

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

SHELTER LIFE

2

MAYOR BREED HOLDS BACK \$3.3 MILLION FOR CART

3

MANDELMAN'S SHELTER EXPANSION PLAN

4

OVERSIGHT PANEL PROPOSES HOMELESSNESS SPENDING

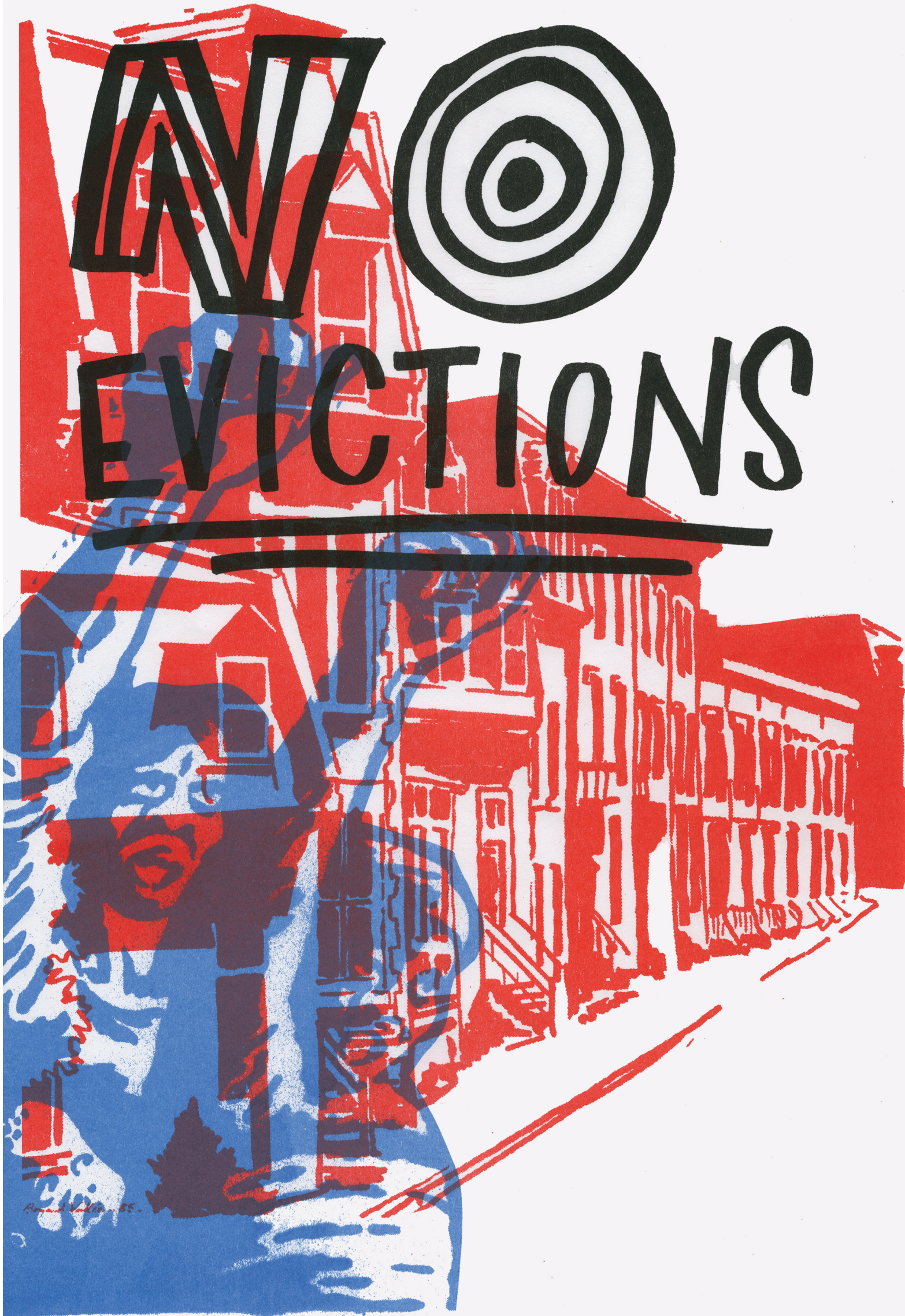
5

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TENANTS BILL OF RIGHTS

7

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO ANDREA MAYFIELD, HOUSING JUSTICE MEMBER — REST IN POWER

NO EVICTIIONS



COVER ART

Josh MacPhee/Justseeds.org

SHELTER LIFE

By Lisa D

A WATCHED PHONE NEVER CHARGES...
BUT AT LEAST NO ONE WILL STEAL IT.

