AUGUST 1, 2025

BI-MONTHLY

STREETSHEET.ORG

INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS SINCE 1989



MINIMUM SUGGESTED DONATION TWO DOLLARS.

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.



CURRENTLY ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY HOMEWARD STREET JOURNAL VENDORS IN SACRAMENTO

ECONOMY HURTS HOMELESS FOLKS 2

COALITION
STATEMENT ON
TRUMP'S ORDER

3

CRACKDOWN: AUTHOR INTERVIEW LURIE CRIMII

LURIE'S
CRIMINALIZATION OF
VEHICLE-DWELLERS

6

PERSPECTIVES





IN GOD WE TRUST, ALL OTHERS PAY CASHLESS

JUSTICE

Cashless society can be harmful to low-income and homeless people. It makes basic needs more inaccessible, increases surveillance and gives government and private companies more control over people. As society moves in an increasingly technologically dependent direction, people are relying on cashless payments for convenience and ease. But this current wave of invisible currency, which stands in the shadow as the pandemic's primary use, becomes a gaping hole when it comes to homeless and low-income people of the city.

Many cashless payments often require both access to a bank account or credit union, which usually requires two forms of identification and an address to open an account. Those requirements often make a cashless system out of reach for a significant part of San Francisco's population. More than 8,000 residents lack stable housing, with a little more than half temporarily sheltered, according to the City's latest point-in-time homeless count. Over 12% of the city's residents, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey in 2023, live below the federal poverty line with over 30% of them Black and almost 20% Latinx.

Many people in low income areas can rely on smaller businesses that take cash only and people whose primary income comes from donations, odd jobs and charity usually are most accessible in cash form. Without access to funds many people could be food insecure, and unable to get other necessities, clothing and medical

supplies. There's not enough social services to provide for people and no guarantee that proper sizing will be available for the few that provide clothes. In addition some forms of cashless donations also require the use of a phone that needs an energy source for charging. Without that accessibility, funds become impossible to reach in reasonable time.

Some of the benefits to having a cash-based system include the anonymity and privacy that it affords. Cash can be stored away for emergencies.

Every community needs space for people to be financially independent. But a cashless society limits fostering a sense of community and neighborhood care. This can further inequality between rich and poor, or at least "those who are connected and those who are not."

Some people keep their money on hand to keep health budgeting practices, like disabled and senior people. Other systems benefitting unhoused or low-income people also exist, such as trading, bartering services or even just leaving useful items in a "free box" on the street.

In my experience as a Street Sheet vendor, I have met people who wanted to help me but did not have paper funds. I have needs, such as herbs that I take to help me digest food. Thanks to spare change in the glove box, a found dollar here or there, I'm able to make it another day. We keep each other strong when we can help support the community in hard times, because we are truly all we have.

Regarding our settlement agreement with the City and County of San Francisco:

This case was never about money. None of us expected to get a dime.

It was always about getting SF to follow its policy on how it handles unhoused people's property, which it has agreed to do.

Legal fees are standard practice in any case and allow ACLU to continue doing this work and monitor compliance with the settlement.



coalition.networkforgood.com

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

PHOTOGRAPHERS VIDEOGRAPHERS TRANSLATORS COMIC ARTISTS NEWSPAPER LAYOUT WEBSITE MAINTENANCE **GRAPHIC DESIGNERS INTERNS** WRITERS **COPYEDITORS**

DONATE EQUIPMENT!

LAPTOPS DIGITAL CAMERAS AUDIO RECORDERS SOUND EQUIPMENT

CONTACT: TJJOHNSTON@COHSF.ORG

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agendas to

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

Artistic Spellcaster: Quiver Watts Copyeditors: Kaveh Waddell and

J. Cretella

Cover Art: Little Grains of Sand Monica Trinidad/JustSeeds

Contributors: Justice, Gay Shame archives, Amy Roper/Megaphone, INSP, Lukas Illa, Jack Bragen, Jordan Wasilewski, WRAP

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

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 RESP O TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S EXECUTIVE ORDER TO CRIMINALIZE HOMELESSNESS

On Friday July 24, Trump signed an Executive Order to make it easier to remove people from the streets. This executive order follows a trend of draconian measures enacted by the Trump administration that targets the country's most vulnerable communities. This Executive Order doesn't solve homelessness, it criminalizes it. It scapegoats people in crisis, ignores decades of data, and wastes taxpayer dollars on failed, punitive approaches.

Through this plan the Trump administration seeks to criminalize homelessness through increased encampment sweeps, through the forced institutionalization of people struggling with substance use disorders and mental health issues, and by defunding harm reduction programs. These tried and failed tactics do not address the root causes of homelessness—which include rising rents, lack of affordable housing, poverty wages and the gutting of life saving and essential social aid programs.

