That investment plan now sits on the Mayor’s desk. It remains to be seen if the Mayor will honor the people’s initiative or if she will decide to cut some recommendations and fund alternative items. Once the Mayor releases this plan it will then be in the Board of Supervisors’ court.

Fully Fund the Homeless Emergency Services Provider Association (HESPA) Request

HESPA has requested a \$27.7 million budget to address the homelessness crisis. Some of these items are in the OCOH investment plan, while others leverage Prop. C dollars. Included in the budget proposal are 1,212 housing subsidies for seniors, people with disabilities, people with HIV, families and youth. These are subsidies that households can use in the private market, and most are permanent, meaning impoverished households can use them as long as they need them. Also in the proposal are funding requests for emergency services such as hotel vouchers, and a replacement drop-in family shelter. If funded in full, this would add temporary lodging for about 345 households at any one time. It also has a request for technical assistance to reimagine the entire shelter system, as many are calling

for a move away from congregate living coming out of the pandemic. There is also a small, but important, direct cash assistance pilot in the request, which would allow the city to experiment with guaranteed income as a poverty abatement strategy. For a long time, our shelter system has been devoid of adequate behavioral health services, and the mental health of shelter residents has steadily decreased. HESPA is asking for behavioral health services on site at shelters for single adults, families and youth to serve about 3,235 adults and children. Lastly, our homeless system lacks investments in developing a workforce of unhoused people. This has led to difficulty in exiting homelessness and poverty. HESPA is asking for “earn and learn” grants for about 1,000 unhoused participants.

Add three permanent water sources in the Tenderloin

This is an inexpensive but life-saving resource that is badly needed in the Tenderloin. In a recent survey, we found that survey respondents overwhelmingly reported barriers to accessing basic water needs. 68% of respondents shared that they face daily barriers to water accesshttps://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/Budget_Hearing_Calendar.pdf. While many of the above recommendations attempt to address homelessness, we can anticipate there will continue to be folks stuck on the streets, and while they are, at the very least they should have access to water. This would cost less than \$100,000, but would improve the health of those who are without housing.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There will be several hearings coming up at the appropriations committee of the Board of Supervisors. The main hearing will take place on June 25 at 10a.m., and the agenda with call-in instructions will be posted 3 days before at the [sfgov](https://www.sfgov.org) website under the Board of Supervisors Budget and Appropriations Committee information. For more information on how to get involved, please contact ijames@cohsf.org ■

SPOTLIGHT on Our City Our Home Recommendations Adopted at April and May OCOH Committee Meetings

Recommendations for Housing Investments:

- + The Committee recommended investments totaling \$508.3 million into Permanent Housing Expenditures and prioritized investments into a mix of development activities, 1,182 unit acquisitions, 1,300 Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool resources, 315 Medium-Term Subsidies and Rapid Rehousing supports, and non-time-limited bridge housing for youth.
- + These investments include \$22.9 million that the Committee recommended be transferred from the Homelessness Prevention fund balances and used to increase recommended investments into housing acquisition and development activities for adults, families with children, and transition age youth.

Recommendations for Shelter Investments:

- + The Committee recommended investments totaling \$66.4 million into Homeless Shelter Expenditures, and prioritized investments into a range of different models for sheltering and supporting people, tailored to the needs of different sub-populations of people experiencing homelessness, adding more than a thousand beds.

Recommendations for Homeless Prevention Investments:

- + The Committee recommended investments totaling \$136.39 million into Homelessness Prevention Expenditures, and prioritized investments into a wide and flexible range of eviction prevention, homelessness prevention, problem-solving/diversion activities, and workforce services and supports.
- + Further, the Committee recommended that \$22.9 million be transferred from the Homelessness Prevention fund balances and used to increase recommended investments into housing acquisition and development activities for adults, families with children, and transition age youth with the Permanent Housing Expenditure category.

