

INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS SINCE 1989



MINIMUM SUGGESTED DONATION TWO DOLLARS.

STREET SHEET IS SOLD BY HOMELESS AND LOW-IN-COME VENDORS WHO KEEP 100% OF THE PROCEEDS.

VENDORS RECEIVE UP TO 75 PAPERS PER DAY FOR FREE.

STREET SHEET IS READER SUPPORTED, ADVERTISING FREE, AND AIMS TO LIFT UP THE VOICES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

STREET SHEET

EVERYONE
DESERVES
HOUSING



COALITION ON
HOMELESSNESS

2

POETRY CORNER: A NEW REGULAR FEATURE
HIGHLIGHTING NEW WORK FROM LOCAL
POETS

3

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO DEFUND THE
POLICE? SF'S NEW BUDGET IS A MIXED BAG
FOR ADVOCATES

4

VACCINE DESERTS: INEQUITABLE
DISTRIBUTION OF VACCINES GLOBALLY
PUTS US ALL AT RISK

5

AN INTERVIEW WITH LONGTIME HOMELESS
ACTIVIST JESUS PEREZ

6

PROTESTS ON PELOSI'S DOOSTEP AS FEDERAL
EVICTION MORATORIUM EXPIRES, LEAVING
MILLIONS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

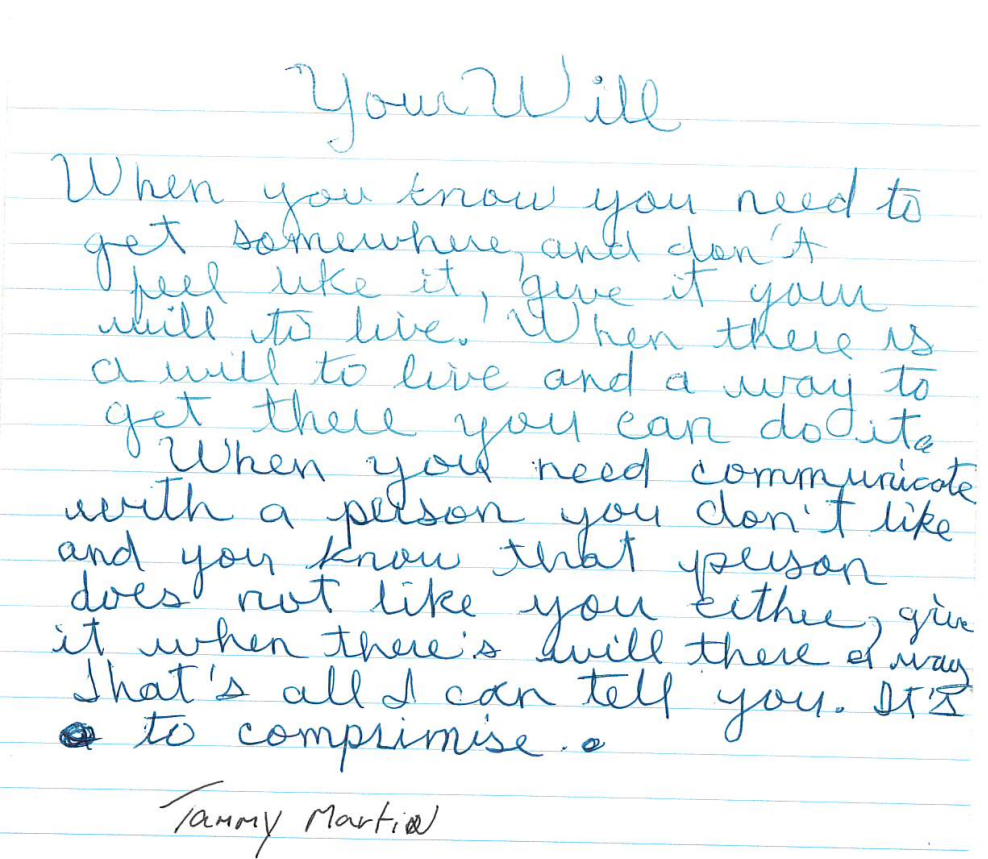
7

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH OUR
UPCOMING STREET JOURNALISM 101
COURSE

ARTWORK CREATED FOR ARTAUCTION21
BY HEVRA KADISHA, A COLLABORATIVE
PROJECT

INSTAGRAM:
@STEPH_KUDISCH
@HOWLINGMOONDOG
@SFPOSTERSYNDICATE

POETRY CORNER



SANDS

I wanted to be
a grain of sand
in your path.

