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STREET SHEET

- GIVING KITCHEN SEEKS VOLUNTEERS 2
- SRO ADVOCATES FIGHT CONVERSIONS, DEFEND HOUSING 3
- WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO PROP C? AN UPDATE 4
- FOOD NOT BOMBS CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF DIRECT ACTION 6
- SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR, BLACK HISTORY MONTH 7



Pete Railand
Justseeds.org



STREET SPEAK

Episode 2: What is an Encampment Sweep?

What happens when enough 311 complaints come in and the city decides to clear out a community of people? What happens to their belongings? And importantly, with over a thousand people on the shelter waitlist, where are people supposed to go? The new episode of our podcast Street Speak answers the question, what is an encampment sweep?

Listen to this episode on Spotify or visit our website our website
www.streetsheet.org/street-speak-podcast/

SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: AS OF FEBRUARY 15TH THERE ARE 1,049 SINGLE ADULTS ON THE WAITLIST FOR SHELTER IN SAN FRANCISCO

all the brothers are ghosts & all their ghosts are doves

A. A. Vincent

All the brothers are empty branches, dove-broken
One gave his wings to the ground below
Another sobbed himself into the buds of an early grave
& he? the bark he peeled always came back to strangle
A 5th saw the sun quarter his roots into a dead legacy
& they say that the weighting & waiting did him in
I asked a pine stump if the shiny rot of survival will end us all

All the brothers are disappeared graves flying around
One stores his hope in the cracks of a piss-washed sidewalk
& one fills his arms with all the noise of the lives driving above him
Another hides his secrets in pockets of night-bottles
& it was heard of him that the morning finally ran out of his heart
& 'bout him? the others couldn't call him back to himself, wing-smashed
& 7th said his gates won't open for his brain anymore
They are floating somewhere unanchored & accustomed to it

All the brothers are soiled doves of a furious aberration
One said he was told his body is an altercation of disease
Another carries his shelled carcass to a daily shadow for peace
A 3rd eats stale food & the pitted scent of refuse
& the bubbling soles of that one can't keep going
& his begging can't restore the height from which they trapped him
A dove captured between the playing wires
The suffocation encloses the body & breath
& the reward for living is sometimes nothing

CHABAD GIVING KITCHEN SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Our Mission:
Through the power of giving we nourish, educate, and empower those in need and those who want to make a difference.

The Chabad Giving Kitchen, a community based, non-denominational Giving Project, prepares and serves meals to the residents of the Sixth Street corridor of S. Francisco's Tenderloin. Personal hygiene supplies, and clothing are also provided. The all-volunteer force gains meaningful experiences through the act of preparing and serving these meals. The kitchen is certified Kosher.

The Sixth Street corridor is home to the homeless and otherwise marginalized members of S. Francisco's community, many of whom have not been looked at eye to eye by another human being in a long time. The Giving Kitchen offers food, supplies and acceptance to those in short supply of all three.

Giving Kitchen, in turn, offers the more privileged members of S. Francisco's community the opportunity to participate firsthand in feeding, clothing and comforting their neighbors who need it most. Last year we provided over 2500 meals and hygiene kits. We also partner with groups that support victims of domestic violence.

Through giving you receive:
We offer a safe, non judgemental environment where people from all walks of life can connect by cooking food. Feeding people is the positive end result, but the journey of how the meal was made is just as important.

The Giving Kitchen under Chabad S Francisco a non profit 501 c3 #94-3003612 Tax deductible organization.

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STRONG!



SCAN ME

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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 agenda to us.

WANT TO GET
INVOLVED?

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

PHOTOGRAPHERS &
VIDEOGRAPHERS &
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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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WORKGROUP MEETINGS

HOUSING JUSTICE WORK GROUP
Every Tuesday at noon

AT 280 TURK STREET

HUMAN RIGHTS WORK GROUP
Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO OUR WORK GROUP MEETINGS.
Our new office has an elevator for anyone who can not use the stairs. Simply call up and someone will come escort you.

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings,
contact us at : 415-346-3740, or go at : www.cohsf.org



496 Natoma (at Sixth St)
San Francisco, CA 94103

Next Giving Kitchen Events: Feb 27 & 28
Email: GivingKitchen@chabadsf.org
Or call: 415-987-8355

TOUGH LOVE, A SAN FRANCISCO VALENTINE

Brian Edwards

PAGE 3 FEB 15, 2020

STREET
SOUND

THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS & HOSPITALITY HOUSE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Tracey Mixon

*Roses are red
Violets are blue
Mohammed Nuru sucks,
Sweeps do, too*

Mayor London Breed has talked a lot lately about taking a ‘tough love’ approach when addressing the needs of San Francisco’s homeless population. It’s an odd, shitty, and shameful attitude for a city to take towards those whom life has already been toughest to, but it’s nothing new. In 2016, one week before Christmas, then-mayor Ed Lee called for a ‘tough love’ approach to homelessness, including prosecution of sit-lie laws. In the Spring of 2018, during a SoMa press conference in which he threw the City’s robust and successful needle exchange and HIV/HCV prevention services under the bus, interim Mayor Mark Farrell said that San Francisco had gone from being ‘compassionate to enabling,’ while also calling for - wait for it - ‘tough love.’