To whom this may concern:

I am completely grateful to have a bed here at the shelter. I am a homeless grad student working on my major project and I appreciate having a “place” indoors to sleep and study. That being said, I completely immerse myself in my research, losing track of time, and when the lights are flipped off at 9 p.m., I end up having to stack my papers, books, and binders everything up and put it at the foot of the bed until the morning, it being too dark in the dorm to read or write after lights out. 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. is my personal prime-time for studying and working, and I am unable to utilize this time effectively, having to shut it down as soon as I start!

My bed also serves as my desk, closet, couch, attic, end table, staging area, yoga studio, vanity, den, library, and dining room. I have a top bunk, which is prized real estate (for the 10 and under crowd) and the view is breathtaking!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with bunk beds, they are single-person beds, stacked one atop of another. These particular bunk beds consist of two metal drawers, two slabs of sheet metal, four metal beams and two metal rungs to use as a ladder. It looks like an industrial shelving unit: no soft corner on this bad boy. The bottom rung is four feet off the ground, so hoisting myself up is difficult. I assume it would be like mounting a horse. Once I pull myself up it’s just a matter of stepping up the remaining rungs and pulling myself up to the sheet metal summit.

Once I reach the outcropping where I sleep, I have the sense of accomplishment one gets when successfully completing any feat! Sitting on the precipice, it dawns on me I left my phone down at base camp charging! It’s not a good idea to leave it unattended, particularly at night, so I groan and prepare to make the descent. I use the ladder and stand on the bottom rung. Now I have two choices: either I jump or I step on that stack of loose papers, books, binders and school work. I prefer the stack over a blind dismount into darkness, so I squat down as far as I can stretch my leg out, and feel around for the pile with my toes. I locate it, but due to my Mickey Mouse stacking job I accidentally knock over the temporary step. Now I have to take the leap of faith.

I psyche myself up as my ears pop due to the change of altitude. I lower down until (I hope) I only have a little distance to freefall. I count to three and slide off the bottom rung, stick the landing. Success! Terra firma! I am super glad I’m not afraid of heights. I grab my phone and am once again at the foot of the bed. I am tempted to just tell my bunkie to move over and make room for me in her bed, but I decide not to. I stabilize the makeshift book stack which makes a big difference in the difficulty of scaling the mountain face. I reach the top again and what a magnificent view! I gaze out over the sea of sanctuary slumber. Everything and everyone looks so peaceful!

Shit. I have to use the bathroom...

**Little Miss Muffet
Sat on her tuffet
Smoking a bowl in the dark
Along came a ranger,
Took her weed and detained her
“It’s illegal to smoke in state parks”
- Lisa D**

DONATE TO KEEP
STREET SHEET
GOING
STRONG!



coalition.networkforgood.com

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.

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

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
Interim Editor, TJ Johnston
Vendor Coordinator, Emmett House

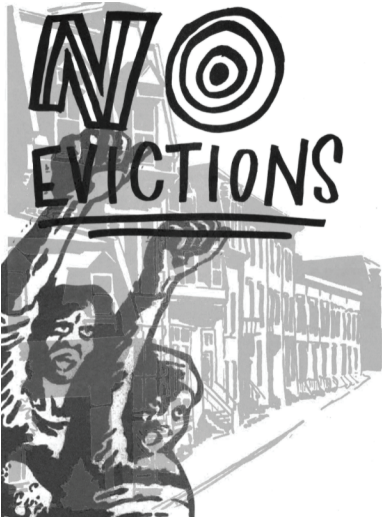
Coalition on Homelessness staff also includes Jennifer Friedenbach, Jason Law, Olivia Glowacki, Miguel Carrera, Tracey Mixon, Carlos Wadkins, Kelley Cutler, Tyler Kyser, Ian James, Yessica Hernandez, Solange Cuba

Our contributors in this issue include: Lisa D, Kenneth Madrigal, Josh MacPhee, Sara Shortt, Ian James, Brianna Destiny, Jordan Davis, Amy Neelam, Robert Gumpert

Graphic design assistance Jess Clarke
Red Star Black Rose

FRONT PAGE COVER ART CREDIT

“This poster was assembled out of two existing posters from different housing struggles. The people are from We Are Not Going to Khayelitsha, a screenprint produced by the Cape Town Arts Project in South Africa in 1986. The buildings are from Rue St-Norbert, a poster produced by Bernard Vallée and the Comité de Cityens de St-Noerbet in Montréal, Canada in 1985. I collaged them together and added the words No Evictions.” -Josh MacPhee/Justseeds.org



“The manner in which the hours of freedom.. are spent determines, no less than labor or war, the moral worth of a nation.”
-- Maurice Maeterlinck

WRITING:

We are always looking for new writers to help us spread the word on the street! Write about your experience of homelessness in San Francisco, about policies you think the City should put in place or change, your opinion on local issues, or about something newsworthy happening in your neighborhood!