Unfortunately, these same tactics are being employed here in San Francisco, in which our city officials are stigmatizing and criminalizing drug users for their own political gain, advocating for criminalization and discrediting the evidence based models of "Housing First" and harm reduction, and barring certain street based harm reduction supply distributions.

For over thirty years, San Francisco has employed data driven approaches to address the overdose crisis, which includes implementing harm reduction as a pillar in the continuum of care for people with substance use disorders. While we acknowledge the urgency for individuals to receive the treatment that they desire and need, we cannot achieve this through coercion, forced institutionalization and through an abstinence only framework that strips people of their housing. City leaders in San Francisco shifting away from these evidence based practices, marks an unprecedented shift towards Trumplike authoritarian control over people's rights and autonomy.

The Coalition on Homelessness will continue to work alongside the community towards achieving housing justice and in uplifting the voices of those displaced and criminalized through sweeps. We

are committed to preserving harm reduction and in destigmatizing those experiencing substance use disorders. We continue to urge our city officials to work alongside the homeless community to reach permanent solutions to end homelessness. We remain steadfast in upholding the human rights of unhoused people in San Francisco and across the nation.

Conflating Homelessness with Criminality Is Dangerous, Dehumanizing, and Deliberate

The EO overtly conflates poverty and disability with crime. It frames people experiencing homelessness as threats, referring to "vagrant criminals," "urban squatters," and links them with sex offenders and open drug use. This reckless equation is not subtle; it's scapegoating. Instead of distinguishing between structural causes and individual circumstances, this EO collapses them into one, pathologizing one's poverty and trauma as criminal tendencies. The result is a policy built not on compassion or data but stigma and fear.

Criminalization Makes Homelessness Worse & We've **Known This for Years**

Study after study shows that punishing people for being unhoused increases instability, making it harder to find work, access benefits, or secure permanent housing. Arrest records and fines compound barriers, not resolve them. Yet, this Administration doubles down on failed tactics that sound tough but sabotage real solutions.

Criminalization Is the Most Expensive and Least Effective Response

Beyond being cruel and counterproductive, criminalizing homelessness is fiscally irresponsible. Cities spend millions cycling people through jails and courts when those funds could be used for permanent supportive housing, a proven, costeffective intervention that reduces chronic homelessness and public spending. Cycling first responders, hospitalization, and jail beds not only does not end someone's homelessness, but it also costs more than providing someone with housing. We are literally paying more to make the problem worse.

Criminalization exacerbates homelessness by levying fees unhouse people can't pay, destroying their credit, and lead to arrest warrants. Many federal housing programs remove people from their waitlists if they have active warrants, and landlords often do not rent to

people with bad credit scores.

Forced Treatment Violates Rights and Fails in Practice

The EO also calls for coercive mental health and substance use interventions, but forced treatment is both ineffective and frequently unlawful. The Administration vaguely references the "redirection" of resources to forced institutionalization, but heavy investment in forced treatment and institutionalization diverts resources away from proven solutions like supportive housing, harm reduction, and voluntary community-based care. Consent isn't just a legal formality; it's essential for treatment to work. Coercion and forced hospitalization can even exacerbate trauma, increase feelings of powerlessness, and worsen mental health symptoms. The so-called "rescue" is little more than punishment disguised as care. Yet again, the Trump Administration seems more interested in punishing and hiding poverty than actually improving public health.

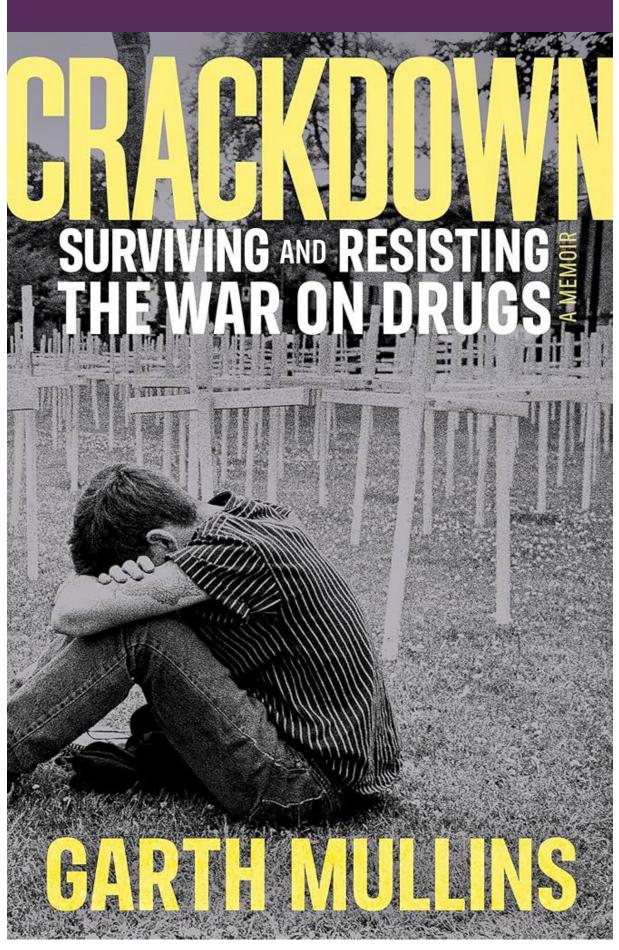
The Coalition on Homelessness works to advance housing justice and ensure that every individual and family in San Francisco has access to safe, permanent housing.





