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# STREET SHEET

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COSTELLO



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We are ALWAYS looking to publish the writings and artwork of homeless and formerly homeless San Franciscans. We welcome submissions of stories, articles, artwork, poetry, and photography.

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# FORCED TO WAIT IN JAIL

Emmett House

It has been said that bail bonds are for rich people, not for the poor. It affects poor people because they lack the resources to pay bail. When an inmate goes to court and is given a bail amount, they often don't have the ability to pay that amount. Inmates also get high bail from court and have to keep going to court so they can get bail low enough. They have to sit in jail until the judge decides to let them go. Before they eliminated cash bail, poor inmates used to have to sit in jail before being released because they couldn't afford to post bail. But now that they have eliminated cash bail, all inmates are being forced to sit in jail and wait for the judge to release them.

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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.

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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## Poetry By Me

Living the Life of Trauma

Living the Life of Trauma is not easy  
nor is it fair.  
But having people there that share their  
compassion and love for us makes it a  
more glorious affair.  
As we thrive to be better persons to  
Pursue our dreams in a society that views  
Us not as human beings.  
However, Love and compassion is what  
Can truly take us there  
So, believe that in the end one day  
We'll look back and see the roads we traveled,  
will make us heroes like no one  
On this earth can even compare.

by Rodney McClain

## COMMON

by Tammy Martin

Time after time we all experience con-  
frontations. We all have our daily routine.  
Sometimes we will encounter someone  
who has a predicament that needs special  
attention. Also whatever we do whether at  
the store or laundromat or shopping mall.  
These are common things we do in life.  
But as we live day by day. We lose common  
sense, well you know, (Can I help you?) Do  
you need some assistance? (No, thank you.  
Yes, please.) These common sense values  
have been here before technology. Cour-  
tesy is the best thing for anxiety. Doing the  
best in life is common.



# BOARD TO VOTE ON PROPOSED SAFE PARKING SITE AT CANDLESTICK PARK

Carlos Wadkins

On Tuesday, October 19, the Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to approve the proposed Vehicle Triage Center (VTC) at the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area in the south-eastern corner of San Francisco. The site, funded by Proposition C dollars released in this year's budget, would be large enough to accommodate up to 155 vehicles with 177 tenants. According to the Department of Housing and Supportive Housing's (HSH) proposal for the VTC, the site could be opened as soon as the end of the year, and guests will have access to desperately needed services such as restrooms, showers, laundry, electricity and black water dumping, as well as the opportunity to work with on-site housing case managers.

For the guests who may soon be able to stay there, the VTC would be a welcome resource indeed, as it provides protection from many of the dangers of living in a vehicle in San Francisco. Cindy Keener, a vehicularly housed resident of the Bayview, said that she would happily move her vehicle to the VTC given the chance. "People need a place where they feel safe. Safe from harassment from police and DPW. A place with showers. A place without vandalism," she said.

Doc, who currently lives in his vehicle near the proposed site, feels the same. "I want to live at the Safe Parking Site if they would allow me in my car. We are already like a community, parked around Candlestick. I would like to see it formalized," he said.

While many of the details of what the VTC would look like have been

released by HSH, one question looms large in the minds of prospective residents: How would it be run? As of now, it isn't known which organization would be contracted to operate the VTC, and what rules they may set in place, but according to Doc, the residents themselves should have some say in the matter.

"We need some rules...[and] we should make the rules," he said. "We are the ones living there... The city would not need to come out all the time like they do now to do check ups on us. Now they come out all the time and profile what they think are troublemakers."

Another unanswered question is what will happen to those vehicularly housed folks who are unable to access the VTC. A City count conducted last August found that in the district covering the Bayview, over 650 people are currently living in their vehicles, hundreds more than the site's proposed capacity of 177 guests. Jennifer Friedenbach, director of the Coalition on Homelessness, which publishes Street Sheet, warns that City-sponsored sites like these can often result in increased criminalization of those left outside. "These 155 spots funded by Prop. C are a fantastic start," she said. "But with about 2,000 people in San Francisco residing in vehicles, there will not be enough space for everyone. We will continue to have

households residing in vehicles on the streets. Often with new initiatives, comes increased enforcement against those left outside the gates of a new program."

"Enforcement will only exacerbate and increase homelessness. The City can address safety concerns by refraining from harassment of those living in vehicles and halting the confiscation of inhabited vehicles."

-Jennifer Friedenbach

towing due to [an out of date registration] tag or other issues... My car is my house."

Friedenbach shares Doc's view. "En-

forcement will only exacerbate and increase homelessness," she said. "The City can address safety concerns by refraining from harassment of those living in vehicles and halting the confiscation of inhabited vehicles."