ARTWORK:

Help transform ART into ACTION by designing artwork for STREET SHEET! We especially love art that uplifts homeless people, celebrates the power of community organizing, or calls out abuses of power! Cover dimensions are generally 10x13 but artwork of all sizes are welcome and appreciated!

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Have a keen eye for beauty? Love capturing powerful moments at events? Have a photo of a Street Sheet vendor you'd like to share? We would love to run your photos in Street Sheet! Note that subjects must have consented to being photographed to be included in this paper.

VISIT WWW.STREETSHEET.ORG/SUBMIT-YOUR-WRITING/ OR BRING SUBMISSIONS TO 280 TURK STREET TO BE CONSIDERED

MAYOR BREED HOLDS BACK \$3 MILLION FUNDING FROM COMPASSIONATE ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE TEAM

By Kenneth Madrigal

In the 2021 San Francisco budget process, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously supported the implementation of the Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART), (www.cartsf.org) but Mayor London Breed refused to execute this ordinance, which would activate the peer-led CART teams, because she launched her own version of street outreach called Street Wellness Teams. Yet, \$3.3 million in funding was secured to begin the implementation of CART, which currently sits untouched in unallocated reserve for a year. This specific amount only allows CART to be operational for six months. Even though monetary funds existed during that fiscal year, CART remains stalled out. CART must be implemented by Mayor Breed and allow for leaders of CART to utilize these funds to begin educating, counseling and providing a safe space for the unhoused community in San Francisco.

The funding of CART relies on existing monetary funds from the allocated budget for the San Francisco Police Department. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing has an allocated budget of \$852 million compared with the combined Public Protection fund of \$1.6 billion, which includes the police, fire and sheriff's department; a law enforcement approach to homelessness and behavioral health has proven itself to be expensive, as well as ineffective. The police budget must be decreased and these funds must be diverted for CART to use. The discrepancies in the fiscal budget from the City and County of San Francisco do not allow for a clear and transparent budget outline for people to see.

In the 2022 City budget, CART demands additional funding this fiscal year, but the mayor is stalling the implementation of this new program. The \$3 million secured funding is a significant win for many advocates and organizers within our community. Without the approval from the mayor, CART will not exist, and requesting more grants will create obstacles for CART. Since these funds are not available, CART cannot access them to start the process of gathering people, resources for training and other tools.

Social justice advocates lobbied to defund the police and to reallocate those funds to CART, which stands to be the alternative response to policing unhoused communities. Police officers do not possess the qualifications, qualities, values and morals to respond to situations involving vulnerable communities like the unhoused community. Police officers are not adequately trained to handle any situations

involving unhoused folks. Whereas police officers responding in these situations create a large-scale problem, CART would genuinely support and guide unhoused people.

The "defund the police" movement focuses on a revolutionary action that drastically promotes positive change in the social structures of education, legal, health care and housing systems to create a harmonious society. To do such a powerful change, alternative solutions in a suggested timeline provide a gateway for a great future. Consequently, policing is a punitive and harmful approach to homelessness that exacerbates racial, gender and class disparities. The City and County of San Francisco must provide financial support to community-based initiatives. We have effectively identified the issues, solutions, demands and conflicts around the issue of housing.

In 2016, the City launched a report depicting that "current enforcement measures are too expensive", and that the police department had "limited results from enforcing quality-of-life laws against the homeless". If the City understands police resources do not effectively contribute to its end goals, it must reevaluate its program and budget allocations. The CART Coalition profoundly knows that our program will benefit and solve many of the issues that unhoused populations endure while living in San Francisco. CART must be placed in San Francisco's Department of Public Health's behavioral health division, not Department of Emergency Management.

In 2019, a community-led coalition of service providers, nonprofits and unhoused community members designed a unique approach called CART to eliminate systemic barriers that unhoused people endure when navigating through legal, educational and housing systems. The basis of the CART proposal reengineers emergency communications, dispatch and response strategy to address the social and behavioral health needs occurring in public spaces while uplifting our unhoused neighbors. Specifically, a collective working group — Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting (CLA) — will allow for accountability between CART, Department of

Emergency Management, Street Crisis Response Team and other City departments to review call-taking and dispatch incident data on a recurring basis. CART will provide a distinctive process that fosters ethical responses to any situations concerning homeless individuals by incorporating a dedicated CART dispatch hotline and creating two different staff departments — one called Crisis Response, the other Community Engagement — that will directly engage with unhoused individuals.