*Roses are red
Violets are expensive
When asked about sweeps
Breed gets defensive*

Mayor Breed may talk about having a ‘Bold Approach to Homelessness,’ but there’s nothing bold about being tough on African-Americans, folks with disabilities, LGBTQ youth, or any of the other vulnerable folks who are over-

represented in San Francisco’s homeless population. The single adult shelter waitlist has been at 900+ people for months now, while the average in 2019 was over 1000. For the thousands of San Franciscans forced to sleep outside, tough love = tough shit.

*Roses are dark
Lilacs are pale
Give up your tent
Or you’ll go to jail*

While brooms across San Francisco are at half mast mourning the recent loss of disgraced Public Works chief Mohammed ‘Colin’ Nuru, the City continues to violate the human rights of its unhoused residents with encampment sweeps. Residents of encampments are dislocated by SFPD and DPW sweep crews every day, but weeks can go by without ever seeing members of the Homeless Outreach Team. These sweeps, coordinated through the Healthy Streets Operation Center, often result in repeated confiscation and destruction of any and all personal property — including vehicles, tents and other shelter, survival gear and life-saving medications — as well as citations and arrests. That’s what ‘tough love’ looks like in a city where over 80 police officers are tasked with responding to homelessness, and the Homeless Outreach Team only has 40 members.

*Roses are flowers
Daisies are, too
It’s 1:30am
Where can I poo?*

‘Tough love’ has been a phrase used by thirty years of mayors and elected officials when talking about homelessness in San Francisco. It’s a cute phrase, and allows politicians to ignore the underlining systemic housing and public health issues, and instead make a ‘tough on crime’ speech, as if homelessness is a problem that society can arrest and prosecute its way out of. San Francisco has more anti-homeless laws on the books than any other municipality in California - if criminalisation worked, it would have worked by now. HSH Director Jeff Kositsky said in a December 2019 interview with the SF Chronicle, ‘Law enforcement doesn’t work anyway for solving homelessness,’ but Mayor Breed became the latest mayor to start trumpeting ‘tough love’ in January of 2020. SFPD and DPW play the lead role in the City’s daily interventions with unhoused residents, shelter capacity is insufficient and heavily waitlisted, and with only approximately 500 housing exits available each year, thousands of San Franciscans end up spending years on the streets as the victims of City ‘tough love’ campaigns. In the case of San Francisco, love stinks.

The Coalition on Homelessness and Hospitality House will be having a Black History month celebration. This year’s theme is the displacement of African Americans in San Francisco. Please join us for soul food and share your stories. We will also be lobbying our leaders in City Hall to let them know how displacement has affected us and to demand changes.

Many African Americans came to San Francisco during and after World War II, settling in the Fillmore district and Bayview-Hunters Point. These areas saw a dramatic decrease in the African American population due to city officials targeting these areas as a “blight.” These were communities that had black owned businesses and homeowners.

Over the years, the population in San Francisco has gone from 1% in 1940 to 13.4% in 1970. As of 2019, the African American population is now 5.3 %. The homeless count for African Americans is 37%. The smallest population in this city is the most housing insecure.

This event will be held on Thursday, February 20 at 11 a.m. at the Coalition on Homelessness, located at 280 Turk St.-2nd floor. We look forward to having you here. We will have an open mic for folks to speak about their personal stories of eviction, displacement and Black San Francisco. I will be speaking about my family history in the city I was born and raised in, the same city which so often pushes me and people who look like me out. ■

A BIRD

Tracy Istas

A bird is not a bronze plate
set into the sidewalk
which will outlast the concrete
into which it is set

Seldom do you see a bird by looking at the
ground

A bird is not a poster on a bus
No matter how artistically represented
Or aesthetically pleasing


Seldom do you see a bird on public transit
Well - except pigeons sometimes

No - A bird is light made substance
The wind incarnate - freedom
A bird is the life of heaven above
Tangible dreaming
Limitless possibility

-2017

THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS
CELEBRATES...

BLACK HISTORY MONTH!