GARTH MULLINS ON NEW MEMOIR **CRACKDOWN:** SURVIVING AND RESISTING THE **WAR ON DRUGS**

AMY ROMER, MEGAPHONE/INSP



Garth Mullins' new memoir, Crackdown: Surviving and Resisting the War on Drugs, doesn't offer easy solutions. What it does provide is clarity about what's happening, who it's hurting and why that matters.

Garth Mullins has spent years telling other people's stories — amplifying voices of drug users through his award-winning podcast Crackdown and organizing with the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU). Now, he's turned the lens on himself.

His memoir, Crackdown: Surviving and Resisting the War on Drugs, is not a victory lap or redemption tale; it's something rarer: a grounded, unvarnished account of a life shaped by addiction, criminalization and collective resistance.

Mullins' motivation to put pen to paper was prompted by what he describes as a "kick in the pants" moment — the 2022 Ottawa convoy protests. "I realized the far right in Canada was getting very well organized," he says. "It was only a matter of time before they found us and targeted us."

With that realization came a sense of urgency: to document his experiences as a heroin user, what he'd lived, name the forces at play and help others to understand how these patterns repeat, often invisibly, in the everyday lives of people navigating survival in places like Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

But Crackdown isn't a political manifesto. It's a personal reckoning one that includes stories that Mullins had never before shared publicly, including the abuse that he experienced growing up. These details aren't presented for shock value or sympathy; they're context. They explain how shame isolates, how stigma becomes internalized and how the structures around us — from education to housing to healthcare often fail people long before they pick up a drug.

Mullins is careful not to frame the book as a recovery story. "Life is messy," he says. "It's not just like

we're sinne we're in the

The narrati There are n final trium steady refu That act alo of resistance

Still, the bo despair. Wh pages is a se others who things and drug users is that we h each other,

He recalls a existed — b people who to organize atomized," our own litt

That shift, organizing, Crackdown. to understa didn't appe was built sl a communit pushed to t little left to place faith had failed t

For Mullins a way to tal he filled do fragments of conversatio a memoir w a narrative finding coh chaos.

"It was like clean up yo a little bit," feels better mean you're to make a n tomorrow, b better."

There's also responsibili his story. A of interviev for the pode asking then about some most painfu Mullins k time was co rs, we get saved, and then Promised Land."

ve resists a clean arc.
o big breakthroughs, no
ohs. Instead, there's a
sal to give in to silence.
one becomes its own form
e.

ok doesn't dwell in at threads through its ense of connection — to we lived through similar to a growing coalition of oushing back. "The hope ave a movement. We have 'Mullins says.

time before any of that efore VANDU, before used drugs had language or advocate. "We were he writes. "Contained in tle cells of shame."

from isolation to
is at the heart of
Mullins wants readers
nd that this movement
ar out of nowhere. It
owly, often in crisis, by
ty that had already been
he margins — people with
lose and no reason to
in the institutions that
hem.

, writing the book was te stock. Over the years, zens of notebooks with of memories, events and ns. Turning them into as less about polishing

than about erence in the

when you ur apartment he says. "It Doesn't e not going ness again out it feels

o a sense of ity in sharing fter years ving people cast — often in to speak of their al moments knew that his oming. "I felt like I owed the people I'd interviewed who shared their lives with me," he says, "and it was liberating... to not have that fear anymore, that someone could expose me and I'd get fired, or evicted or ostracized."

He hopes that the book reaches young people who feel as lost as he once did. "If something like this had come my way when I was 22, it would have been really helpful," he says. "Saved a little time. Saved a few decades maybe."

But he also wants it to reach beyond the movement — especially to people who see drug users as problems to be managed, not people to be listened to. "I'd love it if the book could get out to all those thousands of people at [federal Conservative leader Pierre] Poilievre rallies," he says.