I wanted to be
a grain of sand
clinging to your
hourglass.

A flighty thought,
a passing moment,
a nod and a smile.

All that I am is
a grain of sand,
an object of
frailty,
but never of
desire.

As I sit in silence,
on a dirty
bedroom floor.

My mind fills
with scenes of
what never
could have been.

Illusions of
a life not
well lived.

No tears fall,
no love lost,

Just a grain
of sand, and
that is all.

© 2021 Johanna Elattar

QUICKSILVER

A quick moment,
Like the blink
Of an eye

His slings
And arrows
Barely missed
Her good
Intentions

She never
Knew,
She never
Saw his
Face

A quick moment,
A lost second
Frozen in
The shadows
Of her broken
Mind.

@2021 Johanna Elattar

DONATE TO
KEEP STREET
SHEET GOING
STRONG!



coalition.networkforgood.com

WANT TO GET
INVOLVED?
VOLUNTEER WITH US!

PHOTOGRAPHERS
& VIDEOGRAPHERS
& TRANSLATORS
& ARTISTS
& WRITERS & POETS
& COMIC CREATORS
& COPYEDITORS

DONATE!

LAPTOPS
& DIGITAL CAMERAS
& AUDIO RECORDERS
& SNACKS

CONTACT:

QWATTS@COHSF.ORG

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.

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, Tyler Kyser, Ian James

Our contributors in this issue include: Anisha Tammana, Kaveh Waddell, the International Network of Street Newspapers, SF Poster Syndicate, Christin Evans, Melissa Hernandez, Jesus "Chucho" Perez, Morgan W. Brown, Hevra Kadisha, Tammy Martin, Johanna Elattar

CALL FOR ARTISTS

STREET SHEET IS LOOKING FOR
LOCAL ARTISTS TO HELP DESIGN
COVER ART FOR OUR UPCOMING
ISSUES. WE ARE ESPECIALLY
INTERESTED IN ART CELEBRATING
MOVEMENT WORK AND
CONNECTING OUR STRUGGLES ✨

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE
APPROXIMATELY 12x10.

WE CAN OFFER A SMALL STIPEND FOR ACCEPTED ENTRIES
FROM POOR/HOMELESS ARTISTS. ✨

streetsheetsf@gmail.com
OR 280 Turk Street

WHAT HAPPENED TO DEFUND THE POLICE?

FINAL BUDGET PARTIALLY FUNDS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ABANDONS PROMISE TO DIVEST FROM POLICING

Melissa Hernandez

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 10 to 1 to approve a \$13 billion budget negotiated with Mayor London Breed. District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston cast the only dissenting vote, citing the budget’s increased funding for law enforcement and the failure to allocate Proposition I funds for social housing. The approved budget will give over \$1 billion to policing and incarceration in San Francisco this year alone.

The past year has undoubtedly been challenging for the people of San Francisco. Our City continues to reel from the devastation of COVID-19, which especially harmed Black and Latinx communities. By January 2021, workers worldwide had already lost \$3.7 trillion in earnings over the pandemic, according to the U.N. International Labour Organization. The San Francisco Controller’s Office recently announced that over 45% of San Francisco’s small businesses remain closed. Renters are hundreds of millions of dollars in rental debt, and the City’s rental assistance program remains underfunded.

The latest City budget is not all bad, as it will partially fund some crucial community programs. For example, the budget makes investments into homelessness programs and sets aside an additional \$32 million for rent relief. It will also invest in supportive housing, youth programs, mental health and public toilets. After a contentious budget season competing with each other for funds, the Street Crisis Response Team (SCRT) and Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART), both of which will respond to calls concerning homelessness and divert up to 65,000 calls away from the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), will also receive funding. Despite the community-led program’s overwhelming support, the budget did not fully fund the CART program for 2021, the program’s first year. The budget also failed to allocate any funding to CART for its second year.

But while dozens of community programs cannot meet our people’s needs for lack of funding, the latest budget overwhelmingly increases our City’s investment in almost every law enforcement department. Despite last September’s closure of County Jail 4, the budget fails to refund our community and instead increases the Sheriff Department’s budget by \$23 million. The Sheriff’s rationale for the increase, after multiple hearings, was that the department needs funds for cost of living adjustments and

hiring against staff attrition. But why should the City aim for the same staffing levels despite the closure of a jail that employed 90-plus deputies?