However the City decides to move forward, it remains clear that it will need to do more than just open this site to address the needs of vehicularly housed people. As of the last point-in-time count in 2019, the City counted over 1,500 people living in their vehicles across San Francisco, a number that has likely risen significantly since then. For people like Cindy and Doc, all they can do is hope that the city will one day provide a solution that can help them once and for all off the streets and into a home.



Photographs in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

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Can't join us in-person for the rally? We got you--you can register for the October 18th 12-4 PM Zoom watch party: <https://bit.ly/wifivirtualrally>

On a roll? Support our work further! Sign & share our online petition: <https://bit.ly/SDAfreewifi>

Join our #FreeWifi groupchat: [https://app.groupme.com/join\\_group/71649355/7IY16aJQ](https://app.groupme.com/join_group/71649355/7IY16aJQ)



# SPIRITS ON THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Detroit Richards

There are spirits on the streets. Spirits that walk the line between this world and the next. There are spirits that hide in the shadows. Yokai creatures that howl and bark and turn into tea kettles that do skateboard tricks along the Embarcadero, having lost their tightropes somewhere in Osaka in 1859. There are Angels. And there are demons. There is the 'As Above' and the 'So Below'.

This tale does not start in an abandoned warehouse. It is not set in some graveyard with ghouls, though they exist too, in a state of permanent hunger and longing for flesh. They are never satiated, and stalk the Mission and the North Beach looking for a warm meal, between 97.7 and 99 degrees Fahrenheit, the blood temperature of a healthy human body. Despite being corrupt, they do not feed on corruption themselves; feverish humans are quite safe from them.

There are dark things that hide in the shadows, and once a year they get to peek out from their corners and their dusty upper shelves, from the cursed objects at Ripley's Believe it or Not, to the creaking parts of the machines of the Musée Mécanique Penny Arcade, whose gears and grinding wooden parts house the ghostly remnants of our recent past lives and the spirits of those who sold it all for a chance to ask the Great Zoltar what the future held for them. It is not recommended: The price for finding out what only Great Father Time can tell is everything you got—even your immortal soul. It might seem a way off that the bill has to be settled—it can't possibly be true—but when those hell hounds come to carry the souls of the Askers into the Realm of the Underworld, it all becomes crystal clear: the only way is down, baby...down ....down...down....

\*\*\*

Ginsburg and Cassady play checkers for one night only in the bones of the old City Lights, before they head back to their comfortable abodes in the Tower of Song, where the artists live, somewhat like an ancient and more comfortable Hotel Chelsea with better views. For one night, and one night only, it is not the Summer of Love in '69, but instead, the Night of Mischief, when the veils that separate our diverse domains are removed.

It is on this night that the Priestesses and Priests of the Pantheons that preside over the As Above, settle down for an evening of wild fun. The trick or treaters

get funky with Loki for a night, dressing up and causing mayhem, getting a sugar high and sending the message into the heavens that we humans still like to pay respects to those mostly ignored gods and goddesses that only get some love but once a year. That is not to say that all the hot dog dressers and the Harley Quinn rioters are worshipping the Dark Lord—mostly they are getting acquainted with the more earthly horror of diabetes—but there are some who follow the Dark Ways still left walking the earth. And while I am not saying they don't like a little dress up, a small costume of horns and ankhs, pentagrams and selenite wands, their Halloween is all year round.

\*\*\*

Which brings me to our window into the world through the mirror. Once a year in the As Above, a truce is called. Think of it like Christmas with just as much wine and revelry, but no rampant consumerism. Both events might call for the sacrifice of the flesh of animals, but only one involves a nervous breakdown trying to work out how much time per pound of bloody flesh to cook that goose. Turkey is for amateurs. To cook a goose takes skill. Hecate sighed as she considered how cooked the goose of her little Priestess was if she failed to make peace with Lilith, and calling up her immortal enemy—the owl-footed Goddess of the night—brought her an offering: the blood of a dove and the distilled tears of one of Lilith's targets, a nasty little man who existed only to stop homeless people from sleeping safely on the streets they were pushed out onto, and who compensated others to sweep tents into garbage trucks using legions of City workers who were not paid to care about rights and wrongs.

Hecate had terrified this slimy creature into peeing his pants and squealing as a veritable army of spirits had invaded his garage and tormented him singing carols and nursery rhymes in the voice of one of his childhood teachers who used to make him cry every day when he was eight years old (and thus created the monster who existed only to hurt those who have nothing at all).

"Tell me, Hecate," asked Lilith as she cracked open the vial and let the scent of desperation waft up towards her delicate nostrils, "Did he beg? Did he scream? Did he try to run? Is he...insane?"