Recommendations for Mental Health Investments:

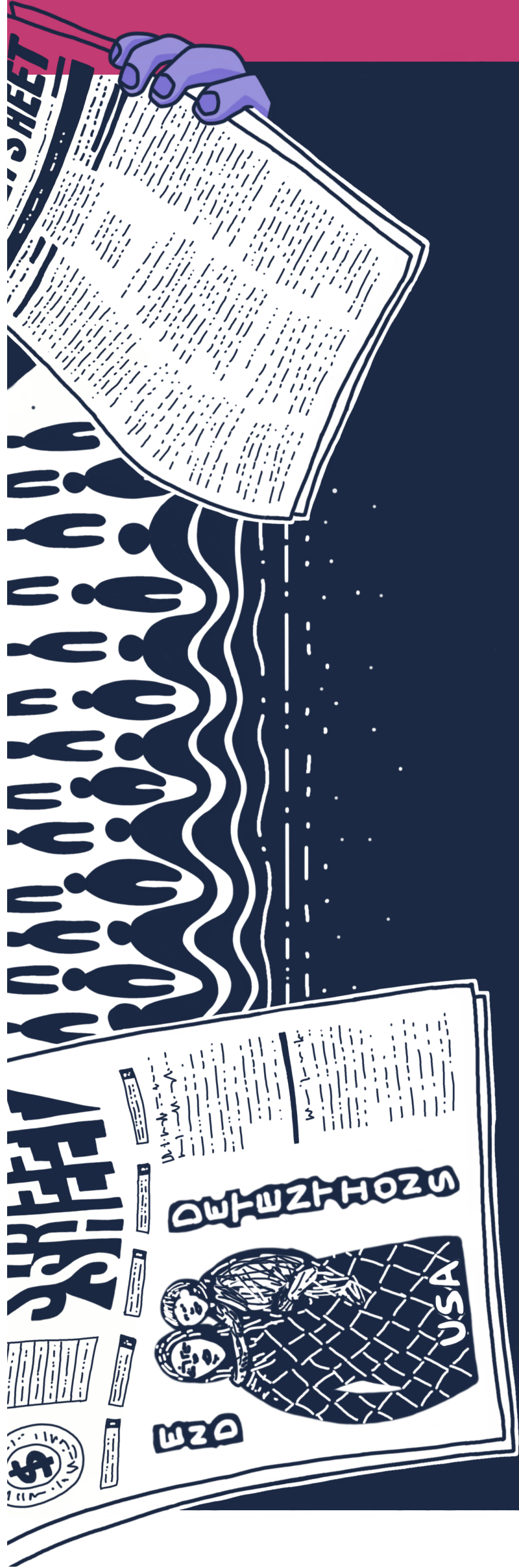
- + The Committee recommended investments totaling \$150 million into Mental Health Expenditures, and prioritized investments in:
- + Adding 325 residential treatment beds including both site acquisition and operations costs; supporting overdose prevention efforts targeting people using on the streets
- + Adding housing in the form of Board and Care housing and managed alcohol programs.
- + Enhancing access to behavioral health services through the Behavioral Health Access Center and through services targeting specific populations and connected to existing settings
- + Expanding care coordination services for transitional age youth

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TAKING THE TL DRUG DEALING TASK FORCE TO TASK

San Francisco can be a bit of a bubble. In no other moment has this felt more true than during the social and political turmoil of recent times. This is a city that has always thought of itself as liberal and open-minded, and many of our local officials seem to shine in comparison with the previous White House administration.

However, if you read this paper, then you're probably aware of the many attacks on the homeless community, people of color and disabled folks here. Many marginalized San Franciscans feel the daily frustrations of the SSDD survival triathlon while a whitewashed image of our city gets exported to the world through movies, television and the progressive media. The most recent example of this contradiction is the benevolent language surrounding the so-called "Tenderloin Street-Level Drug Dealing Task Force."

This task force was created by Supervisor Matt Haney and Mayor London Breed and given the dubious responsibility of "stopping street-level drug dealing" (and drug use) in the Tenderloin neighborhood. I placed emphasis on the phrase "street-level" because apparently drug dealing is completely OK in the Tenderloin, so long as you are not on the street. Just make sure to deal drugs at your child's day care, during a TED talk or inside the newest luxury condo—this task force won't mind! (Yes, that's sarcasm.) The task force also interchanges the phrase street-level with "open-air drug market." I guess the closed-air drug market isn't a concern.

