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

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

STREET SHEET



CURRENTLY ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY STREET SPIRIT VENDORS IN THE EAST BAY



@EMITXIN

We are witnessing an ongoing genocide in Palestine and carried out by the settler state of Israel with the financial and political support of the US government. Israel has an organized military, an iron dome, and has dropped 12,000 tons of explosives on Gaza since Oct 7th, killing at least 15,000 people. The Israeli Defense Force is openly committing war crimes.

CEASEFIRE NOW!

Here are some ways to take action:

1. CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND DEMAND THEY SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA!

California’s senators are Alex Padilla, who can be reached at (415) 981-9369 & Laphonza Butler, who can be reached at (202) 224-3841! Not sure who your representatives are? No problem! US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USPCR) has created this very helpful tool to help you find out who to call and what to say.



2. AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF PALESTINIANS AND NAME THIS AS GENOCIDE TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW

It is our responsibility to speak up when our tax dollars and our government are funding an ethnic cleansing of Palestinian people from their homeland in Gaza. Talk with your classmates, your friends, your family, and let them know why you support a ceasefire and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Palestinians under constant bombing in Gaza are sharing their stories on social media in English because they need us to know what our government is doing in our name. Post and re-post on social media to break the silence!

3. BOYCOTT ISRAELI PRODUCTS



The Boycott-Divest-Sanction (BDS) movement is a great way to support the ongoing work toward peace in Palestine! The main targets of this movement right now are Starbucks, McDonalds, and Disney. Scan here to learn what to boycott.

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coalition.networkforgood.com

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CONTACT:

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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.

Editor: TJ Johnston
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Chris Lee, Bradley Penner, tiny, daughter of Dee, mama of Tiburcio @ povertyskola, Pearl Ubungen, Ken Miller, Jack Bragen, Street Spirit

Street Sheet is published and distributed on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples. We recognize and honor the ongoing presence and stewardship of the original people of this land. We recognize that homelessness can not truly be ended until this land is returned to its original stewards.

ORGANIZE WITH US

HOUSING JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

TUESDAYS @ NOON
The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone! Email mcarrera@cohsf.org to get involved!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP

WEDNESDAYS @12:30
The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join! Email lpierce@cohsf.org

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS!



COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS ET AL VS. SAN FRANCISCO: LAWYERS MAKE THE CASE FOR STOPPING SWEEPS

TJ Johnston

San Francisco's response to unsheltered homelessness has long been on the radar of local and national media, and it's pinging more frequently, partly because of a lawsuit that the Coalition on Homelessness has filed against the City.

Last year, a federal judge ruled that the City can not arrest or issue citations to people in homeless encampments without a real and specific offer of shelter while the case is in litigation. In September, the City unsuccessfully appealed the order to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court, but Mayor London Breed and other City officials still declared victory, saying that it agreed on its definition of "involuntary homelessness."

Based on that assumption, the City has since ratcheted encampment sweeps. At a recent town hall, District Attorney Brooke Jenkins vowed that the City would make living on the street uncomfortable for unhoused people. The City also signed on to a legal brief with other cities and organizations asking the U.S. Supreme Court to examine a similar case in Grass Pass, Oregon.

To clarify why it's pursuing litigation against the City, the legal team representing the Coalition and seven unhoused residents hosted a webinar on December 8 explaining the lawsuit, which is scheduled for trial next October. The image San Francisco presents in its homelessness response doesn't match its actual practices when clearing encampments, said Zal Shroff, acting legal director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of in the Bay Area.

"We're here because there's a huge gap between the city's written policies and their good intentions on the response to homelessness, and the actual outcomes," he said.

Those outcomes Shroff referred to include over 3,000 citations and arrests of homeless people over the last three years and the destruction of undamaged property, which according to City policy are supposed to be "bagged and tagged" for up to 90 days.

"At a minimum, we need San Francisco to start following the law and to start following its own policies," he added.