Hecate let her dark eyes flutter as she opened up a window into the recent past and replayed the denouement of her rough and somewhat rowdy haunting of the City worker who, having failed to show compassion, got taught a tough lesson. She remembered when the toy train set started zooming round the tracks backwards, eventually flying off into the garage wall as he held

the unplugged cord in his shaking hands, and an invisible finger drew sigils in red paint on his pristine white sedan, sending the nasty little man weeping and wailing and tugging at the garage door, trying desperately to get outside. It was then that Hecate materialized with her glass vial, catching the cursed droplets falling from his evil eyes. Lilith squealed in delight, and tore off the stopper. "Magnifique! Oh, good show! Good show! That'll learn him!"

Lilith clapped her hands in joy, as she drank the tears down greedily! "Tastes like fear with a hint of remorse! Delicious!"

Now a truce is a truce, and an offering an offering, but old grudges die hard, and Hecate, Witch Goddess of the Crossroads, whose gnarled fingers preside over magick and spell casting, was not feeling like giving any more ground, not even on All Hallow's Eve. And Lilith, the Queen Ruler of the Night and Dark Creatures, the Blood Goddess of Freedom, a naturally suspicious member of a rival Pantheon, held the vial of blood at arm's length. "I think I am going vegan!" she said with a toothy grin. Hecate feigned a small laugh and took a step back.

\*\*\*

As the night fell over the Bay, shrouding it in the fog and the cloak of darkness, the two Queens stood opposite each other on the sands of the Presidio. Hecate's hands glowed with strange fires, green and deep and flashing with the faces of the souls she took at crossroads deals gone down over the millennia. Lilith threw her head back and howled. The Ankhs in either hand, one reversed towards the Underworld, and one reaching for the eternal Light, burned with the strength of a thousand suns. A small Yokai spirit, an Inugami Dog sorcerer, looked on from the tree he sat underneath, shuffling backwards away from the two Goddesses as they stared each other down. Even the sea retreated. Meanwhile a man in a suit and tie, holding a leather briefcase and staring into his phone screen, the apple insignia glowing blue, walked straight between them and stood out staring at the sea. The Inugami sat on his pentangle, and quietly took the little Priest's hat off his furry head and tried to look innocent, scratching a pretend flea and staring at the full moon in an air of invisibility.

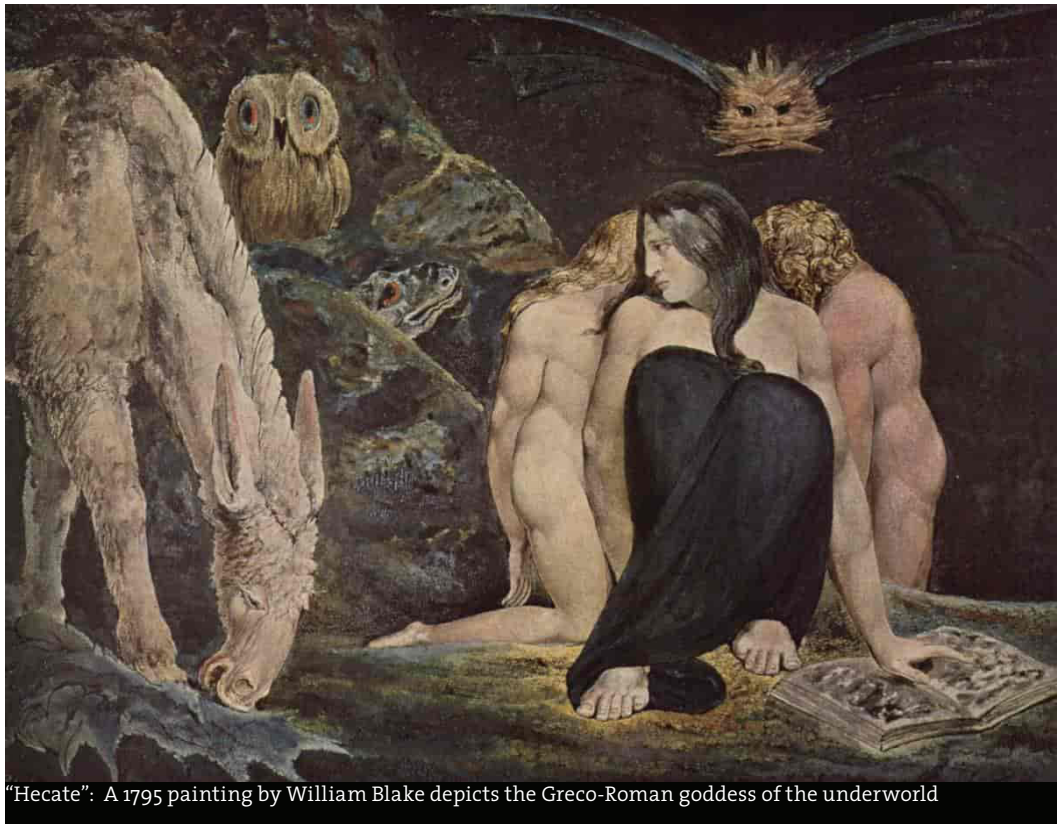
"I used to know a girl who liked apples. Didn't work out so well for her," said Lilith.