Why the emphasis only on "street-dealing" drugs? Drugs are everywhere, but the business interests of condominium developers and new boutique stores in the Tenderloin dictate where resources go for such a task force. These meetings have a strong emphasis on "small business," with store owners telling stories to jerk your tears about how difficult life is for them. No, not because the city government has left them to die and be devoured by a brutal economic depression during a pandemic, but because they notice people (and let's be honest: Black and Brown people) hanging outside their storefront.

These meetings routinely discuss the Tenderloin like they're a "stranger-danger" 1980s McGruff the Crime Dog ad, with all the exaggerated overtones of a Nixon-era witch hunt. Suspicious vehicles are described, needles and feces are decried, and a Mad Max world of pandemic SRO chaos is laid out before the judges of safety and cleanliness among the benevolent overlords of the task force.

When this task force is talking about the "open-air" population of the Tenderloin, they are not talking about Whole Foods soccer moms coming home from its K-12 schools, SFMOMA tourists, Hastings law students, Zephyr Real Estate agents or Elon Musk fanbois. They are talking about unemployed or lower working-class San Franciscans. They are talking about people like you and me.

WHO'S RUNNING THE SHOW?

This new task force has nine people at its head. Police come to these meetings to testify on how uncontrollable this outlaw land of the Tenderloin is—despite belonging to a force with state-of-the-art weapons, an always increasing budget currently at \$738.6 million (including \$7.5 million for new vehicles, \$3 million

in Tasers, and 250 new armed cops), and a police station located in the heart of the community, where officers patrol and harass its residents. In examples of biased policing, 100% of the 37 people arrested in a 2015 Tenderloin drug bust were Black, and the following year 207 criminal cases were reopened after evidence that the arresting officers had used racial slurs in text messages (notably, Police Chief Greg Suhr was forced to resign in 2016 when organized hunger strikers demanded he leave over multiple high-profile police murders).

Soft-spoken police task force members come to say things like, "When we talk about engagement, sometimes the best engagement happens when somebody is removed from that environment. ... People sometimes think that all cops want to do is lock up people forever. ... We don't. If there was a way around it, I would love for that to happen. But I know the reality. I walk the foot beat in the Tenderloin, I've worked in narcotics, I've worked in an undercover capacity..." That statement was made by task force member and Police Commander Raj Vaswani.

Having a record of a drug arrest does not help you get clean and employed. Regardless, wasn't the whole point of this task force to find "a way around" locking people up? People who have been to jail will be the first to tell you that it is not a place of healing, understanding and recovery, but of abuse and mistreatment. "Removing" (i.e. arresting) people from the "environment" (i.e. their home or community) is not something meant to help the individual; it usually has the opposite effect. However, this new War on Drugs does accomplish one thing: a more anglo-saxon, more boutique and more homogenized San Francisco Tenderloin.

Quite unusually for government meetings, the Research and Development Corporation (RAND) has been hosting these task force meetings. These meetings don't have a city official handling accessibility, but instead rely on an employee of the RAND Corporation, resulting in numerous accessibility problems. The task force website has no recordings of past meetings (although these can be obtained through public records requests), no slides from the presentations are provided, public comments have been censored, and worst of all, the task force won't share the meeting ID or password so that I can access the WebEx platform to visually attend the meeting. As a result, attendees can't know who is speaking throughout the meeting, who they are addressing, or who is bringing forward proposals. When we call in, who is the public speaking to on the phone? Someone from Supervisor Haney's office, someone from RAND? A large hamster? The ghost of Biggie Smalls? Or perhaps, one of the nefarious drug dealers with tinted windows they are describing? I mean...who knows?

It was only after a half-dozen emails fighting for access that public comment was moved two hours earlier, to the start of the meeting. In recent months, two meetings have been canceled within a few hours' notice, one due to "technical issues" and another simply because of the verdict issued in the George Floyd case. (Why would this warrant canceling a public meeting?)

It is worth noting that the RAND Corporation got its start doing research for the United States military. In 2019,

the RAND Corporation published an article on its website fueling scare tactics on "American Spending on Illicit Drugs," which lumps together cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine with a state-legalized drug, cannabis. This troubling article is authored by Beau Kilmer, who represents the RAND Corporation at the task force meetings.