The City’s budget also increases funding for the District Attorney, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation. Juvenile Hall and Log Cabin Ranch, two other facilities that youth justice advocates worked to close, will continue to be funded. SFPD will see a paltry reduction—less than 1%—in General Fund money this year, a reduction that will be more than undone next year with a \$25 million increase to SFPD.

The approved budget breaks the Mayor’s promise, made in the wake of the George Floyd uprisings, to divest from policing. In fact, the City’s budget for SFPD includes funds for increased foot patrols, which will inevitably put our most vulnerable neighbors in harm’s way. Even worse, it walks back the Mayor’s promise to redirect law enforcement funding to the Black community. The police investment, dubbed the Dream Keeper Initiative, will instead come out of the General Fund, diverting potential funding from City College and life-saving programs.

Throughout budget season, advocates from various organizations and coalitions banded together to ask for a “just” budget that prioritized people over cops and cages. People asked for dignified long-term housing, health care, education, overdose prevention and workforce development—much of which could have been funded with a fraction of the policing

“This budget doubles down on our city’s investment in the racist and violent institutions that have never been able to keep us safe.”

- Defund SFPD Now organizer Jamie Chen

and incarceration budget. Instead, many advocates see this budget as a return to a business-as-usual mentality that prioritizes criminalization in San Francisco.

“This budget doubles down on our city’s investment in the racist and violent institutions that have never been able to keep us safe,” said Defund SFPD Now organizer

Jamie Chen. “The only way to create real public safety is to reduce the number of interactions between police and our communities and to invest in the life-affirming care needed to prevent harm from occurring in the first place.”

For the community, however, the fight doesn’t start or end with budget season. Through political education, neighborhood organizing and removing barriers to care, advocates will keep pushing forward in their vision for a city that can push past violence and punishment. “At the end of the day, abolition is about building as much as it is about dismantling,” said Christine Wei, representative for the No New SF Jail Coalition. “We don’t need City Hall’s permission to keep building solidarity, support community-led mutual aid or care for one another.” ■

In fact, the City’s budget for SFPD includes funds for increased foot patrols, which will inevitably put our most vulnerable neighbors in harm’s way.



VACCINE DESERTS: THE POOR NATIONS TRAILING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

While a few nations are in no hurry to start vaccinations, many poor countries are struggling to make progress due to a shortage of vaccine supplies.

By Nita Bhalla and Anastasia Moloney

At a private hospital in Burundi's capital, emergency specialist Emmanuel Kubwayo is worried for the first time since the coronavirus started spreading around the world last year.

Kubwayo initially shared the government's view that the small central African country did not need COVID-19 vaccines because it had so few cases. But as deaths and infections surge across Africa, he has changed his mind.

Along with Eritrea, Tanzania and North Korea, Burundi is one of a handful of nations that have not started vaccinations, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), potentially threatening global efforts to end the pandemic.

"It's time to let people who want, and can, to get vaccinated," said Kubwayo, 53, whose name has been changed to protect his identity.

"Burundi isn't an isolated island and if we don't do so, the virus will circulate freely in the country and the region."

So far, only about 18 million people in Africa, a continent of 1.3 billion, have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 due largely to vaccine shortages, as well as widespread hesitancy.

But infections and deaths have jumped in recent weeks as more contagious variants take hold, shining a spotlight on the world's so-called vaccine deserts - places that are either unable or unwilling to undertake mass inoculation.

Burundi's interior minister, Gervais Ndirakobuca, told reporters last week the government was not against vaccines, pointing to the fact the country has allowed them in for foreigners working for the United Nations and other agencies.

Ndirakobuca, who is also president of the National Commission for the Fight against COVID-19, was not available for comment for this story.

'Failure to share'

As rich countries open up and start vaccinating less vulnerable younger people, poor countries are struggling to secure vaccines. In Africa and elsewhere, such as Haiti, health authorities have barely begun mass roll-outs.

Worldwide, wealthy nations have administered about half of total COVID-19 vaccine doses, compared with just 0.4 per cent in low-income countries, WHO figures from last month show, revealing glaring

vaccine inequality.