The Goddesses ignored him. He looked at them as a man who works for a tech startup stares at strange 'people' he sees on the street, and vaguely fears, then went back to his moonlight musing. Probably worrying about his \$5000 a month rent payments, for his apartment just down the road, and whether or not he was going to be able to afford a new Tesla, or would have to suffer the ignominy and horror of buying a used one, or heaven forbid, a Prius!

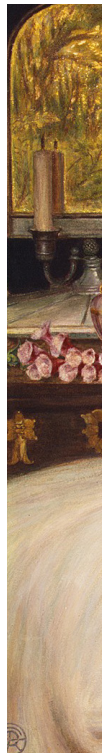
"Your Priestess," hissed Lilith, "tried to attack mine with some of your graveyard dirt tricks and hoodoo doll quackery."

"If yours cannot defend herself, then what does that say about you, Sister!" Hecate's three faces shone menacingly. "Demon! Not Goddess!" Lilith flew for her throat as the man with the Apple phone considered calling the cops, and then thought again....they would not come anyway.

"Yours invoked the Morning Star against civilians!" hissed Lilith as her Lilitu, her dark spirits, rushed around biting Hecate's ankles.



"Hecate": A 1795 painting by William Blake depicts the Greco-Roman goddess of the underworld



"Lady Lilitu" by Dunn depicts the Greco-Roman goddess of the underworld

"Errr...la the pho inches

There i: inflam away f: Hecate and the ocean's

"Chad, than fu what w you in and clo chuckle out to s further close ei night a to no o: drown

The spl gurglir to shor: good jo Hecate little ch going t each ot

Lilith sl might v Or me. awaker the sha about a

"Maybe her fac

"Now, z have a send a they lik tolling

And th the bea the lau shoutir

For m thepa





h”: An 1867 painting by Dante Rossetti and Henry Wallis depicting Lilith, the first wife of Adam and demonic figure in mythology

idies....just ya know...chill!” The man with one drew himself up to his full six foot three of privilege and wagged his finger at them.

s nothing like a common enemy to cool ed tensions. The two Goddesses took a step rom each other. Lilith rushed towards him, as gestured upwards with one long black talon, e Suit started levitating lazily towards the blackness.

the Dull,” screeched Lilith with more irritation ury, as his tiny mind failed to comprehend ras happening to him. “Tell me, what use are this world, or the next?” Chad’s mouth opened sed, guppy-like and soundless. The Inugami ed. Hecate moved Chad the Dull a little further ea, just far enough to be a scare, just a little : towards the lonely island of Alcatraz, but ough to swim back. In the distance, in the ir, his screams could be heard, as he shouted, ne who cared, that those Witches tried to him.

\*\*\*

ashing in the distance faded to a quiet ig pant, as the Suit made the long swim back e. “You know, these humans, they do a pretty b of being evil, without our help, Sister,” sighed softly. “I’ll tell you what, I’ll have a iat with my Priestess, let her know we are o concentrate on punishing evil, not fighting her.”

hook her red hair loose, and smiled, “She want to not press my Girl into action, Hecate. There are some spirits that are best not to n to vengeance.” The Inugami slunk away into dows. “Not an alliance, then Lilith...but how t truce?”

e,” Lilith let the ghost of a smile crack across e and disintegrate just as fast as it arrived.

about those sweeps.....who else is on the list? I plan to go and visit this one tomorrow night, hell hound to scratch at their door, see how e it!” Lilith laughed, a mission bell chuckle for the redemption that will never come.

e two Goddesses walked side by side along ch, as the waves lapped on the shoreline and ghter of children echoed around the city, ig, “Trick or treat! Trick or treat! Trick or treat!”

ore by Detroit Richards visit altrysum.com

# Behind the Healthy Street Operation Curtain: The True Story of San Francisco's Abusive Encampment Response

Coalition on Homelessness

2021

## What is HSOC

“[T]he Healthy Streets Operations Center (HSOC) [launched] on January 16, 2018 to coordinate the City’s response both to homeless encampments and to behaviors that impact quality of life, such as public drug use and sales.” - 2019 Controller's Report on HSOC

## What's Wrong with HSOC?

HSOC pursues its goal of eliminating large encampments (but often doesn't connect people to dignified services) through three main types of operation:

- 1. Resolutions
- 2. Re-encampment prevention
- 3. Cleaning

Once an area is “resolved,” regardless of whether the people who lived there have moved into a shelter or just around the corner, it is subject to tactics aimed at preventing the re-emergence of the original encampment.