JOIN US FOR SOUL FOOD AND TO
SHARE YOUR STORIES OF EVICTION AND
HOMELESSNESS, WHICH DESTROY OUR
COMMUNITIES. WE CAN MAKE THE CITY
DO BETTER BY AFRICAN AMERICANS.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

MEET AT 11AM AT THE COALITION
(280 TURK ST.)

MORE INFO? CALL: 415-346-3740

CITY TAX RESTRUCTURE THREATENS HOMELESS FUNDING: AN UPDATE ON THE 2018 PROPOSITION C OUR CITY OUR HOME MEASURE

Olivia Glowacki

It's been over a year since the 2018 Proposition C - Our City Our Home - was passed with 62% of voter support. The measure, which taxes the wealthiest corporations in San Francisco with income over \$50 million an average of one-half a percent, will garner around \$300 million for homelessness every year. However, none of the money can be spent as the measure is held up in a hotly contested lawsuit.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, along with the California Business Roundtable and California Properties Business Association, sued the City over Proposition C, arguing that the measure needed a two-thirds majority because the measure institutes new taxes. However, the City Attorney, Dennis Herrera has argued against this, citing the court case, California Cannabis Coalition vs City of Upland which details that if a measure for new taxes is put on by the public citizens and not the City government, said measure only needs a simple majority- or 50% plus one vote. Since this is the case with Prop C - Our City Our Home - the measure should be upheld.

As of now, the measure won in the first court case in the San Francisco Superior Court, but is being challenged by the opposition. The facts of our case are clear. While Prop. C had wide political support from Nancy Pelosi and Dianne Feinstein as well as seven Supervisors, it also had opposition from key political leaders like Mayor London Breed and Senator Scott Weiner. Our City Our Home was crafted by homeless people, the service providers who serve them, and other concerned San Franciscans. Anubis Daughtery, a formerly homeless person said, "I worked on the Prop C campaign because I thought it would be beneficial for homeless people- I was homeless for six years and thought it would be a good use of my time. Prop C was different because it came from the Coalition on Homelessness. It didn't come from a politician. Historically when it comes to homelessness and homeless issues, politicians have adversely affected said issues, and Prop C was better because it came from people who knew better, it came from what homeless people wanted."

The City this year is planning to restructure the Gross Receipts Tax which was first revised in 2011.

There are seven schedules in which businesses fall into, like retail, finance, and technology. These schedules all have different tax rates and at first, the City was doing guesswork with how to vary each schedule's tax. In our 2018 Prop C, we added a tax bracket for income over \$50 million, which was previously capped at \$25 million. It's unclear as to what the City will propose in November this year, but they could consider adopting the \$50 million tax bucket we instituted. As City supervisors and various other officials rework the tax, Prop C funding becomes exposed and vulnerable to city electeds who wish to supplant the money for other causes, or not honor the baseline of \$300 million.