The gap could widen still further as some governments order millions of booster doses to tackle a spike in cases linked to the highly contagious Delta variant, before others have received supplies for health workers and other high-risk groups.

"The global failure to share vaccines equitably is fuelling the pandemic," said Tarik Jasarevic, a WHO spokesperson.

"Vaccines are effective against severe disease caused by the variants but variants will continue to flourish if the global inequitable rollout of vaccines is not addressed," he said.

In Haiti, where the first batch of 500,000 doses finally arrived last week through the international COVAX programme, doctor Wilnick Richard said getting vaccinated would be a relief for health workers battling the nation's first serious outbreak.

"I worry about getting infected and for my



A person holds a placard as supporters of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) march to demand a rollout of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines, in Pretoria, South Africa June 25, 2021. REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko

wife because she's pregnant," said Richard, 36, chief medical officer at Care 2 Communities, a social enterprise that runs rural health clinics in the Caribbean country.

"If I could get the vaccine, it would be wonderful," he added.

'Too scared'

While a lack of vaccines has been the biggest hurdle to mass immunisations in Africa, Burundi, Tanzania and Eritrea have been outliers - rejecting WHO advice to join COVAX on the grounds they have cases under control. Tanzania has since changed tack.

Eritrea has recorded about 30 coronavirus deaths, while Burundi has reported eight, according to the WHO.

In the United States, a think-tank founded by Eritreans has launched a campaign called #AllowCOVAXforEritrea to put pressure on the government to change course and seek vaccines.

"When you speak to family and friends back home, people are worried about the virus but they're too scared to say anything about demanding the vaccine," said cardiologist Habteab Feseha, a member of the Eritrean Research Institute for Policy & Strategy (ERIPS).

"If no vaccines are secured, many innocent people will die needlessly," he said by phone from Arizona.

Government officials did not respond to a request for comment.

North Korea received approval from COVAX for about 2 million doses, but subsequently rejected planned shipments of AstraZeneca's vaccine due to concerns over side effects, a South Korean think-tank said earlier this month.

Victor Cha, senior vice president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a US-based think-tank, said anti-virus restrictions were taking a heavy toll on the reclusive nation.

"The country appears to have been able to avoid such an outbreak by completely shuttering their borders to all contact with the outside world, even more so than is typical for the isolated regime," said Cha, CSIS Korea Chair.

"But this has come at great cost - the economy is spiralling, commodity prices are rising, and food shortages are expected," he added.

Economic concerns could eventually sway public opinion in East African vaccine laggard Tanzania, which has only recently acknowledged the risk of COVID-19 following the death of former President John Magufuli - a coronavirus sceptic - in March.

His successor, Samia Suluhu Hassan, has applied to join COVAX and pledged \$470 million to buy vaccines and boost the economy.

The tropical island of Zanzibar has seen tourist numbers decline with local residents struggling to make a living.

And while vaccine mistrust is widespread and mask-wearing rare, some islanders said embracing inoculation may be the only way to revive the crucial tourist economy.

"If the whole world is vaccinated, then we should do it too," said Mohammed Okala, a conservationist and tour guide. "Without the vaccine, we'll have fewer tourists visiting and we'll suffer." ■

Courtesy of Reuters / Thomson Reuters Foundation / INSP.ngo

“THE CITY JUST ISN’T OFFERING THAT HELP”

JESUS PEREZ ON DISABILITY, SWEEPS AND VACCINATIONS

Jesus Perez is a longtime homeless advocate, and is currently on the Board of Directors at the Coalition on Homelessness.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST PRESSING ISSUE IN SAN FRANCISCO RIGHT NOW? All the stuff going on in San Francisco, with the police and homelessness. The last time I was in San Francisco I went out to check on all the homeless folks living in the alley, because the City is not doing nothing, and there were cops there. So I went up and asked the cop, “If I am disabled and I’m staying right here and you’re going to kick me out, what am I supposed to do?” And he didn’t have nowhere for me to go.

ARE THERE ENOUGH RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SAN FRANCISCANS WHO ARE DISABLED? I know Senior and Disability Action does good work, and I have organized with them before, but I don’t know if they really focus on homelessness. You see a lot of people with wheelchairs, and a lot of disabled people are homeless. [The City has] the Homelessness Outreach Team (HOT) that is supposed to come out and help people, but I hardly see that happening.