## The Structure is to Blame

Based on what advocates have witnessed, HSOC uses a poorly structured resolution process that prioritizes street cleaning over service connection, providing little time for outreach workers to work with residents and creating an atmosphere of stress and panic that makes it difficult for residents to advocate for their needs.

One thing that advocates and Department of Emergency Management Executive Director Mary Ellen Carroll agree on is that HSOC’s rate of service connection is less than satisfactory.

## Poor Shelter Placements

In the three periods of 2021 presented on by Director Carroll, HSOC never surpassed a “service acceptance” rate higher than 35% (with the higher rates of the previous year largely attributable to the availability of SIP hotel beds).

Placement Rates

End of the Period	Operating Days in the Period	Tents from HSOC Count*	Reduction in Tents	Percent Reduction in Tents	Client Placements	Placements/Day	Acceptance Rate	Placements/Tents Reduced**
4/22/2020		1108						
6/9/2020		1400						
7/28/2020	34	1003	-397	-28.36%	677	19.91	83%	1.71
10/7/2020	51	703	-300	-29.91%	441	8.65	60%	1.47
12/14/2020	43	565	-138	-19.63%	265	6.16	51%	1.92
2/15/2021	40	801	-64	-11.33%	197	4.93	35%	3.08
4/26/2021	53	383	-118	-23.55%	277	5.23	30%	2.35
6/21/2021	38	387	4	1.04%	179	4.71	29%	0.00
Summary	259		-1013	-72.34%	2036	7.86	45%	2.23

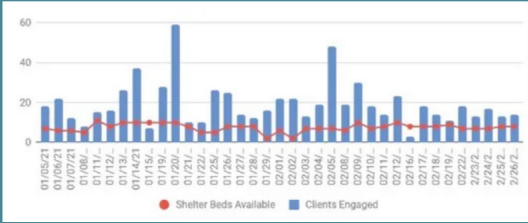
\*Number of tents on 6/9 is an estimate, other data is from the regular count conducted by HSOC.

\*\*The number of placements needed to reduce one tent

## There Are Not Enough Beds

This graph shows that the main problem leading to low service connection rates by HSOC is in **service availability**, not service resistance. As previously established, encampment resolutions are close to completion, with most residents having already been displaced, by the time that outreach workers know the exact number and types of beds that they will receive.

Shelter Beds Available vs. Clients Engaged at HSOC Resolutions, Jan-Feb 2021



## They’re stealing property

Dir. Carroll claimed that workers “bag and tag” property “where appropriate”, a process where personal belongings are confiscated and stored at the DPW lot, where people can go to get them back rather than thrown away.

*“I won’t give you a bag. I’ll call the police if you don’t give me your stuff.”*

DPW worker overheard by Coalition on Homelessness Volunteer Flo Kelley on Jan.13, 2021 during an HSOC operation

## Conclusion

The current HSOC operations fail to permanently address homelessness, increase economic costs and violate human rights.

From the unhoused person’s perspective, they are cruel and trauma-inducing. From the housed person’s perspective, they are only pushing people into more residential areas.

As a city, we can and should do better by our housed and unhoused neighbors. Political battles during the epidemic also revealed how profoundly broken the “revolving door” approach the City takes to homelessness is, and the lack of structural investments in long-term solutions has increased systemic inequalities.

Read the full report “Behind the Healthy Street Operation Curtain” at <https://www.cohsf.org/behind-the-healthy-street-operation-curtain/>



# FAMILIES SPEAK OUT ABOUT COORINDATED ENTRY

Ruth Wong

Since 2018, the City of San Francisco has been using a system called Coordinated Entry to distribute housing resources to homeless people. Coordinated Entry is mandated by the federal government, and requires the city to score homeless people with points, to identify which people are the most vulnerable. The people with the most vulnerabilities (for example disability, substance abuse, or mental illness), are the first ones prioritized to receive housing. The Coalition on Homelessness hosted a listening session in August with 35 families who were experiencing or had experienced homelessness to get feedback on how Coordinated Entry has been going for people.