A judge ordered a preliminary injunction because the City violated those policies and the U.S. Constitution, John Do, senior staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union, said. He argued to the 9th Circuit that the City couldn't substantiate those offers of shelter before citing and arresting people.

Currently, City-sponsored shelters accommodate over 3,000 people are nearly full while the number of people on the adult shelter reservation waitlist hovers around 400, according to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

"That's because what San Francisco actually does is when it does supposedly offer shelters, those offers are often illusory, San Francisco of course, is thousands of beds short, so it's hard to offer what doesn't exist," Do said.

Former City staffers have also noted in filings that other workers were "incentivized" to pad the numbers of refusals to nonexistent offers and justify arrests of encampment residents, he added.

Misinformation on what the injunction does and doesn't empower the City to do also abounds, Do said. It's not a total ban on clearing encampments: Workers can still clean streets and enforce public safety laws, but only if they make real and specific shelter offers.

Still, the line of people being "service resistant" persists, but that's because unhoused people rarely get genuine or appropriate offers, said Sara Rankin, a law professor at Seattle University. They're already aware of long waitlists for shelter and housing, she said. Other barriers, such as ineligibility due to criminal backgrounds or substance use history, preclude some homeless people from accepting services, she added.

"The reality is that we have taught many unsheltered people to distrust offers of shelter and services because they have learned time and time again that these offers are misleading, not real, completely inaccessible or just inhumane," she said.



POLICING
POVERTY
DOES NOT
WORK

FEBRUARY

Wood Street residents resist ongoing eviction efforts by the City of Oakland

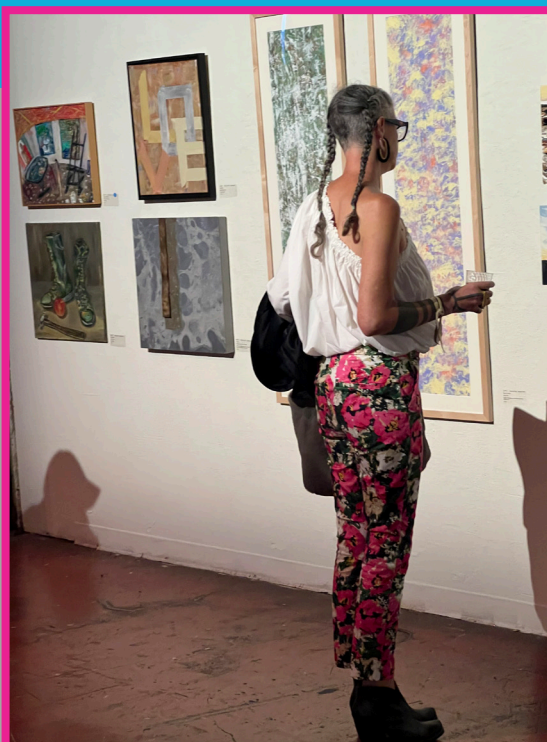


Street Sheet publishes new edition of Stolen Belonging calling the City out as an abuser.



Street
Land
paper
of hous
people

MARCH



The Coalition on Homelessness hosts its annual Art Auction fundraiser, bring in support for our work to end homelessness in the coming year.



AUGUST

Since the East Bay's Street Spirit has gone temporarily out of print, East Bay vendors start distributing Street Sheet. In August we reported on the campaign to restore funding for Street Spirit and get the paper back on the streets of Berkeley and Oakland.



SEPTEMBER



This Land Has Returned by Inés Ixierda

Sheet collaborates with Sogorea Te' Trust and the East Bay's Street Spirit to produce an issue exploring issues of housing and decolonization with homeless people, indigenous writers, and their allies.

JUNE



Budget Justice organizers push for a City budget that prioritizes the needs of poor and homeless San Franciscans.