When I was homeless, there weren’t a lot of resources for me. The Mayor says that they are going to do all this stuff for people to get inside, but I don’t see much for disabled folks who need help. I see a lot of disabled people still out on the streets, who really need housing, but the City just isn’t offering that help. And I know a lot of homeless people are disabled, because I used to go out and do the Point in Time (PIT) count.

FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED AN ENCAMPMENT SWEEP, CAN YOU DESCRIBE WHAT AN ENCAMPMENT SWEEP IS? An encampment sweep is when the DPW (SF Public Works) trucks come in and they take all your belongings and don’t give you any notice or anything. And then, for example, if you’re a person who is disabled and they come in and take all your stuff, that means they might take your wheelchair, or your cane, or your medicine, and you are never going to be able to go claim it because they just make that impossible. They either just throw it in the garbage or it’s gone, you know? A long time ago, when we were working at Turk Street, I saw a lot of those trucks coming by, and they take the wheelchairs. And the police don’t care. So we need to be working for the folks who are disabled and homeless.

IF YOU GOT TO BE MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? I would mostly focus on making sure people

are getting into housing, and making sure that homeless people are treated right. Because there are a lot of different needs, for mental health, for substance use, because a lot of homeless and disabled people are going through a lot of stuff, especially with the crisis going on right now.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED HOMELESS PEOPLE?

It’s impacted people a lot because the Mayor said there was supposed to be a lot of vacancies to house people in the hotels, but it looks like they haven’t really focused on disabled people—they mostly focused on people who can navigate the system on their own. But a lot of people still need help getting housing, and need help getting the vaccine.

WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE GETTING VACCINATED LIKE, AND WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IT TO OTHERS?

I got the one Johnson & Johnson [shot], so I don’t have to go back twice. It really helped me a lot because I know I got the vaccine, but I still need to be careful, you know? Because the way this new variant is, you still need to be careful. But I would still recommend people to go get vaccinated because it’s going to help other people, and it’s going to help homeless people.

And I also understand why people don’t want to get vaccinated, there’s a lot of rumors going around saying it doesn’t work or it does something bad, and people have their choices, and I understand that too. People are going through a lot and don’t want to take their vaccine, and that’s their choice too. But if you get vaccinated, you really are helping other people not to get sick. And also make sure you wash your hands and do all this other stuff as well, even if you are vaccinated.

They have all these people in San Francisco who are giving the vaccines, but they aren’t explaining to people how the vaccine works and everything, and why it’s so necessary to take it. And that’s going to be challenging, because there are a lot of people in crisis going through different issues and crises who are afraid to take it.

SO IF SOMEONE IS WORRIED ABOUT GETTING THE VACCINE, WHAT CAN YOU TELL THEM ABOUT HOW IT WAS FOR YOU?

Well, first, I went to my doctor and asked if it was safe for me to take it, because of my health conditions, and she said yes, it was safe. And I said, you know, if it’s not safe I’m not gonna take it, and they reassured me that it was okay. So I went in for my shot and I thought I was going to have to come back for a second appointment but then they told me I was done because I had the J&J shot, so that was a surprise. And it didn’t give me no side effects or anything. I guess the challenge is just that different people have different bodies. So I can’t say you won’t have side effects, it could be different for you. But they have all these different vaccines and they have all these studies and

everything so I feel like it is safe.

Also something I heard on the news, and I don’t really know if it’s true because they say things sometimes that aren’t true, but I heard the president wants to start giving people \$100 to get the vaccine, but only for new people. The ones who already got vaccinated, we can’t get that money.

I have heart failure, and I was really thinking about my condition and my health, because I wasn’t sure if it would be okay for me to get vaccinated. But I took it, and I thought I should take the risk because I didn’t want to get COVID, and I still take a lot of precautions, wash my hands and wear my mask, and let people know when we’re together that I’m at risk. People who have issues like me, I would encourage them to go in and get the vaccine because it won’t just help them, it will also help other people too.

For more information about the safety of vaccines for people with heart failure visit: <https://hfsa.org/heart-failure-society-america-reassures-patients-safety-covid-19-vaccine>

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SIP HOTELS CLOSING AND PEOPLE BEING SENT BACK TO SHELTERS?

It really sucks because some of these hotels, they brought people in and accepted them, and then later they just push people back out onto the street. It is important because if you have an inside place to sleep you aren’t really spreading the virus, and you get to stay safe and have the support you need in the hotels. And the people who have been pushed out from the hotels haven’t really had no support or nothing. And they say they are supposed to be helping people outside, but they are not!

HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THE INCREASE IN POLICE FUNDING IN THE BUDGET PROCESS? I’d rather they give that money to homeless people and homeless families so that they could get a new place. I know we might still need police officers in San Francisco, but they aren’t really even doing their jobs. I mean, the cops come through and they just beat people up and take their stuff. If they’re going to give these people money, at least be sure

they follow the rules and don’t just beat up homeless people. Because all those people who are just sitting there, not doing nothing, they just have nowhere to go. So, here comes the cops, where else are they going to go? One of the families I spoke to recently told me they’ve been seeing more homeless people outside in the

Tenderloin, and I told her it’s because they sweep people in the Mission, then they come here. If they sweep people here, they just go somewhere else. People need somewhere safe that they can go. Instead of pushing people from place to place, they should help them get housing! ■



Letter to the Editor:

QUESTIONABLE INTERACTIONS

Morgan W. Brown

Apparently, these days, all one has to do is to suggest about how they and others are working for the greater public good as well as mention about how everyone around the table has the best of intentions and this appears to be enough to absolve them and everyone else who might be in agreement from any possible unforeseen and unintended or adverse consequences.

This even when certain agendas and motivations are actively at play, including potential political and/or financial ones, oftentimes going unnoticed, unstated, understated or ignored.

Whether it be within various levels of government, legal, business, advocacy, non-profit or political circles or otherwise society at large, it makes one wonder about whether higher ethical standards are in place and are being properly practiced as well as enforced when, how and where it counts.

From my perspective, as a layperson, sometimes it can seem as if ethics and morals have been completely tossed overboard in favor of whatever some of those in power and authority have decided is best as well as most expedient for the rest of us, not to mention being better and possibly more profitable for either or both them or for those they are employed by or are aligned and associated with.

When it comes to grave and pressing societal or personal dilemmas and seeking solutions to these, specifically, no matter what the supposed problem(s) or causation(s) might be and whomever might be involved, and no matter how complex the nature, the standard for addressing these matters should be, first and foremost, not to do harm.

It is one thing to know and to recite, however, it is yet another thing to put these types of essential ethics and morals into meaningful as well as enduring practice.

One of the ways to not do harm in the first place is never to treat any person involved as being the problem and therefore as an object, as if they were less than human, whom others should be doing something to or about.

Throughout the history of humankind, again from the perspective of a layperson, it rarely -- if ever -- has done human society much, if any, good to institutionalize societal or personal problems and resulting dilemma(s) or supposed solutions to these.

Whatever supposed betterment or good might be perceived as resulting is usually rather short lived as well as overshadowed

owed by even worse problems eventually arising from unforeseen unintended and adverse consequences.

For example, even when one might mean well in attempting to come to the aid of someone experiencing a personal crisis no matter what the nature or cause and in terms of homelessness as well as related matters either in general (read: systemic) terms or on an individual basis; when a person is treated in a fashion that involves using coercion or force in one manner or another, whether it be enforcing the will of someone else or the state (read: government, including at the municipal level) against someone, this quickly evolves into a dehumanizing process for all parties involved, most particularly for the person on the receiving end.

The fact is when people are treated with empathy, dignity and respect as well as making sure their choices -- or otherwise what they might have wanted if they could make their own choices -- are the priorities adhered to when decisions are being made about how to proceed, there is less of a risk and danger of doing harm.

The standard and top priorities concerning the same certainly should never be about ease or expediency, nor about the needs of a particular system.

Rather, what should matter and be a high priority are those within our community who are most in need, especially those whom everyone else has given up on, sometimes including the person themselves. This requires honoring as well as respecting their dignity and humanity as well as their stated requests for vital assistance (within reason).

In this case, it is imperative to ensure that no one has to resort to living unhoused outdoors because they have no other available option (unless they truly choose to do so) and that they have decent, safe, permanent and affordable housing within which to live, thrive and flourish.

Call this socialism if one chooses, however, this is not something to be ashamed of, nor ridiculed about; particularly not when pursuing social equity as well as social justice on behalf of either others who are most in need within our society or oneself. ■

Morgan W. Brown is a writer and political observer as well as an activist and advocate residing in Montpelier. He formerly served on the Montpelier Homelessness Task Force as well as, several years ago, the Vermont Council on Homelessness.