In our listening sessions, the number one complaint we heard was lack of respect and lack of trauma-informed care in the assessment process, as well as the shelters. Participants reported discrimination due to the language they spoke or their legal status. One of the participants shared, “the social worker isn’t patient with me. You get buried with a lot of questions. It’s more of an interrogation than a help of needs.” Another said, “I found out how to enter a shelter. I was evicted for not paying the rent and they threatened to call immigration. They told me I could not apply to a shelter because there was no space... I would like the people who attend the shelters to have sensitivity; the vast majority of us who live on the street have traumas and we want people to have empathy.”

The second most common piece of feedback was that there were not enough resources to go around. One of the mothers said, “I would like the help to be permanent. In the subsidy many times when the contract ends, and they see that you already have a job, you no longer qualify and they take away the aid and we fall back into the same circle. They take away our support if we earn a little more. I would like the aid they give us to be more stable, it is good that they reduce the subsidy but not

that they take it away because it is not fair if we are still part of a minority.”

Everyone thinks it’s a good idea to give housing to those who need it most. However, there is way less housing available than the number of people who need it. When the vulnerability qualification is applied to all extremely low-income housing across the city, there are swaths of people who will never be able to get any housing resources at all because they are “not vulnerable enough.”

This has also resulted in racial disparities. In some counties, white people are more likely to be housed through Coordinated Entry. The exact reason isn’t clear, but Margot Kushel, a doctor and researcher on homelessness at UC San Francisco, speaking on According to Need, a podcast series from 99% Invisible, said, “There’s so much structural racism, it is much easier to become homeless if you’re Black... So what we see, if you just look within the homeless population, the Black folks look healthier. Because to be homeless and Black means you could just be poor. And in general, this is a sweeping generalization, but in general, ... a higher proportion of the white folks who are homeless have these disabilities that are related to their homelessness. Not everyone, of course, but you’re more likely... And so what people who have interrogated this have found – and this is true in many places across the country – is that the white folks are more likely to get resources just because they score higher because these scoring systems are all based on individual vulnerability.”

From a bird’s-eye view, data from a San Francisco public records request shows that the racial breakdown of people who get housing through Coordinated Entry and the racial breakdown of the homeless point-in-time counts are pretty similar, but that doesn’t mean that systemic racism isn’t there.

On the housing side, housing pro-

viders are seeing more people with extremely high needs enter permanent supportive housing compared to before Coordinated Entry was implemented. For example, a property manager we spoke to who runs several permanent supportive housing buildings reported that someone moved in who was totally blind. “They can’t do things for themselves. It leads to them being taken advantage of by other folks in the hotels. Other people are running off with their money. It hasn’t been many, but we’ve gotten a few that were totally disabled that should have went to Laguna Honda or something like that. They shouldn’t have been placed in housing where it was independent living ... There’s only so much our case managers can do.”

The third most common piece of feedback about Coordinated Entry was that participants didn’t understand the resources available and where they had to go to access them. At least one participant was afraid to use the system due to having children, and no assurance

that the government wouldn’t take her children away once there was a record of her being homeless in the system.

It makes good sense to coordinate housing resources so that homeless people don’t have to get bounced around from provider to provider. It also makes sense to give housing resources to those in the most need. However, there are so few housing resources available that the vast majority of people going through Coordinated Entry do not get anything. For Coordinated Entry to make sense, there needs to be housing for the city to be able to coordinate the entry of homeless people into.

Overall, our research shows that Coordinated Entry is too complicated, does not give people the dignity they deserve, and does not provide enough housing resources to bring people out of homelessness permanently.

## What Is Coordinated Entry?

Coordinated Entry is what the City of San Francisco uses to prioritize which homeless people get subsidized housing. People go to an Access Point, where they are given an Assessment. The questions in the assessment are used to score how vulnerable a homeless person is. For example, if you have a disability, you would get more points in your score. The people with the highest scores get more housing resources. Access Points specialize in families, youth, or single adults, but anyone can get assessed at any Access Point.

### Resources that you can get through Coordinated Entry:

- Permanent Supportive Housing, which is mostly for single adults.
- Rapid Rehousing, which is a time-limited rental assistance, mostly for families and youth
- Problem Solving, where you do not get housing, but you can get some money to help stay housed, for example, a bus ticket to travel to a family member who you can live with, or money to help with utility bills so that the person you are living with will let you stay.
- Emergency Shelter, which is mostly for families.

### Resources that are NOT a part of Coordinated Entry:

- Low income housing (lottery)
- Affordable housing listed on DAHLIA database
- Shelter for single adults
- Public Housing
- Section 8/Housing Choice Vouchers

Coordinated Entry is required by the federal government, however, the City of San Francisco decides how to do it. So, we can advocate for improvements that make it more equitable.