The goals outlined within the CART proposal will effectively produce the following end results: "reduce police dispatches to homelessness-related quality-of-life complaints; reduce the number of individuals transported to the emergency department for low acuity medical-related issues that could instead be addressed in a pre-hospital care setting; reduce the number of behavioral health and lower acuity medical calls traditionally responded to by the Police and Fire Departments and improve outcomes for those on the streets; and reduce the number of homelessness-related calls to dispatch, in areas where the CART program's community-strengthening interventions have occurred". Spread our petition to demand that CART be implemented and let's apply pressure on Mayor Breed to immediately introduce this policy. We must #protectCARTnow and #fundCARTnow because many people will drastically benefit from it. ■

READ MORE ABOUT THE CART PLAN AT
WWW.CARTSF.ORG/OUR-PLAN

"THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE STAFFED BY HOMELESS AND FORMERLY HOMELESS PEOPLE."

- SF Resident



WRITE FOR
STREET
SHEET

This paper is unique because it is created by homeless people and advocates like you who contribute their stories, artwork, poetry, comic art, and political perspectives. Want to write or create for STREET SHEET? Visit our website for information about how to submit, or to submit something you've already created! Or you can submit any content in person at our office.

WWW.STREETSHEET.ORG/SUBMIT-YOUR-WRITING/

WHERE MANDELMAN'S SHELTER EXPANSION PLAN DOESN'T FALL INTO PLACE

By Sara Shortt

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman has been trying hard to get houseless people off the streets. But judging by his new bill, his definition of getting people off the streets does not mean getting them into housing.

For the second time in two years he is proposing legislation to the Board of Supervisors, where it will be heard first at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee on May 12. If it passes, it would put people into temporary shelter: a tent in a sanctioned camp, a cot on the floor or, if they're lucky, a "tiny house."

On March 22, Mandelman introduced his "Place for All" legislation. This is version 2.0 of the "tents for all" legislation he had tried in 2020, but did not get enough votes for. After making some changes, he decided to give it another spin. This time, rather than only providing folks with safe sleep options such as sanctioned, monitored outdoor encampments, the offers were broadened to include other forms of shelter, including some with bathrooms. However, it is essentially the same concept: people are forbidden to sleep outside even though there is no permanent housing available to them. Instead, everyone who sleeps outside will be offered a shelter spot who wants one. Of the people who accept, only 20% of them will be assigned safe sleep sites. Also, only half of the sites would require bathrooms (since this was the sticking point on the first version). Offers may include safe sleep, tiny homes, shelters, hotels or non-congregate shelters — but they do not include actual housing.

Here's how Mandelman aims to make this happen: within three months of the legislation's passage, the city's Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing will do an assessment of the need among unsheltered residents. There is no detail as to how this will be undertaken, but overall "need" is defined as the number of people who would take a shelter bed if offered to them. The latest figures from the most recent homeless point-in-time count in 2019 showed that 5,000 people were living unsheltered in San Francisco so whatever number that the department produces will be lower. The department has also claimed in some cases that 30% "reject services" so we may expect some similar pronouncement to inform this. The department would be given 36 months to develop an implementation plan and a budget of the costs of providing beds, which would be up for approval at the Board of Supervisors.

While appearing to address the critical problem of homelessness, this legislation will in fact be both ineffective and cause further harm. Here's why:

- The proposal includes no funding sources. Yet, the cost could run up to \$400 million per year based on the number of unsheltered people and the cost of a bed at shelter sites. We have a very limited pot of

money for housing and homelessness in San Francisco, a vast majority of which is from Proposition C. The measure's emphasis is on permanent solutions and for a very good reason: that is where the evidence points to as the most effective long-term solution to the problem. Mandelman's shelter legislation would create serious competition for the funds that are meant for permanent, supportive housing. This shift of monies would mean more people are served by temporary non-solutions that only kick the can down the road and fewer people would get access to the actual stable housing solutions needed to stay out of homelessness. Essentially, the very people this purports to help will suffer as their options become even more limited by a raid on the housing funds meant for them.

- Prioritizing shelter is not helpful if there is no housing for folks to move into. Shelter beds will fill up and new people will not have access to them. The idea that shelters are a place to wait while housing is built is not well thought out because shelters are neither cheaper nor faster to put in place. Housing subsidies in the private market, for example, can be put in place immediately without the need to bring in showers and bathrooms.
- Sweeps of homeless people already occur daily without an offer of shelter in SF. Another way this will hurt the very people it claims to help is through increased sweeps of encampments and forced evictions of people living on the sidewalk. Because of the *Martin v. Boise* decision, it is illegal for cities to ban people from living on sidewalks if they are not first offered housing. Under this legislation, the City would be provided a viable claim of offering a shelter option to everyone, therefore justifying the forcible clearance from their makeshift shelters. Mandelman himself has not been shy to admit this. This is clearly not just a bug in the legislation, but a feature.
- Aside from the harm that could be done by this ordinance, there are also questions of how realistic or achievable any of this proposal really is. This is why it is not hard to question whether it is all simply a stunt to demonstrate an aggressive approach in order to satisfy constituents or potential voters:
- Even if we go with Mandelman's likely low-balled estimates of the need for beds which he has put at between 1,000 to 2,000 (with no explanation of how he got there), and a cost of \$80 million to \$160 million, it seems quite impossible that we would create this many beds for homeless people within 36 months. Assuming full funding, the City has never had an easy time finding sites for shelters, supportive housing or other homeless programs! Where would the locations be for these