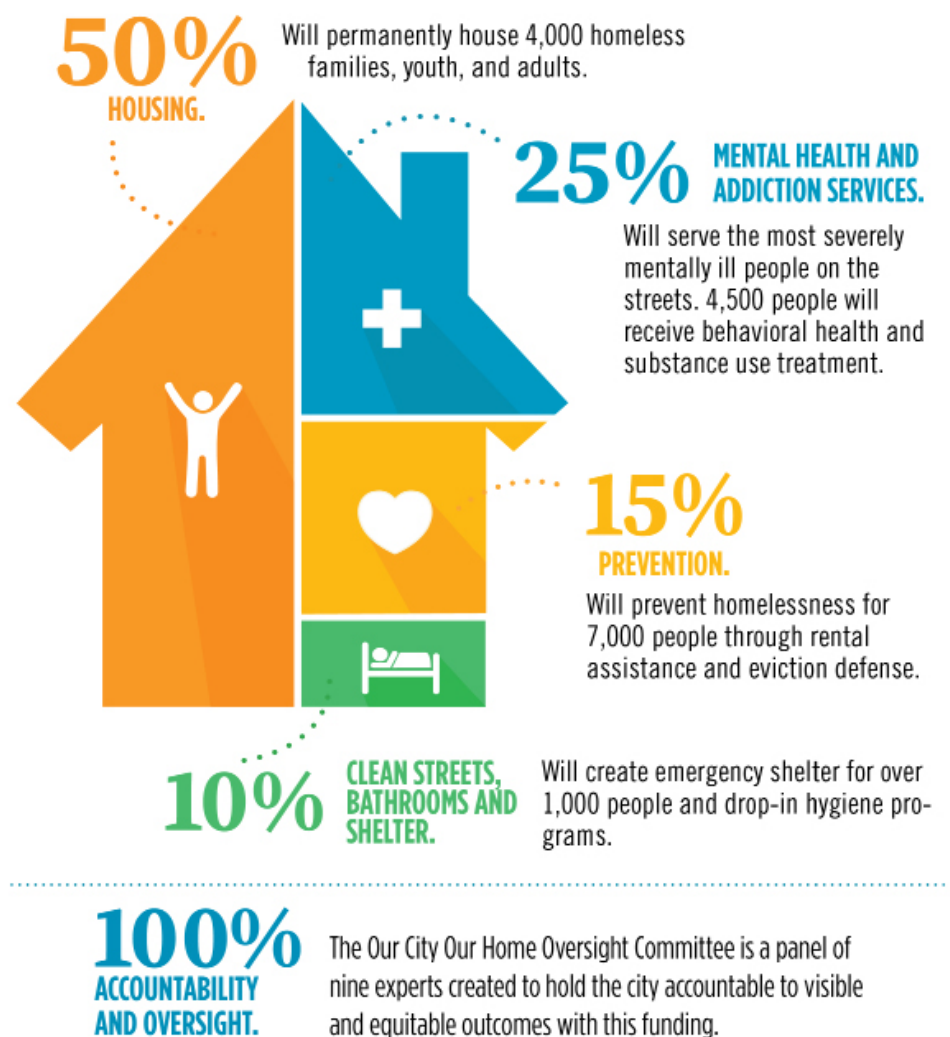
To protect Prop C., we at the Coalition on Homelessness alongside the early childhood educators who passed what we affectionately call "baby" Prop. C., a tax to expand child care services and increase wages for teachers, have been preemptively meeting with City Supervisors to have them sign on to a pledge which states they will not supplant or decrease Prop C funds. Before this pledge ever reached the desk of a Supervisor, we had dozens of community groups and individual political activists endorse our pledge, further demonstrating the people power we collectively hold; the same people power that passed Prop C in the first place. Here is the pledge:

Sign the Our City Our Home Pledge
Not a Penny Less for Homelessness!

We, a Big Tent Coalition of Concerned San Francisco groups and individuals urge you to sign this pledge:

1. Honor the Voter's Wishes - Not a Penny Less for Homelessness
2. Nothing About Us Without Us - No deals without Our City Our Home Coalition agreement.
3. Pay for it by taxing big corporations.
4. Honor the Spending Priorities in OCOH
5. Embrace the Proven Effective Strategies laid out in OCOH
6. No reduction in the role of oversight body in OCOH
7. Protect and Preserve the baseline funding for homeless services in OCOH

I Pledge to honor the above principles.



This pledge was endorsed by the following organizations:

Affordable Housing Alliance
AFT 2121
Bevan Dufty, District 9
Bill Soro Housing Program
Causa Justa Just Cause
Coalition on Homelessness
Community Housing Partnership
Council of Community Housing Organizations
David Campos, San Francisco Democratic Party Chair
Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing
Democratic Socialists of America, San Francisco Homelessness Working Group
Do No Harm Coalition
Haight Ashbury Merchants Association
Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club
Hospitality House
Indivisible SF
John Avalos, Former D11 Supervisor
Lateefah Simon, District 7
National Union of Healthcare Workers
Roma Guy, LGBT and Women's Rights Activist
San Francisco Berniecrats
San Francisco Labor Council
San Francisco Tenants Union
Senior and Disability Action
St. Anthony's

Supportive Housing Providers Network
Tenderloin Chinese Rights Association
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC)
Tenderloin People's Congress
Tom Ammiano, Former California State Assemblymember
Treatment on Demand Coalition
Western Regional Advocacy Project

Further, the following supervisors have signed on to the pledge: Yee, Fewer, Haney, Mar, Safai, Ronen, and Preston. While we are still meeting with some elected officials, we strongly urge all Supervisors and the Mayor to honor the will of the voters and uphold Prop C as it was written. On Tuesday March 11th, members of the Coalition on Homelessness hand delivered a letter to Mayor Breed urging her to sign onto the pledge. She can do right by the voters of San Francisco and promise to keep the Our City Our Home funding whole. To further emphasize the importance of preserving the Our City Our Home funding, we will be hosting a rally at City Hall on Tuesday March 10th at 12 noon on the steps of City Hall, demanding the pledge be signed by any Supervisors or the Mayor in the event they refused or haven't signed on. It's important to recognize the power we have when we come together, and now more than ever, we need to unite to preserve Prop C! ■

SAVE OUR SROS, SAVE OUR HOMES!

Curtis Bradford, Long-time Community Organizer and Affordable Housing Advocate from the Tenderloin Community.