## STATEMENT FROM AN IMPACTED FAMILY

I, Maria Eugenia, am a single grandmother who has raised my grandson since he was 5 months old. He is a child who is already 13 years old.

I am a person with a physical disability who is 32 years old and I suffer from diabetes. I have always rented rooms because with the help I receive I cannot afford anything better. I have already been in shelters on two occasions, and for that reason my grandson and I both got COVID-19.

I went to seek help for a housing subsidy and they sent me to Coordinated Entry, where they decided based on an evaluation whether or not to give me a temporary subsidy for two years. I am very grateful for this ceiling, but the reality is that I need a permanent allowance because of the state of my health, as I already mentioned.

I was one of the people who supported Proposition C and fought for it, and that is why today I ask the city to change the Coordinated Entry system and to give permanent housing subsidies to those who need it.



## NEW SFMTA Discounts For San Franciscans Experiencing Homelessness



This past year has been horrible for Tosca, a 58-year-old grandmother born and raised in San Francisco.

She lost her job, her home, and a son to the COVID-19 virus. She was living in her car when it was towed outside the construction site where she worked. Getting towed, booted, and piling up parking citations can create formidable barriers for people like Tosca who are working hard to exit homelessness.

That's why the SFMTA has created new discounts on parking and transit tickets for San Franciscans experiencing homelessness. San Franciscans can apply for these discounts after they start working with the City's Coordinated Entry Access Points, community organizations that help people resolve their housing crises.

- SFMTA's new relief programs will provide people experiencing homelessness deep discounts, like:
- A one-time only, free removal of all open parking tickets on one vehicle
  - Fare evasion ticket dismissal anytime
  - Removal of all late penalties on one vehicle's parking tickets anytime

 <b>Free Muni</b> Ride Muni for Free with the Access Pass	 <b>Towing Costs</b> ONE-TIME, FREE removal of all towing costs	 <b>Boot Costs</b> ONE-TIME, FREE removal of all boot costs
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These new discounts are in addition to other SFMTA discounts for people experiencing homelessness that include the following:

- A one time, FREE removal of all towing costs
- A one time, FREE removal of all boot costs
- The Access Pass – free Muni for people experiencing homelessness

 <b>Parking Tickets</b> ONE-TIME ONLY, FREE removal of all open parking tickets on one vehicle	 <b>Fare Evasion Tickets</b> Dismiss your fare evasion tickets anytime	 <b>Late Penalties</b> Remove late penalties on one vehicle's parking tickets anytime
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People are eligible for ALL of these discounts if they:

1. Are currently experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, AND
2. Have worked with a Coordinated Entry Access Point in the last 6 months.

Please call or visit a Coordinated Entry Access Point to confirm your eligibility. The full list of Coordinated Entry Access Points is available at the following link: [tinyURL.com/CEAccessPoints](https://tinyurl.com/CEAccessPoints).

You can also call 415-487-3300 x 7000 to contact a Coordinated Entry Access Point. Please leave a message with your name and phone number if you are not able to speak with a staff member at a Coordinated Entry Access Point immediately.

- After confirming your eligibility, you can learn how to apply for these discounts by:
1. Visiting the SFMTA's Customer Service Center in-person at 11 South Van Ness Avenue (Cross street: Market St. and Van Ness Ave., open Monday-Friday from 8 am – 5 pm)
  2. Going to SFMTA's website at [SFMTA.com/IncomeDiscounts](https://sfmta.com/IncomeDiscounts)
  3. Calling 311

The SFMTA created these discounts after a few months of dialogue with community organizations in the End Poverty Tows Coalition. Thank you to SFMTA and all of the community organizations who participated in this important dialogue. Thank you also to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and the Coordinated Entry Access Points for their collaboration.

For more information, please go to [SFMTA.com/IncomeDiscounts](https://sfmta.com/IncomeDiscounts) or call 311.

# VICTIMS OF A FAILED SYSTEM

### Solange Cuba

The system of Coordinated Entry is known to most folks experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. It is a system designed to coordinate and manage the limited resources available to unhoused people in San Francisco, and to prioritize who has access to housing subsidies and who does not. The evaluation is very strict and asks a range of questions about the health, income, and current living situation of those who enroll.

There are people with jobs who work full time, even extra hours and can't afford to live in the city. The low minimum wage and high cost of living makes it impossible for a family to afford a house in San Francisco. For the past three months, Carlos Wadkins and Jessica Hernandez, two organizers with the Coalition on Homelessness, have been doing outreach to families who live in their RVs near San Francisco State University and organizing

assemblies with the community, listening to their stories and offering support in facing those daily problems.