beds? In most neighborhoods, "not in my backyard" opposition is strong. Landlords want top dollar for their properties and the City very prudently wants to avoid overpaying for real estate. Vacant buildings suitable for shelters in areas where residents can access public transportation and services are few and far between.

- Finally, once spaces are found, who would run the shelters? Service providers are in short supply, and they face serious staffing shortages, as well as challenges with high turnover, recruitment and retention. It's not a simple task to add thousands of new beds very quickly and contract qualified and experienced organizations to run them.

What may be the biggest flaw in the proposal is the lack of housing exits. If successful, this legislation could quickly move 1,000 to 5,000 people into shelters. Eventually, every one of these people will need permanent housing or they will be back on the streets, and we will be back to exactly where we started, only with fewer resources to solve homelessness. However, San Francisco has an affordable housing shortage. While these thousands of shelter beds are being created, an equal number of permanent supportive housing units won't be magically created. As mentioned before, expansion of permanent supportive housing may in fact be seriously hampered during this time, since most resources will be diverted to enacting the legislation.

Unless this experiment is intended to be a decades-long (or even permanent) warehousing of people who need homes, there needs to be appropriate numbers of housing units available for them to exit into. We can catch a glimpse of what this might look like by examining the City's shelter-in-place (SIP) hotel program. About 2,000 were temporarily housed in SIP hotels throughout the pandemic. Yet, as hotels closed, nearly 1,000 of them had not been given units to move to permanently. The city had two years to move people into permanent supportive housing units and they were only able to house about half of them. They consistently fell well below their own goal of housing 157 per month (based on having everyone housed before closure), often being closer to 50 or 60. At this point when the last hotel is closed, 500 people will still be unplaced. These were the results when these residents were prioritized above all other unhoused people in need of housing! Imagine also competing with those on the streets, the pace would be that much slower. It is hard to believe we will have enough units, and it is hard to have any real faith in the Homelessness Department bureaucracy to ensure that thousands of people aren't stranded in shelters forever. How will this be any different? ■

Sara Shortt is director of public policy and community organizing at HomeRise, a San Francisco-based housing nonprofit organization.

STREET SHEET is currently recruiting vendors to sell the newspaper around San Francisco. Vendors pick up the papers for free at our office in the Tenderloin and sell them for \$2 apiece at locations across the City. You get to keep all the money they make from sales. Earn extra income while also helping elevate the voices of the homeless writers who make this paper so unique, and promoting the vision of a San Francisco where every human being has a home.

TO SIGN UP, VISIT OUR OFFICE AT 280 TURK ST FROM 10-4 ON MONDAY-THURSDAY AND 10-NOON ON FRIDAY

OVERSIGHT PANEL PROPOSES HOMELESSNESS SPENDING IN SF BUDGET

By Ian James

Rental assistance for 2,000 households, seven street crisis response teams, and over 1,400 units of permanent supportive housing for adults, families and youth are some of the highlights from draft recommendations for the city's Our City, Our Home (OCOH) fund, which were presented on April 21 and 22 by the OCOH Oversight Committee.

The OCOH fund, required under Proposition C, was created by San Francisco voters in 2018 to fund permanent solutions to homelessness. The fund raises over \$300 million per year through a tax on gross corporate revenue.

The draft recommendations total \$320.9 million in the upcoming 2023 fiscal year, and \$311.4 million in FY 2024. This includes \$185 million for adult housing, \$53.2 for family housing and \$180.9 million for mental health services across the two years. The draft recommendations will be reviewed by the OCOH oversight committee, which will then

submit the final recommendations to the mayor's office. In turn, the mayor's office will release its own plan for the OCOH fund on June 1 as part of the city's draft budget, which is then subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Other recommendations that the oversight committee members highlighted included funding for behavioral health and clinical health services in 2,000 units of permanent supportive housing and \$16.6 million for overdose prevention services.

Issues with several of the draft recommendations revolved around the question of whether the recommendation was funding new, permanent solutions to homelessness, which is required under City law. One example was a recommendation for the OCOH fund to establish a ratio of one case manager for every 25 clients across San Francisco's permanent supportive housing system. Although oversight committee members agreed on the need

for smaller caseloads, they questioned whether the OCOH fund should be used to hire case managers in buildings acquired with non-OCOH funds.