IS DRUG USE THE CAUSE OF SUFFERING IN THE TENDERLOIN?

As our homeless neighbors struggle to access their most basic needs and face racist attacks and isolation, many have turned through despair to non-prescribed medications, sometimes leading to overdose. This is without a doubt a response of the most desperate kind from those feeling the most hopeless and without any useful alternative. These deaths don't count as "COVID deaths," either, further obscuring the data and success-story pandemic response our officials and media boast about.

As the body count rises, with the homeless death toll more than triple what it was last year, City officials are starting to feel the heat. San Francisco has been making international headlines as an example of some of the greatest wealth disparity in the world, with thousands of homeless people on our streets, in a city of 77 billionaires.

It takes a sick mind to see this kind of suffering and to weaponize it against those same victims through the silver-tongued rhetoric of the task force. Instead of compassionately addressing the causes of overdoses—by funding a mental health hotline, community support centers or addiction recovery groups, or distributing technology aids to homeless San Franciscans while using FEMA funds to utilize vacant housing, this task force prefers to resurrect archaic stereotypes of the Tenderloin community.

It's sad to see the community's name dragged through the mud in these meetings. There is no mention of the brilliant Tenderloin poetry readings, the underfunded city parks with mothers and musicians, the incredible murals painted three stories high of plants and vegetation by local hero Mona Caron, the amazing underground theater and cabaret shows, the art collectives, kickass pizza or music studios of the TL. There is no mention of the faith-based grassroots organizations that empower people here, the work and housing programs, the highly educated library patrons or anything else that doesn't fit within the task force's increasingly threatened and gentrification-hungry lexicon.

What much of the public doesn't know is that nearly all disabled people lost their access to pain relieving medications abruptly in 2016, due to new CDC guidelines restricting prescription pain medications as part of a federal crackdown on the so-called "Opiate Epidemic." Not a week goes by that I don't hear about a fellow disabled person writhing in pain and suffering long hours of horrific agony because their doctor will no longer prescribe the medication that used to help them. In a 2019 letter sent to members of Congress, the National Council on Independent Living cites a Human Rights Watch report, a letter signed by 300 doctors, and three former White House drug czars to make the point that "people

with chronic pain may deteriorate medically, lose their ability to function or work, or resort to suicide or illegal substances when their medication is denied." Opiate medications were created and designed to help disabled and sick people manage pain. Now, with doctors limiting prescriptions, fearful of losing their licenses, many disabled people turn to non-prescribed drugs for debilitating pain relief—sometimes, yes, on a street corner in the Tenderloin.

Enforcement of anti-drug laws tends to target poor and homeless people who have nowhere private to self-medicate. It comes as no surprise that this new task force does nothing to investigate rampant drug use within the startup or technology companies. There is no mention of the documented drug use and drug dealing within any police department or how to prevent that. As long as you're using CBD, mushrooms, or coke in your upmarket Embarcadero penthouse, Steve Rogers or the A-Team won't get assistance from the task force to take you down. In fact, they probably won't mention you at all.

WE CAN DO BETTER

The War on Drugs has never worked. It has always been a bloated mess of wasted resources, racial profiling and divisive agendas. Supervisor Haney and Mayor Breed know this. When civil liberties are attacked, when people like task force member Max Young make Twitter posts encouraging arrests of someone on a street corner as "an easy bust," much greater harm occurs than anything done by non-prescribed drugs. In the time it took me to write this article, 15 Black people were killed by U.S. police officers. I wonder how many of those deaths were a result of a phone call because someone on a street corner was self-medicating or looked suspicious in the "open air."

If this task force really cared about drug use, it could provide a late-night transportation service to prevent drunk driving, support local domestic abuse help organizations like Woman Inc. or La Casa De La Madres, or work with communities to assist those with real needs—people who are the victims of real crimes committed under the influence of drugs—instead of working with the police who have denied survivors that help. It could organize to lobby against Phillip Morris and the tobacco companies which help murder 41,000 Americans every year. It could work to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, to provide actual extremely low income housing in the Tenderloin and SF (no more than 20% of area median income), so that no one would ever have to resort to selling drugs to survive. Or it could fund work development programs, addiction and rehabilitation programs—or it could do just about anything else.