Collectively they won \$8.1 million in new prevention funds, 10 new permanent housing subsidies, 125 new five year housing subsidies for families with children using Proposition C funding, 54 housing subsidies for people living with AIDS, seniors, and people with disabilities and emergency hotel vouchers for 260 households with pregnancies, children, and those fleeing domestic violence

JULY



DECEMBER

RV residents on Winston Drive and Buckingham Way demand the City to honor its commitment to provide safe parking sites and permanent housing.



OP-ED: SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN BOARD

JORDAN DAVIS

As many of our readers know, this year, the Homelessness Oversight Commission (HOC) was launched last spring to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH). Three advisory committees—the Local Homeless Coordinating Board, the Shelter Monitoring Committee, and the Shelter Grievance Advisory Committee—were placed under the commission that would appoint members who would report directly to the commission rather than the mayor or board of supervisors.

So if we have a Local Homelessness Coordinating Board that is mandated by federal law and two committees dealing with different facets of the shelter system, why do we not have a committee dealing with supportive housing—the “SH” in HSH?

This is especially egregious given that the whole reason that the HOC even exists was the San Francisco Chronicle’s investigation into the

state of SROs used as permanent supportive housing (PSH) in April 2022. Also significant is that though the bulk of HSH’s budget goes to permanent supportive housing, the City is completely unfocused on the multiple issues that permanent supportive housing tenants face. When it’s necessary to go on a hunger strike to force the City to admit to a decades-old injustice in PSH, you know there is a problem.

The closest thing we’ve ever had to an advisory body addressing issues in PSH was the Single Room Occupancy Task Force, which was created in 1999, became dormant in late 2019, and officially sunsetted at the end of 2021. I served on that committee representing tenants from May 2017 until after it became dormant, and I wrote in a previous piece how the landlord dominance, conflicts of interest, and frequent absences prevented any substantial movement towards justice for SRO tenants, both private and PSH.

The idea of bringing back an advisory committee on permanent supportive housing is controversial among some stakeholders, such as tenants, service providers and landlords. But, I believe that there is an argument for returning a committee to raise permanent supportive housing issues if—and only if—landlords don’t dominate seat designations.

There are some who also believe that advisory committees are expensive—however, existing human resources can be pulled from HSH, who would staff the meetings, and the City Attorney’s office, who would be a legal advisor. Some might believe that it would create more bureaucracy, but nothing could be further from the truth. The purpose of an advisory committee is merely to seek community input on an issue from stakeholders within that community so that oversight commissions and elected officials don’t have to stretch their limited resources trying to create solutions

to certain problems without any damage to others.

It’s time for a Permanent Supportive Housing Advisory Committee, or PSHAC, appointed by HOC and designed to bring stakeholders together, so that HOC commissioners can focus on the department as a whole, and we can dive deep into PSH issues. Such a committee could be composed of nine members: three PSH tenants, two support services/case managers, two managers/agency heads, one tenant lawyer and one senior/disability advocate.

I am glad that we have a Homelessness Oversight Commission, which is already examining PSH—especially as it relates to evictions—but we need to be able to dig further. We need a forum for those with experience and diverse perspectives to help correct these problems once and for all. This is long overdue.

THE HIDDEN WORLD IN THE HEART OF SAN FRANCISCO

Anita Carlos

In the heart of San Francisco, where the glittering skyline meets the harsh reality of urban poverty, I find myself caught in a relentless struggle for survival. The city’s iconic landmarks mask the silent struggles of those living in its shadows. My journey through the underbelly of San Francisco began with the realization that beneath the surface of prosperity, a poignant narrative of poverty unfolded.

The city’s streets, once paved with dreams, now echo with the footsteps of those burdened by the weight of economic disparity. I became intimately acquainted with the raw, unforgiving nature of poverty as I navigated through neighborhoods marked by dilapidated buildings and the lingering scent of desperation. Each alley told a story of resilience, despair, and the quest for a better life.

One chilly evening, I found solace in a makeshift shelter tucked away from the glittering lights of the financial district. The inhabitants, faces weathered

by life’s hardships, shared tales of shattered dreams and missed opportunities. The sense of camaraderie among the disenfranchised was palpable, offering a glimpse into the strength that blossomed in the face of adversity.