Another bone of contention was the allocation of \$17.5 million for the acquisition of a behavioral health access and drop-in center.

This fiscal year, 2022, was the first year that OCOH funds were made available for the addition of permanent housing for over 2,000 adult households, 300 families, and 300 youth households, as well as 132 treatment beds for drug sobering, mental health residential, and managed alcohol treatment.

Members of the public can join monthly meetings of the OCOH oversight committee on the fourth Thursday of every month at 9 am. (<https://sf.gov/public-body/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee>) ■

Coalition on Homelessness Mothers Day Action

DON'T WAIT UNTIL WE BREAK

May 4th, 2022 12-2 PM

San Francisco City Hall

DREAM



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

A STORY ON POVERTY

By Brianna Destiny

Perhaps many people dream of being born in California, but for me, it wasn't such a stroke of luck. Born first in a family of five, I had to take up responsibilities pretty early. My parents did not have the best jobs, and we lived a hand-to-mouth life. As if that was not enough bad luck, we lost our dad when I was 19 years old. This was the lowest point of our lives, and my mum was devastated. We all were. My mum and I, the only adults in the family, had no idea where to begin taking care of my siblings. Since my mum was now the only source of income, I had to drop out of school and help raise the rest.

I could barely sleep, as I tried to gather myself together and come up with a plan that would help us out in this situation. That's when I was introduced to Mason, who was known in town for his wealth, though the source of his wealth was not known to us. He promised to give me a job that would get me out

of this abject squalor. I thought this was the moment, and I grabbed the chance without thinking about what I was getting myself into. According to Mason, the job description was being a good host and "taking care" of his guests. That didn't sound bad at all—at least that's what I thought.

The news of my new job was well received at home, considering the amount I was being paid just to host. The day came and I reported to work on my first day. I met Mason at a very well-furnished apartment that I had never seen before. I was introduced to ten other ladies who were my colleagues. This wasn't bad at all: I was not alone. We were taken through the house's rooms, and also the rules. Our first batch of clients was to come in that evening and we had to be prepared and well dressed to receive them. The bar was well stocked and the lights were dim, and that's when I realized this was a party. We did our job as advised and

everything was going on well.

Hours later in the night, Mason called one of my colleagues and left with her, and she didn't come back. Then he called me next, and showed me to one of the rooms. A man was waiting for me, and Mason just ordered me to make him happy. That's when I realized this was a brothel, and I had just been turned into a sex worker, not a host. The man did all sorts of things to me and I just couldn't stop him, because I needed the money. I thought this was illegal business in the United States. I asked myself why it was happening. This went on for days, weeks, months, and years and I could not get myself out of it. I was sleeping with at least five men a night, and business was booming for Mason and us. My life had changed for the better, although not although not very much.

One night, when I was on my off day, the business was raided by the

authorities. I was lucky not to have been arrested with the rest, but this was bad news: Our only source of income had been closed down. The ladies I thought were my colleagues had been trafficked from outside the U.S. and forced to work for Mason. They had been threatened to stay silent, and this is what kept us all in darkness over what was going on. I learned from one of my clients that Mason and his accomplices were charged with sex trafficking and the operation of an illegal sex den with unwilling ladies.

Through that same client, I was able to secure a job and continued to take care of my family and myself. I would not wish this kind of desperation on anyone else. Poverty is real and it makes people do the unthinkable. I am living proof of this. I wish the U.S. government could work something out and come up with a plan to take care of people living on and below the poverty line. ■

WHAT JUSTICE DOES (AND DOESN'T) LOOK LIKE

By Amy Neelam

What is the true meaning of justice? Justice is a concept of moral rightness based on ethics, rationality, law, natural law, religion, or equity. It is also the act of being just and/or fair. This is a concept that is currently not being observed in regards to gender, age, and sexuality—especially toward members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community worldwide. At some point we have all seen, heard, or read stories about mistreatment, and unequal or unjust treatment based on sexuality. It's so disturbing to see criminal and homophobic acts that sometimes go unpunished. THIS IS NOT JUSTICE!!

It is sad to see that in some countries, such as Uganda, being a member of the LGBTQ community is deemed a crime, yet leaders speak of justice day in and day out. Activists have been victims of abduction, assault, and execution for speaking out. It is time the global community came to realize that it is OK to be different, and that we are part of the same world and deserve the same human rights as everybody else. The trauma that comes with stigmatization is real, and causes so many mental health issues. In some countries, police put people in prison, torture and even kill them for no reason at all apart from the fact that they are gay or trans. THIS IS NOT JUSTICE!!