TENANTS AT RISK OF EVICTION AS NATIONAL MORATORIUM LAPSES

On Friday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi closed Congress without getting the votes needed to extend the eviction moratorium which expired on Saturday night, leaving millions of Americans to face losing their homes during the second-largest surge of the COVID-19 pandemic. The next morning, a group of her constituents, many of whom are facing eviction, was on her doorstep, demanding a vote on legislation to extend the moratorium. They posted a mock eviction notice on Pelosi's door and set up a tent outside her mansion on Millionaires' Row in Pacific Heights.

"We're out here on Millionaires' Row for all those who can't be," said Jackie Fielder, former candidate for California state senate. "As someone who's been housing insecure before, I feel the anger and frustration with a Democrat-majority Congress."

The demonstration was called in solidarity with Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri, who on Friday shared an open letter to her colleagues in Congress imploring Pelosi to reconvene the House and allow a vote on the extension of the eviction moratorium and fight for those facing the loss of their shelter during yet another surge of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the letter, Bush committed to camping out on the steps of the House of Representatives in hopes of inspiring her colleagues to join her.

"I have been unhoused and evicted," she wrote in her letter. "I've slept in my car and slept outdoors. I know what it's like, and I wouldn't wish that trauma on anyone. ... I cannot in good conscience leave Washington tonight while a Democratic-controlled government allows millions of people to go unhoused as the Delta variant is ravaging our communities."

The day before the moratorium was set to expire, Rep. Maxine Waters of California introduced legislation that would extend the moratorium through

December 2021. But Pelosi called the Congressional session to a close without a formal vote on the proposal, despite publicly saying the extension was a "moral imperative."

Due to recent accommodations during the pandemic, members of Congress do not have to be physically located in Washington to vote, and can use a proxy system to vote remotely within the seven weeks that Congress is currently adjourned. A brief session to take a roll call vote on the eviction moratorium is possible, but it won't happen unless Pelosi changes course and calls Congress back into session. Failure to do so would mean leaving our nation's most vulnerable without protection from eviction and out on the streets.

The risk of millions of Americans suddenly becoming homeless is intensified as the U.S. is currently experiencing a horrific surge of COVID-19 cases to date, as the delta variant spreads rapidly. Over 11 million renters currently owe back rent to their landlords, according to Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Analytics as reported in Bloomberg CityLab, and will be vulnerable without the eviction moratorium. ■



“Does a tent afford privacy? I can do whatever I want within the four walls, but in this situation it feels like you’re an endangered species. Like you’re being hunted really slowly and silently. You never know when they’re going to come and uproot you. I’m used to it, but at the same time I’m not. It doesn’t feel like a hundred percent home, it just feels like it’s for now.”

“In here I can escape everything that’s going on outside. It keeps me from getting into trouble. Having it helps keep me grounded. I try to be routine with things, like I clean a lot. I find things to decorate, to make things easier. But at the same time, in the back of my head, it’s always like for how long will I be able to do this before the city comes in and tells us we have to move and then takes all our stuff. It’s like happiness but for a very, very temporary period.”

“I’ve been granted housing, but it hasn’t been finalized yet. I haven’t even seen the place. I don’t know if it will resolve some the issues that are for me, medical. For example, I must have a restroom because of an underlining medical condition. I don’t know if the city is going to be willing to work with me on it. It’s scary having something dangled in front of you but if you file a grievance of any kind, they might just say fuck you and walk away from you. Then you’re out on the street because of something that you can’t naturally control. It’s really depressing and demoralizing.”

“The way I understand it you’re meant to stay in one of these temporary SRO units for a year before you can move on to better housing. A lot of these places don’t



Name: James Jefferson, 39 Date: 17 June 2021 Place: Florida near Treat Homeless: 12-13 years

allow quests. Or you can only have quests from a certain period of time. They give you a number of nights that you can have people stay over, it doesn’t feel normal. It feels like you’re in this “nanny state”. I feel like rights are being taken away.”

“I’m primarily looking for a place that has a restroom. I don’t cook, so a

kitchen isn’t necessarily something that I am looking for. If it’s a part of the deal, then great. But my expectation is to have privacy and a restroom. That’s it, that’s all I want.”