The War on Drugs has never worked. It has always been a bloated mess of wasted resources, racial profiling, and divisive agendas. Remind Matt Haney and Mayor Breed about this. Get involved: Call your local supervisor, or come to some of the many cool community events in the Tenderloin. While there are some limitations now due to COVID-19, Faithful Fools has a calendar of upcoming events, and Hospitality House offers free therapy on Sixth Street as well as an art workshop on Market and Sixth streets.

If you have the time, come speak out at one of these meetings and remind this task force that San Francisco is more than the sum of its condominiums and boutique shops, that Black, Brown, homeless and disabled people outside are not threatening to you, and that the War on Drugs has never, ever worked. To join an upcoming meeting, visit <https://oewd.org/meetings> and click through to the agenda; follow the link or phone number to join. ■

WHAT DOES JUNETEENTH MEAN TO ME?

Tracey Mixon

Imagine not knowing that you’ve been freed from slavery because nobody told you. That’s how the Juneteenth holiday got started.

Juneteenth is celebrated in the African American community on June 19 every year. It began as a commemoration of the emancipation of slaves in Texas. It was first recognized in Galveston, Texas, two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Even after Texan slaveholders knew of the proclamation, they continued to use brutality to keep enslaved people submissive.

For me growing up, the only significance of Juneteenth was food, rides at the amusement park and music. Oddly enough, my mother, who attended an all-Black school in the 1930s and ‘40s, never explained it to me, which is surprising because she won first prize in a contest about Negro History. But she was of a generation that didn’t discuss these kinds of things with their children. It was not until far later in life that I truly understood what it was about.

Last year, my daughter and I attended the Juneteenth celebration in Oakland. The celebration was one of the most powerful things that I have ever experienced in my life. For me, there was even more of a sense of urgency than usual to attend. It was less than a month after the killing of George Floyd.

I was never taught about this during my time in school. Honestly, it wasn’t until last year that I learned about Galveston. This is why I not only educate my daughter, but myself as well. It is up to all of us to learn about this significant event in American history and to teach others as well. ■

HOMELESS MOTHERS DEMAND AN END TO FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Tracey Mixon

This month, before Mother’s Day on Sunday, May 9, the Coalition took to the streets to honor poor and homeless mothers. We gathered at City Hall alongside dozens of families, and held a rally where mothers and service providers alike advocated for housing for families. Our homeless families made numerous demands on what to include in the City’s budget: over 500 housing new subsidies for families experiencing homelessness, direct cash aid assistance to immigrant families who were excluded from the stimulus packages and an emergency family shelter. These demands were brought by the Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association (HESPA), a group of over 40 homelessness centered nonprofits who come together every June to present a budget for City homeless spending. Participants also had an opportunity to share their stories of experiencing homelessness specifically as mothers. Many families who live in SRO hotels showed up and spoke of the difficulty and trauma of having to share overcrowded rooms and communal bathrooms and kitchens. With tears in her eyes, a mom spoke about her experience living in her RV with her three kids. Every day she had to wake up early and find public bathrooms for her and her children to get ready for the day. She faced rampant police harassment

and her car was eventually towed. Currently, she resides indoors with her family, doubled up with another family in an overcrowded place in the Bayview. While she is grateful for the space, she still carries the fear of returning to homelessness because she knows her situation is not permanent.

One mother from an SRO in Chinatown spoke about the horrors of sharing a communal bathroom with strangers. She said she is scared to let her children go to the bathroom. Instead, she uses a spittoon in her room as a chamber pot so that she doesn’t always have to run with her children to the bathroom or be scared of who they will encounter if they go alone. Through tears, she said she was ashamed of herself for how her children live. But as a mother who experienced homelessness myself, I know that it isn’t her fault. It wasn’t mine. It is hard not to blame yourself when you go through the trauma that is homelessness. The reality, though, is that in our society, families, mothers, single parents and poor people are forced through a rigged system that necessitates our struggle. The system isn’t broken; it is working as it was designed.