Being a transwoman has not been easy for me, especially since I faced discrimination starting in my own household. I lacked support from my family and had to run away from home, thinking the world outside was a safer place to be. That has not been the case. I have been through physical, verbal, and emotional abuse, and life-threatening situations that left me wondering about the

kind of a world we are living in. It is crazy that people hate us for expressing our sexuality, which is different from theirs in a special way. I have been abandoned by friends that I thought would be part of my life forever for being different. THIS IS NOT JUSTICE!!

The situation gets worse when you are both a member of the LGBTQ community and also a person of color. The inequity that is openly condemned still stretches to access to services in various offices, restaurants, and social gatherings. Discrimination and hate that is clearly seen all over social media platforms goes unaddressed and unpunished. Why are the numbers representing the LGBTQ community in international sports so low? It is crazy to see this injustice in places that provide essential services, like schools and hospitals, where you find doctors and nurses that will not attend to you simply because you are either gay or black. THIS IS NOT JUSTICE!!

On a positive note, I would like to thank the government for a job well done. Most U.S. states and other countries have come up with rules that protect members of the LGBTQ community and also people of color against any kind of discrimination. I would also like to recognize the efforts of various global organizations that work day and night to eradicate these unjust practices. I do not know when it will happen, but am looking forward to the moment when we shall all embrace each other as one regardless of race, color, religion, and sexuality. That moment when we can all dine or have a cup of coffee at any restaurant of our choice without being looked down upon. THAT IS JUSTICE!!

STREET SPEAK PODCAST



www.streetsheet.org/street-speak-podcast/

NYC’S SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TENANTS HAVE A BILL OF RIGHTS. WHY CAN’T SF’S HAVE THE SAME?

By Jordan Davis

In late 2021, the #30RightNow campaign concluded when all the permanent supportive housing tenants in buildings under the Department of Public Health were transitioned to a 30% rent standard. At the same time on the other side of the country, another campaign led by and for supportive housing tenants was wrapping up a legislative push. In December 2021, the New York City Council passed the Supportive Housing Tenants Bill of Rights, which would later be signed by the mayor. The proposal, in a nutshell, would require supportive housing providers to inform tenants of their rights while living in supportive housing, including eviction protections. The lead organization was Supportive Housing Organized and United Tenants (SHOUT), a 15-member group of supportive housing tenants in every borough except Staten Island who were united by poor treatment by non-profit housing providers, as well as difficulties in even getting placed in housing. Now, the tenants in SHOUT have been meeting with the city about implementation and had a major retreat to discuss where they will go from here.

“SHOUT was able to pass two pieces of legislation at the end of last year, after months of organizing,” says Craig Hughes, a social worker with the Safety Net Project of the Urban Justice Center, a non-profit advocacy organization in New York. “The legislation is largely

reflective of our demands—despite significant efforts by City bureaucrats and supportive housing landlords and providers to squash or significantly water down the bills—because supportive housing tenants demanded that be the case and were deeply involved in the final bills that were voted on.”

I reached out to Jenny Akchin, a lawyer for the policy research non-profit Take Root Justice who assisted in the campaign, to arrange a Zoom meeting between alumni of the #30RightNow campaign and SHOUT members, to share information and inspiration. The meeting happened in February, and it was a very fruitful discussion. One of the major takeaways was that people who live in permanent supportive housing are not recognized as tenants, instead as “residents” or even the problematic term, “clients.” In fact, the #30RightNow legislation does not even use the term “tenant,” instead opting for “clients.”

Words matter, and in order to seek the housing justice that we supportive housing tenants deserve, we need for people to understand that we are tenants and we deserve rights. Another major takeaway was the similarity between our cities in terms of housing crises and the way homeless people are treated. There was a lot of resonance when I was describing various issues with supportive housing. One

major commonality is misinformation throughout the process of getting and keeping housing.

One NYC supportive housing tenant who was featured in press around the legislation, Kat Corbell, is a former San Franciscan who moved to New York and was misled every step of the way—even being told that her emotional support animal wasn’t allowed, in violation of various disability rights laws. Another commonality is infantilizing policies around rent payment and visitors, which was touched on in testimony from a New York-based organization called Coalition for the Homeless, which is similarly named but not related to the San Francisco-based Coalition on Homelessness.

There are also some differences between our two campaigns and two cities as it relates to homelessness and supportive housing. While San Francisco’s Supportive Housing Providers Network supported #30RightNow and was a proud signatory and major partner, New York City’s network was not, and worked against the tenants. While it is great when supportive housing providers support tenant issues, we cannot depend on them for every fight, and we must not be afraid to challenge power. Another major issue in New York City is that tenants are pressured to move into shared apartments rather than individual units as a cost-cutting


measure, even though there is significant scattered-site supportive housing spread throughout the city. While that may not necessarily be an issue in San Francisco right now, we need to get ahead of any situations that might occur.