As dawn broke, I ventured into the streets, where the city’s contradictions became starkly apparent. High-end boutiques stood in stark contrast to makeshift tents lining the sidewalks. The clinking of coffee cups in trendy cafes were juxtaposed with the haunting silence of those yearning for a warm meal. It was a city of extremes, where the haves and have-nots coexisted, yet their worlds rarely intersected.

The struggle for sustenance is a daily battle, and I found myself immersed in the resilience of the human spirit. A chance encounter with Maria, a single mother of two, offered a glimpse into the sacrifices she made to ensure her children’s survival. Her eyes showed a mix of determination

and despair as she shared her daily routine of juggling odd jobs and seeking out food banks to feed her family.

The story of San Francisco’s poverty is not confined to the physical realm; it penetrates the emotional and mental landscapes of its inhabitants. The weight of uncertainty and the constant fear of eviction linger in the air, casting a shadow over even the smallest moments of joy. Yet, amidst the struggle, there are flickers of hope: community initiatives, grassroots movements, and individuals dedicated to uplifting those left behind by society.

In the heart of the Tenderloin, I stumbled upon a community garden cultivated by residents determined to reclaim a sense of agency. The vibrant colors of blooming flowers contrasted with the muted tones of nearby run-down buildings. It was a testament to the indomitable human spirit, a refusal to be defined solely by economic circumstances.

As I delved deeper into the narratives of the marginalized, I realized that poverty in San Francisco was not a monolithic experience. Each individual carried a unique burden, and the city’s challenges were woven into the fabric of their lives. Yet, through the struggles emerged stories of resilience, solidarity, and an unwavering commitment to defy the odds.

My journey through the alleys and avenues of San Francisco’s poverty revealed a city grappling with its own contradictions. It was a place where dreams collided with harsh realities, and the echoes of disparity reverberated through the streets. In the midst of this urban tapestry, I witnessed the strength of the human spirit, a force that persisted despite the odds, illuminating the city’s hidden stories of hope and tenacity.

Nobody deserves the harsh realities we go through every day.