[Where do you go (bathroom) now?]
“A lot of different places. On the lowest of the low I would say bottles, buckets. Moving up it would be a porta-potty,

if they were available. If they’re not, then I do what I need to do outside. It’s kind of like a whatever it takes situation. You don’t control when you have to go, so it just depends on the urgency of the situation, whenever it arises. And usually it’s at a time when there is no public restroom available. After 8 o’clock when things start to die down, I get creative.”

© 2021 Robert Gumpert tapas.com ragumpert@gmail.com

STREET-BASED JOURNALISM 101

a statewide collaboration between CalMatters, Street Sheet, and Sacramento Homeward Street Journal

WE KNOW YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL.

The best journalism comes from those on the frontlines of stories, and no one is better equipped to tell the story of homelessness than those living it every day. This 12-week journalism course is designed to share introductory journalistic writing skills with those who are too often left out of the newsroom. Learn alongside a CalMatters inequality journalist and your fellow street-based journalists how to craft stories, conduct strong interviews and hook your readers.

INFORMATION SESSION AUGUST 25 @3PM

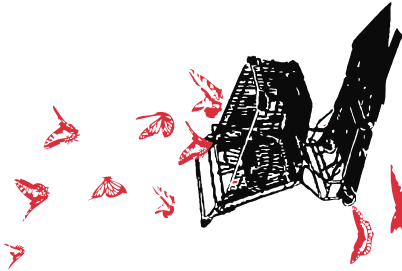
All sessions will be held on Zoom. To participate please email us at streetsheetsf@cohhsf.org. Spaces are limited and spots will be prioritized for those who have experienced homelessness and poverty.

12 WEEKLY SESSIONS AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

\$ Applicants who are accepted will receive a stipend upon completing the course \$
We may also be able to provide chargers and/or tablets for those without access, so please contact us!

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 3481
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94188

STREET
SHEET

AUG 1, 2021

PAGE 8

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

AUG
5

TOXIC CONSERVATORSHIP

WHERE: @4-6 ON ZOOM

Outraged by the conditions of Britney Spears' conservatorship? Want to learn more? Hear from disabled advocates and attorneys about what happens when someone is conserved or hospitalized against their will, and what can be done to stop it.

ACCESS: This event is happening on Zoom. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3x5nzLm>

AUG
5

MARKED BY COVID-19

WHERE: @4-6 ON ZOOM, FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

An opportunity to meet folks impacted by COVID and share ideas for commemorating loved ones. Great for people experiencing loss and trauma and in need of community.

ACCESS: This event is happening on Zoom. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3markedbycovidmeet>

SEPT
9

ARTAUCTION21

Transforming Art into Action & Reconnecting Through Resilience

WHERE: SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER

This is our 21st annual Art Auction! The event will include a silent and live art auction with over 200 works from various local artists. There will be food, drink, music, raffle prizes, and merriment to build community together in the midst of struggle. This event is open to the public and we sell tickets on a sliding scale where no one is turned away for lack of funds. Purchase your ticket now at: one.bidpal.net/cohartauction21/ticketing

ACCESS: SOMArts is wheelchair accessible and offers multiple gender neutral bathrooms. Please contact development@cohsf.org to request other accommodations.

WE'RE BACK & IN-PERSON! ARTAUCTION21

BENEFITTING SF COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
5:30 - 10:00 PM
@SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER
934 BRANNAN ST. SF

ARTWORK



View and bid on over 100 peices of art in our silent & live auction. There's a variety of pieces and prices so there's something for everyone!



DJ set by Vero y Kari from Price Saves and LIVE music from Mission Delirium!



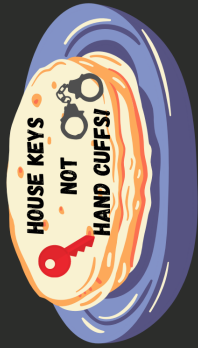
RAFFLE PRIZES

For just \$5 a ticket (& 3 for \$12!) you have a shot to win an autographed Warriors



Basketball, a Nintendo

Switch, and gift cards to local restaurants & shops like The Booksmith!



FUN!

Enjoy free, edible screen prints from the Tortilla Conspiracy! Connect with Coalition staff, members, & supporters. Meet musicians and artists alike!

IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES REGISTERING, TICKETS, OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
PLEASE EMAIL OGLOWACKI@COHSF.ORG
OR CALL OLIVIA AT THE OFFICE: 415-346-3740