When I was homeless and staying at a shelter, my case manager told me I had two options: take a subsidy to move out of the

City or leave the shelter. As a Black woman born and raised in the City, my family is here. My community, my daughter’s school, her dentist, my job, our doctor, and all we know is in San Francisco. I’m from the Fillmore, which used to be known as the Harlem of the West. Back when I was growing up, San Francisco had a thriving Black community—but after the redevelopment of the Fillmore in the 60s and the rampant gentrification of the dot-com boom and today, my people now make up less than 3% of this City. So let me say this: They’re not gonna gentrify me up out of my own City.

It’s hard not to blame myself for enduring homelessness with my daughter, but we made it work. After leaving that family shelter, I couch surfed and eventually got supportive housing where my daughter and I live now. Homelessness was hell, and it never really leaves you even once you’re housed. So I continue to fight. I fight for the hundreds of families who are invisible to policy makers and department heads. I fight for the families who live doubled up or in SROs so that they can have dignified, safe shelter to bring up their kids. I fight alongside the Coalition, and alongside other homeless mothers, speaking my truth to power so that no other mother has to experience homelessness like I did. ■

COOKIE DEAR REST IN PEACE

by her friends

last day of April we
lost a dear friend one sweet sweet sweet
delightful dear friend with a suitable name
Cookie dear rest in peace

Fillmore displaced violence chased years her hair
braided with stories of stories of joy & tears
St Francis roots and trees grounded nourished & abused her skin

generations profits & propositions
all about money & skin color too simple?

smokey air wet shoes weathered her feet sharpen her eyes Eddy
Jones Turk wherever friends & love fair choices she camped yet
often chosen for her she laid awake
a word a smile a wink a hug
oh yes, a hug, Cookie loved hugs
along with Pretty
gentle gray pitbull Cookie's pretty girl
conversed shared meals & visions they
the best couple on the block


revolving doors sticky politics & not in my backyards
all about blaming & picking us against each others also too simple?

first day of May we
grief for this brilliant resilient fantastic soul one sweet sweet sweet
delightful dear friend with a suitable kind heart
Cookie dear rest in peace



REMEMBERING
CHARLES DAVIS
VENDOR #728

June 6th --
The service begins
at 2 p.m. at Calvary
Presbyterian
Church, 2515
Fillmore St. SF 94115,
cross street: Jackson, on
the MUNI 24, 22 & 3 lines, calpres.org. There
will be social distancing, full precautions,
check-in (for contact tracing).



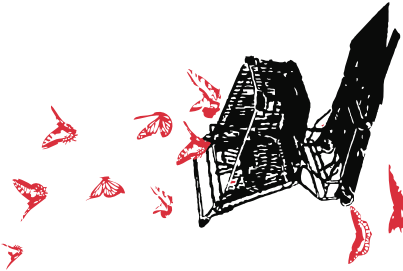
People are invited to come early (doors
open at 1 p.m.) to pack sack meals before
the service. During the service, we will
bless the sack meals in Charles’ memory.
After the service, we will deliver the sacks
meals to people who need them.

Wheelchairs may access the building
from Fillmore Street where there is a level
“ramp” at the right hand corner of the
building (toward Pacific Avenue). Calvary
Presbyterian Church (USA) is a Sanctuary
Congregation, affirms Black Lives Matter
and practices LGBTQ equality.

Contact Rev. Victor / victorfloyd@calpres.
org if you have questions.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Homelessness
San Francisco

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STREET SHEET DISABILITY ISSUE

SUBMISSIONS DUE: JUNE 20TH

Street Sheet is now accepting submissions for our first ever Disability Issue! We are seeking articles, narratives, poems, artwork, comics etc focusing on the intersections of disability, race, and poverty. Payment is available for submissions from people experiencing homelessness, please contact the editor for more information. Submissions can be typed, scanned, handwritten, audio recorded, etc.



Submissions can be emailed to qwatts@cohsf.org, mailed to 280 Turk Street, SF 94102, or dropped off in person Mondays-Fridays from 10am-2pm.

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 BENSOTER,
Nominal Defendant.
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
THEA HANSEN, individually and as successor in interest to AMOS T. BENSOTER, 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), 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), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (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), 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), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (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 desear 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)

SIMMONS 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)