For many of these families, Coordinated Entry did not offer them the security they needed to get out of homelessness. Residents I spoke with repeatedly told me how their RVs felt safer and more permanent than the hope of resources offered through the system. We all know how expensive it is to live in the City, but it is also not fair to have to move from the place where we feel at home just because it is difficult to pay for it.

Marlom says "I bought my RV because nobody can kick me out of my RV. However, if I take one of those subsidies nobody will assure me that I won't be kicked out after two years and become homeless again. At least my RV is mine and my kids won't have the chance to end up in a tent in a dangerous neighborhood. Also many subsidies are outside of the city. I

want to live here in San Francisco. I have my life, my job. Everything is in San Francisco."

On the other hand, Jose Luis shared that he and his family have been through the process to get a subsidy through the city but he mentions that he was doing extra hours at work because of that they denied the subsidy for him and his family because he was above the limit to be considered low income. Other folks pointed out that shelters are not the best environment. They prefer to live far from those places where the violence and drug abuse is close to them. Folks in the RVs they just want to have a place where they can park without thinking about the street cleaning or any kind of harassment

The families got organized and they have been talking together about solutions. The problem goes beyond whether or not there are subsidies; the problem is that the City ensures that aid is strictly limited. Several families pointed

out that if they take a subsidy, they cannot work overtime because that will increase their salary and lose them their subsidy. Several families worried that if they were to sell their RV and opt for a subsidy instead, that they could end up in a shelter or on the street if the subsidy was then taken away. One family told us that at least they could feel secure that they own their RV, and that no one could take it away. They see it as a choice to live in a place where their children do not see as much violence.

So the city is condemning us not to be able to choose a better life. The city is showing people that if they take a subsidy, they cannot have two jobs, and they cannot choose to have savings. We know that an income for a family of four is approximately 3,500 dollars. In many cases, only one person works within the family, but if the person works overtime, their salary increases they and could lose their subsidy. Is this fair?



# SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

OCT  
18

## FILIPINO HERITAGE MONTH: CELEBRATION OF PEOPLE, STRENGTH, AND CULTURE

WHERE: 6-7:30PM

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
EVENTS/1551628378503012/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1551628378503012/)

This October, GLIDE's Center for Social Justice is honoring the culture and contributions of the Filipino community. Join us on Thursday, October 21 at 6:00 pm for a virtual discussion with activists and leaders as they share how their Filipino identity plays a crucial role in their upbringing and work in the social justice movement.

OCT  
20

## RALLY TO DEMAND SIP HOTELS STAY OPEN

WHERE: 345 TAYLOR STREET @ NOON

Please join us for a rally on Wednesday, October 20th 2021 at 12:00pm to urge our city to #KeepSIPsOpen!

Why are Shelter-In-Place hotels closing their doors at the height of the pandemic and when thousands are still stranded on the streets? Join unhoused people, SIP tenants, healthcare workers, and neighbors to demand the City #KeepSIPsOpen

ACCESS: This will be an outdoor event with no access to public restrooms.

NO COPS NO FEE  
MAKE BART AND MUNI FREEEE

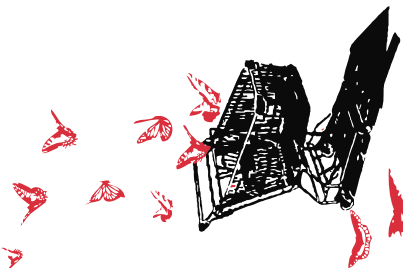
CASTRO MUNI STATION/ Market & Castro SF  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 30, 2021 6-7pm  
MASK UP DRESS UP



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

Coalition On Homelessness  
280 Turk Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415-346-3740  
[www.cohsf.org](http://www.cohsf.org)  
[streetsheetsf@gmail.com](mailto:streetsheetsf@gmail.com)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on  
Homelessness  
San Francisco

## STREET SPEAK

### EPISODE 8: How Business Improvement Districts are Privatizing the Block

This episode features an interview with Paul Boden of Western Regional Advocacy Project, a local organization coordinating a regional response to the criminalization of homeless people.

We talk about Business Improvement Districts, the shadowy private entities that are turning neighborhoods across the country into outdoor malls - and determining who has access to spaces that were once public.



Weather report brought to you by Mega Bloom, a local preschool teacher and musician whose new album is coming out this winter. Hear their first album Music for

Little Sprouts here:  
<https://megabloomsmusic.bandcamp.com>

Listen to the show at <http://www.streetsheet.org/street-speak-podcast/> or wherever you get your podcasts!



SCAN ME