San Francisco is facing a serious housing affordability crisis. We can all agree to that fact and I'm sure it doesn't come as a surprise to hear. With homelessness increasing by 15-30% last year depending on who you talk to, and the cost of rental housing at an all-time high, everyone in San Francisco is feeling the effects of the crisis. So why, given the level of suffering we see on our streets every day, would the Planning Commission be considering granting the owner of 68 desperately needed Single Room Occupancy Residential units a conversion to turn them into upscale tourist hotel rooms?

But that's just what Mr. Mosser is asking for at his property at 54 Fourth Street in downtown San Francisco. With folks sleeping on the sidewalk, 68 SRO units have been left empty while Mosser seeks the conversion. And more are to follow. Other private SRO landlords are waiting in the wings to follow Mosser down this road of profit over people. The SRO Conversion law only allows the conversion of empty SRO units giving landlords a real incentive to leave

SROs vacant with the delayed payoff of converting them to tourist rooms. Of course the law also requires landlords to replace the units with equivalent units somewhere else or pay a fee to the city equal to 80% of the cost to replace those units. Money that could later be used for affordable housing.

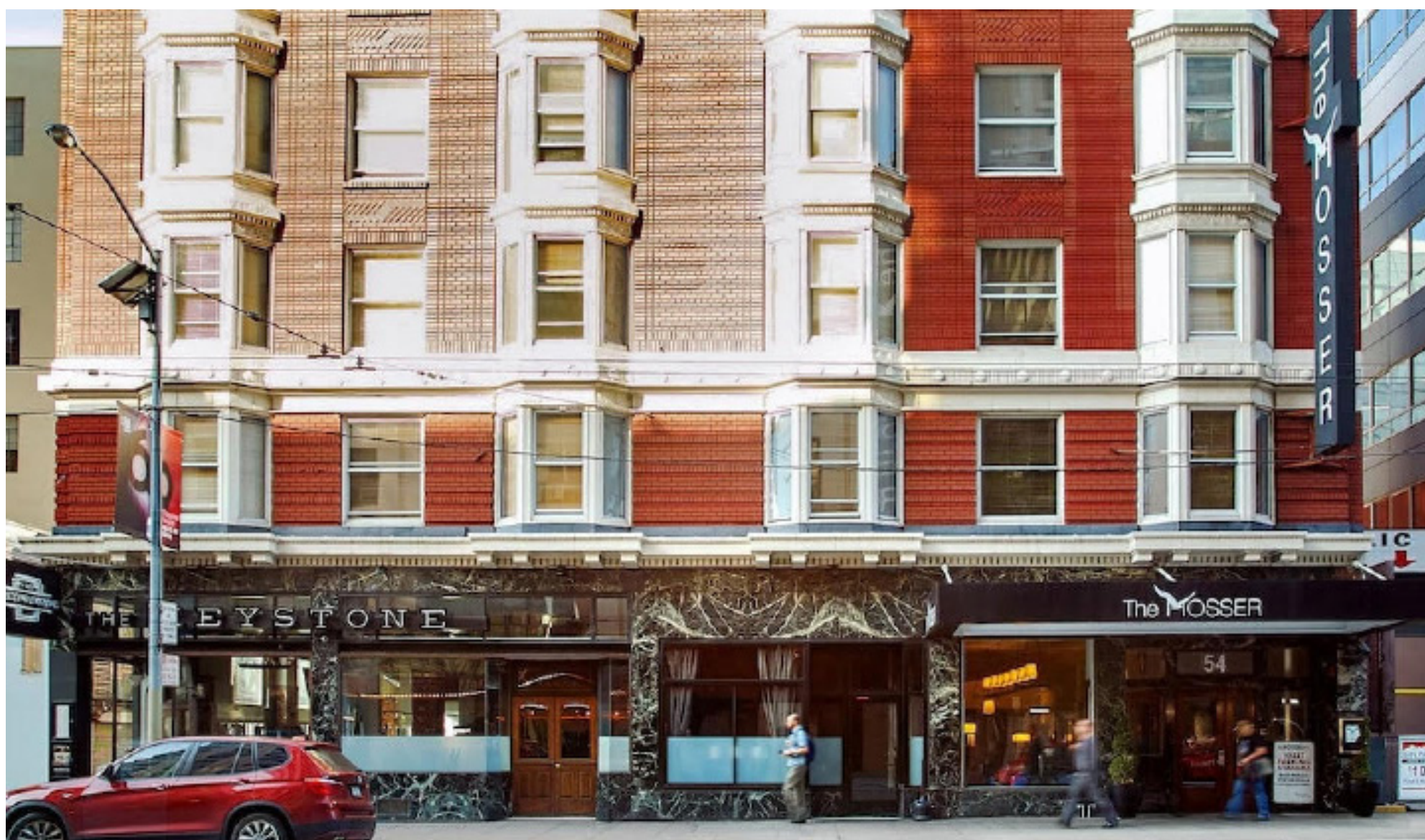
But there's a problem with that plan. The replacement units may or may not be built. Mosser, for example, is only planning on paying a fee rather than actually creating any new units. And once SROs are gone they are actually never replaced with the same kind of low-income SRO housing that the most vulnerable among us once counted on for housing. Newer, upscale SRO or micro-units may be built at "affordable" levels, but they are not affordable to the people who have historically occupied our SRO housing in the City. And those new units are always more expensive than existing SROs. The current proposal by Mr. Mosser, which will be heard at the Planning Commission in March, has kept 68 SRO residential units vacant for a year or more already and wouldn't actually build or replace these units once converted. Meanwhile, people