IN MEMORIAM JIMMY FLOWERS

James Henry Beckett b. Oct. 31, 1955 d. Sept. 10, 2022

Tara Rosen

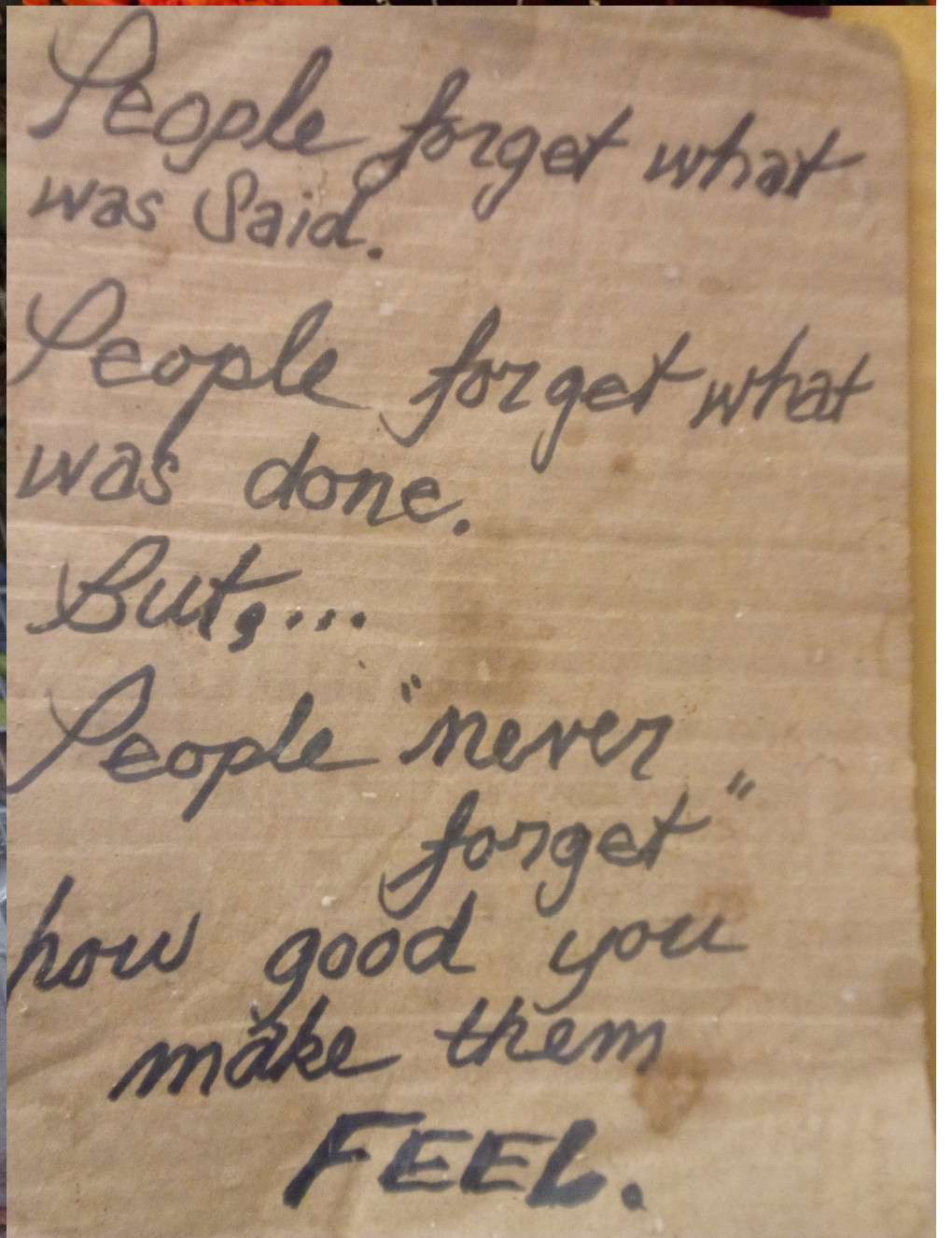
Jimmy Flowers - born James Henry Beckett - was born Halloween Eve. When he was 4 years old, his mother committed suicide by hanging herself in their Noe Valley flat., which led him to romanticize suicide, though he eventually grew out of it.

He was my boyfriend for ten years and my best friend for the last five years of his life. He was truly and really the most amazing man I have ever known. In his younger years, he worked the carnival where he became a hustler and a showman. They called him "Elvis" over there. He let his sideburns grow out because he couldn't afford a razor, tucked his long mane under a wig and sang Elvis Presley songs in Spanish.

He later became a showman on the streets of San Francisco. You would see him in his outrageous outfits doing his magic tricks as he would then open his cape slyly showing off his custom-made cigar box, filled with hand-rolled joints for donation, he would say with a whimsical smile.

Jimmy was given a medal of honor for his flower power memorabilia installations along Haight-Ashbury of the many performing idols that passed away, including Amy Winehouse, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix.

Jimmy fed the homeless, rain or shine, every single night from the leftovers given to him from Tartin's Bakery. He would make his rounds finding those in need who would wait for him with grateful hands.



BECOME
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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 you make from sales! Sign up to 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 10AM-4PM ON MONDAY-THURSDAY AND 10AM-NOON ON FRIDAY

CONTRIBUTE TO
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SHEET

WRITING: 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!

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!

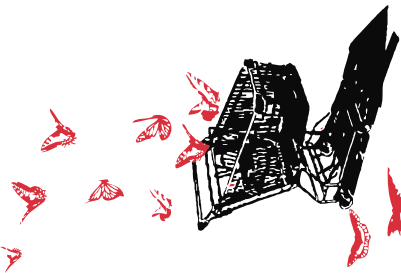
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