So, the \$64,000 question is: Can the success of NYC SHOUT be replicated here in San Francisco? To answer this question, let’s take a look at both our city governments. New York City has ten times the population of San Francisco, with a city council almost five times larger than the Board of Supervisors. The legislation also passed unanimously, a major feat considering that several New York City Republicans and Democrats are considerably more conservative than their counterparts here in SF. In addition, the legislation in New York City does not confer new rights to tenants, but informs them of their rights and makes disclosures concerning the funding and administration of the supportive housing site.

A few other supportive housing tenants and I are looking at similar legislation here in San Francisco and we are hoping to not only make it easier for supportive housing tenants to know their rights, but we wish also to address issues around infantilizing policies and the lack of protections. To get involved, please email us at 30rightnow@gmail.com or sfhtunion@gmail.com. ■

Free School 2022


Hone your organizing skills with five free workshops



Fridays from 12-2 PM

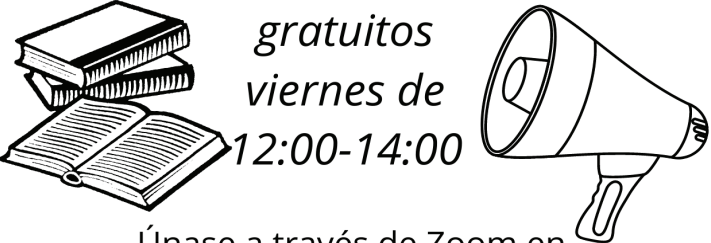
Join via Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/88072742816 or call in at +16699009128,,88072742816#

- 4.15 - Meeting Facilitation
- 4.22 - Community Organizing and Base Building
- 4.29 - Messaging and Social Media
- 5.13 - San Francisco Resources: Navigating the System
- 5.20 - Trauma Informed Leadership



Escuela Solidaria 2022


Perfeccione sus habilidades de organización con cinco talleres gratuitos



viernes de 12:00-14:00

Únase a través de Zoom en us02web.zoom.us/j/88072742816 o llamar al +16699009128,,88072742816#

- 4.15 - Facilitación de Reuniones
- 4.22 - Organización Comunitaria y Desarrollo de Lideres
- 4.29 - Mensajes y Redes Sociales
- 5.13 - Como Navegar el Sistema y sus Recursos en SF
- 5.20 - Liderazgo en Situaciones de Trauma



HOME

BY ROBERT GUMPERT

What does Home mean to you?
“Texas, that’s where I’m from, I miss Texas big time.”

Why are you at Rankin and Islais Creek? “It’s by water. Something about the water that reminds me of home.”

“Here lately it’s (a typical day) been about getting my license back. In order to do that they’re are things I have to do - I have to enroll in a DUI class. I have go and figure some way to make money to pay for my insurance, the fines and stuff. I keep myself busy working on peoples’ cars when I can, when they’ll let me. I do some welding, I have a welder. I do plumbing, do building maintenance, if I can find a place to do little odd jobs. Whatever it takes.”

[Hardest thing about living on the street is] “having to deal with the way that people look at you. And treat you.”

“I’m almost to the point that I’m going to be like that [service resistant]. If it’s like the “shelter in

place” hotel that they put me in, I don’t want that. If you’re going to be treated like a child, I don’t want no part of it. You know I’m 55 years old, that’ll come soon enough on its own. (I just want) someplace normal, someplace you can be normal.”

“I’m not going to be treated like a child, period. You’re going to respect me and speak to me the way I speak to you. Why should it be any different just because I’m without a home? It happens to people, more and more here lately.”

“I’m not trying to be picky. A roof, four walls, some privacy, and a shower. My own shower.”

“Someplace that you don’t have to check into and have your guests check into. I’m still hoping that I’ll find the right “girl”, get married. You can’t do that in an SRO [single room occupancy].”

“Just someplace normal.”

Kurt Shuptrine has lived in his car “pretty much for 11 years”



Name: Kurt Shuptrine, 55 Date: 23 March 2022 Place: Rankin Street and Islais Creek Homeless: About 11 years

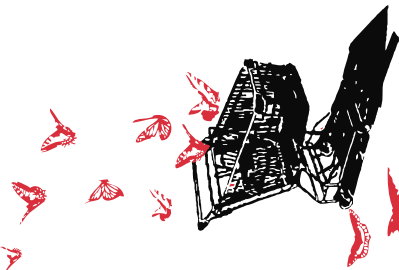
Find more at www.robertgumpert.com

© 2022 Robert Gumpert taptas.com gumpert@ix.netcom.com

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
streetsheetsf@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

www.gofundme.com/f/in-celebration-of-life-for-andrea-mayfield



www.gofundme.com/f/in-celebration-of-life-for-andrea-mayfield