are literally forced to sleep on the sidewalk in the alley next to that very same building. Clearly for some people, profits are more important than people. San Francisco, once we lose our lowest income units like our SROs, there is no way to actually ever build or replace those units. They are gone for good. And so are the people that once lived in them. We can do better San Francisco. And we owe much better to the people we have forced to live on the street next to Mr. Mosser's building.

The Planning Department itself has been working on a "Community Stabilization Plan" with recommendations aimed at reducing displacement and protecting SRO and other low-income housing. It includes suggestions like a Vacancy Tax on all empty rental units to reduce the incentive to leave units empty similar to the Vacancy tax planned for vacant commercial spaces. Of course to determine what's empty and what's not, a Rental Registry would be required to be created so that the City would actually know what kind of housing we have available in the City, where it is located and how much it costs. Currently, we have no idea. But neither the Rental Registry nor the

Vacancy Tax on housing units has gained much momentum and doesn't seem likely anytime in the short-term.

But we do know that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of empty SRO units in the City right now. And thousands of people without a home. One shortage we currently don't have is tourist hotel rooms. Yes, tourist rooms have high occupancy rates in San Francisco. We are a popular tourist destination. But with AirBnB and other platforms competing for the same tourists, I don't see the likelihood of any tourists not being able to find a place on any given night. But we don't have enough low-income housing. And thousands of San Francisco residents are unable to find a place every night. So exchanging our SROs for tourist rooms is not only counter-productive and utterly unnecessary, I believe it's also inhumane and immoral. I for one will be at the Planning Commission in March to tell them "No Way" for the conversions of our SRO's to tourist rooms. If we don't stop this here, many more SRO buildings will follow and the suffering on our streets will continue to get worse. ■



FOOD NOT BOMBS:

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF DIRECT ACTION

Keith McHenry

"This cause is a great cause and we're tired of being treated like dirt. We're not, we're human beings. We bleed just like you and we're good people. We need a safe place and this is a safe place right here." - Deseire Quintero

Volunteers with Santa Cruz Food Not Bombs wait outside what had been a large homeless camp that welcomed visitors for over one half year. Residents of the camp led by former CalFire firefighter Deseire Quintero helped draft and file the federal lawsuit, *Quintero v. City of Santa Cruz*, to block the eviction of the camp in April 2019 but federal judge Edward Davila believed the City's claim that everyone would be provided shelter and ruled the camp could be closed. On May 3, Deseire was evicted into the streets with hundreds of others and made camp in a forest park on the edge of town, and a few months later the Diablo winds crushed the tiny 55-year old Santa Cruz Homeless Union officer, killing her while warning a neighboring camp of the danger.

Deseire's death inspired her friends to take direct action. Those who had made Ross Camp home during those cold rainy months plotted to retake the vacant land owned by the City of Santa Cruz and Caltrans. The former residence started to arrive with their survival gear as planned passed through a breach in the Caltrans fence and set up tents. The lock on the gated entrance to the site was removed and a welcoming desk was placed inside. Food Not Bombs ordered a portable toilet compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a standard Port-a-Potty and a hand washing station which

were delivered the next day. A self-managed transitional camp grew from the ashes of Deseire taking the name of Camp Phoenix. Nearly half the Santa Cruz police force came five days later and forced the peaceful woman-led camp to close.

But that was not the end of the struggle. Food Not Bombs and California Union of the Homeless and its locals, like the Santa Cruz Homeless Union, continued to fight back against the growing attacks on those unable to afford housing. State and federal officials are promoting a plan to force all those who live outside into government facilities and camps under a program called "A Right to Shelter and Obligation to Accept It," claiming there is "no civil right to sleep on the street."

Food Not Bombs started in Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 24, 1980, by eight young anarchists and has grown from those humble beginnings to over 1,000 autonomous chapters in at least 65 countries sharing vegan and vegetarian meals and supporting resistance to the exploitation, war and violence by the state and its corporate masters.

On a cold March afternoon in 1981, the first collective set up a soup kitchen on Atlantic Avenue outside the Bank of Boston's annual stockholders meeting. The board of directors of the bank also sat on the boards of local defense contractors and the nuclear power industry. The volunteers planned to dress as hobos and share soup to dramatize the possibility that the economic policies proposed by then-President Ronald Reagan and the bank could lead to a fu-

ture where Americans would have to stand in soup lines to survive. Worried the impact of the street theater would be lost on those passing by South Station, two of the activists went to the city's last surviving Depression Era shelters, the Pine Street Inn and gave a speech to a group of 30 or so men trying to sleep on the tile benches and floor. Several in the audience expressed support for the protest and promised to join. That next day a line formed to eat with Food Not Bombs. Business people expressed shock and asked if the newly inaugurated president's policies were already tanking the economy.

Forty years later, our fears on the blustery spring day proved true, and volunteers are finding themselves on the front line of the neoliberal capitalist catastrophe.

The short-lived Camp Phoenix wasn't the first occupation supported by Food Not Bombs. Volunteers shared meals with many of over 800 people that seized the lobby of the Federal Building in Boston to protest the savage war against the people of El Salvador and fed participated in the operation of Reagan Ranch on the Boston Common.

Volunteers also fed the June 12, 1982 March for Nuclear Disarmament in New York City; The Nevada Desert Experience at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site; the 27-day Tent City protest in San Francisco in 1989; Redwood Summer in Northern California; The West Bank Peace Camp at Mas'ha Palestine; Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas; many of the Occupy Wall Street inspired occupations; protests against Exercise Talisman Saber in Australia; a 600-day farmer's occupation in Bosnia and Herzegovina Square in Sarajevo; World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in Seattle, Genoa and Cancun; the 100-day Orange Revolution occupation in Kiev, Ukraine; the 2001 Meeting of the European Council in Gothenburg, Sweden and hundreds of other protests.

The San Francisco police made their first of nearly 1,000 arrests for sharing meals with the hungry on August 15, 1988. These first arrests inspired the formation of local Food Not Bombs in Canada, Europe, Australia and many cities in the United States. In 1994, volunteers were recognized as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International, who called for their unconditional release if arrested for sharing food with the hungry. In The Philippines, Food Not Bombs volunteers were captured and tortured into confessing to the murder of a soldier, and an in-

ternational human rights campaign finally won their freedom after a year in prison. Food Not Bombs activists in the United States have been framed by the FBI as terrorists. Douglas Wright, Brandon Baxter and Connor Stevens, were among those convicted for an FBI-invented plot to bomb a bridge in Cleveland during Occupy. An FBI informant named "Anna" became friends with Eric McDavid, Lauren Weiner and Zachary Jenson attending a Food Not Bombs world gathering in Philadelphia. A few months later the police arrested them, and Eric McDavid was sentenced to 19 years for another terrorist plot that the FBI invented. McDavid's friends won his freedom after he spent a decade in prison. A number of volunteers have been killed by neo-Nazis in Russia and by supporters of the drug war in the Philippines.

Food Not Bombs has also been active in disaster relief providing food and material relief to the survivors of the Loma Prieta earthquake in San Francisco and Northridge earthquake in the San Fernando Valley, Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy as well as Typhoon Yolanda, the 2004 Christmas tsunami, and the 2019 floods in Thaton, Myanmar.

Food Not Bombs activists have also helped initiate a number of other projects Bikes Not Bombs, Food Not Lawns, Homes Not Jails, Indymedia, Really Really Free Markets, October 22nd No Police Brutality Day, and have been active in the Free Radio movement and many other DIY initiatives.

Santa Cruz Food Not Bombs is hosting the Soupstock 2020 Free Music and Art Festival at San Lorenzo Park on Sunday, May 24. The festival will include musicians Keith Greeninger, Moby, MDC, Diane Patterson, Paul Damon & The Healing Gina René & Million 7, and The Beautiful Sky, as well as share hundreds of free vegan meals. Food Not Bombs groups all over the world will be holding their own celebrations.

Food Not Bombs is also participating in the protests at the Republican and Democratic National Conventions and the Poor People's protest in Washington, D.C. on June 20, 2020. ■

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foodnotbombs.net



SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

FEB
18

COMMUNITY MEETING ON THE RECENT HAIGHT & ASHBURY SHOOTING

WHERE: THE BINDERY, 1727 HAIGHT STREET @5-7PM
In light of the recent shooting on Haight and Ashbury, the District 5 Office will be convening community members, elected officials, law enforcement representatives, neighborhood advocates, and service providers for a community meeting. We welcome your presence and involvement as our community comes together to move forward in the aftermath of this shooting.

ACCESS: ADA or AODA compliant space and bathrooms

FEB
23

COH ANNUAL SALSA FUNDRAISER

WHERE: EL RIO 3158 MISSION ST @3-PM
Come dance while helping raise money for the Coalition on Homelessness! The more people we bring in, the more money we raise, just be sure to let them know at the door you're here for the event!
TICKETS AT DOOR- CASH ONLY \$8 (3-4pm) & \$10 (4-8pm)

ACCESS: Wheelchair accessible space; Bathrooms accessible with assistance; Earplugs available from bar; Service animals welcome; Outside food welcome; Hydration stations available. More accessibility & space info at www.elriosf.com/about

FEB
18

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FEB
25

NO MORE TECH OFFICE SPACE IN THE MISSION

WHERE: CITY HALL, TIME IS STILL BEING DETERMINED AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON! FOLLOW UNITED TO SAVE THE MISSION ON FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES
The Mission community continues to suffer from an overabundance of luxury housing and high-end office projects that provide no opportunity for our working-class and communities of color. Projects like these continue to displace our most vulnerable neighbors. Please come to this hearing to support our neighbors and demand a project that serves the entire community!

ACCESS: City Hall is ADA compliant

FEB
26

HOUSING 101

WHERE: 188 EMBARCADERO @12-1PM
YAH! offers the chance to learn the history of the Bay Area's housing crisis, and how we're going to fix it (because we can and we will!). Our Housing 101 presentation runs through the history and challenges of housing, and offers real solutions and actions that can be taken to mitigate the effects of the crisis and build more affordable housing. You must register to end, email info@yahbayarea.org

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STRUGGLING FOR STABILITY: Rita Lark

Rita Lark used to sell Street Sheets to provide for her baby when she was homeless

Well it all started last year on Mother's Day weekend when the tenant downstairs from me, in a known dope house in a property owned by the John Stewart Company, started causing trouble. His guests bust holes in the walls and they put dead rodents in there. And instead of sending professionals over, they sent people who sealed up the walls with the rodents still rotting inside. And that smell travelled straight upstairs into my bedroom. I had to throw out my beds because they smelled so bad from the rodents, and then it took the city like four days to come pick up the mattresses. I got a call from the management office saying I was doing illegal dumping on public streets, and to me it just looks like more stuff they wanted to hide about me in this damaged apartment. This has been going on — they stopped damaging the walls for a minute but it keeps starting up again. If you have rodent smell locked up in the walls for a whole year, that smell is just awful.

I've been going through this eviction process with John Stewart Company and the Eviction Defense folks got a note

saying she wouldn't put me out but she isn't accepting my rent now. And that is day-to-day stress of not knowing if you and your service animals will be put out on the streets over this nonsense. First she was trying to overcharge me when my daughter was on the lease and staying there. We looked at all our check stubs and realized she was trying to overcharge us. My daughter is making mini payments to pay it off, but I'm stuck in a pit of not knowing what my situation is gonna be. And I am trying to get a displacement letter so they move you up the waitlist and find you a housing placement. I used that when I first moved here. I used to live in the Civic Center Hotel, and when I left there I got a displacement letter and took it to the Housing Authority and I got housing in less than 60 days.

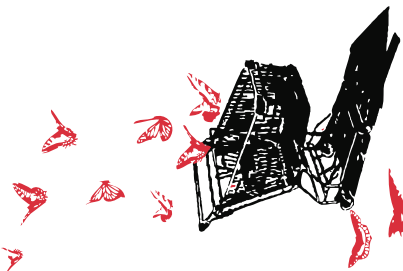
I am looking for a one-bedroom apartment where I can pay 30% rent that me and my dogs can live peacefully in, so I can finally get back to living the life I was given in a nice comfortable bed where I can spread out. I'm living in a partial house right now and that's not fair. And I want the City to write this up so the next family that's looking up a place of their own doesn't get stuck with this same problem, because it's not fair.



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Thanks to new rule, if you are on Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplemental Payment (SSP) you are now able to apply for CalFresh food benefits. California had been the only state in the nation to exclude SSI/SSP recipients from receiving food stamps. To access food stamps you will need to apply over the phone, in person, or online. If approved, you will get an EBT card and the CalFresh benefits will be loaded onto it each month.

You can also dial 211 and ask how to apply for CalFresh in every county.

Visit ca4ssi.org/calfresh for more info!

art by Zach K