A book launch at VANDU is in the works, but Mullins isn't planning a cross-country tour. With a newborn at home (gurgling on his shoulder as we spoke), his priority is staying close to family. Besides, the words are already doing the work. The podcast continues. The organizing continues. The story is in motion.

Crackdown doesn't offer easy solutions. It doesn't pretend that things are getting better. What it does offer is clarity — about what's happening, who it's hurting and why that matters.

Courtesy of Megaphone / INSP.ngo



BECOME A VENDOR

MAKE MONEY AND HELP END HOMELESSNESS!

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

STREET 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!

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

OR BRING SUBMISSIONS TO 280 TURK STREET
TO BE CONSIDERED
PIECES ASSIGNED BY THE EDITOR MAY OFFER
PAYMENT, ASK FOR DETAILS!

SF MAYOR'S RV BAN HEAVY ON POLICING, LIGHT ON SOLUTIONS

Lurie's plan is

draconian at

its core. The

implication of a

two-hour time

limit criminalizes

the fastest growing

contingent of

homeless people in

San Francisco: the

On July 22, less than a year after London Breed attempted to restrict oversized vehicles from parking overnight on certain San Francisco streets, Mayor Daniel Lurie's plan to effectively expand the ban on recreational vehicles (RVs) citywide passed the Board of Supervisors in a 9-2 vote. The ordinance will take effect on August 28.

The legislation has been broken into two parts: a two-hour parking restriction for large vehicles and a "Large Vehicle Refuge Permit" program under the SF Municipal Transportation Agency that would exempt RV households from the ban for six months. In short, the legislation pairs a carrot of paltry shelter and housing offers with the mighty stick of enforcement that will further criminalize homelessness in the streets of San Francisco.

During the vehicles' exemption period, the City will purportedly conduct a six-month service outreach operation, where RV residents will be offered shelter or housing. But households without a permit, including RV residents who reject service offers or violate nebulous "good neighbor policies," will be subject to the two-hour ban. According to statements from the mayor's office, the City will ticket and tow unpermitted vehicles.

While the City frames its proposed refuge permit as a comprehensive protection that will help RV residents transition into longterm solutions, the City's ultimate goal is to remove all RVs from city streets. The plan allocates \$1.5 million for towing expenses over the next two fiscal years, which is projected to cover the costs incurred for removing 350 RVs.

The mayor's plan also budgets \$525,000 for a vehicle buyback program. At a rebate of \$175 per linear foot, households with a 22 foot RV will be offered an estimated \$3,850 for their vehicle—which may have been purchased for upwards of \$10,000. But the slated buyback allocation is vastly underbudgeted. Based on

these calculations, fewer than 150 RVs would be offered a buyback, leaving over 300 households out of luck.

But not all vehicle residents will receive a refuge permit or, for that matter, service offers. With a severely limited housing and shelter inventory, and the concern that RV residents outside of San Francisco would flock to

the city with an announcement of shelter and housing offers, the Mayor's office has limited permit eligibility to 437 RV households that the police department recorded in a single-day count in May.

Any RV that is not recorded in the City's database will immediately face the two-hour restriction.

vehicularly housed.

an additional hotel vouchers the two-hour restriction.

The mayor's office and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing maintain that RV households will be issued "appropriate offers" of shelter or housing, but the Mayor's budget—which the Board of Supervisors just approved—slates only 65 housing subsidies specific to families living in RVs—less than half of up to 140 vehicle-dwelling families.

The rest of the nearly 400
San Franciscans living in RVs
will be offered noncongregate
"interim housing"—the City's
new term for shelter. While
such shelter provides a private
room, the programs include
carceral restrictions such as
curfews, unannounced searches
or "cleanings," as well as bans on
pets, outside food and visitors.

The City's shrinking noncongregate portfolio is another hurdle to overcome. Two Geary Street shelter sites—the Adante and Monarch hotels—are slated for closure at the end of this year, the

City's current count will plummet by almost 200 noncongregate units from its current count of 560, bringing into question whether the City will have enough shelter to house the newly permitted RV residents. Moreover, some 400 single adults are on the City's shelter waiting list— not including those affected by new parking restrictions.

> In June, vehicle residents and their advocates organized protests against the proposed RV ban, stating that the plan's shelter provisions do not meet the needs of soon-to-be displaced residents. In response to the protests, the City defended its shelter and housing

> > inventory, citing

an additional 600 subsidies and hotel vouchers for both families and single adults.

But this system-wide tally is practically irrelevant. San Francisco's method of assessing unhoused folks for placement in the City's limited housing stock—a process called "Coordinated Entry"—largely deprioritizes vehicularly housed people.

Coordinated Entry prioritizes housing offers to people—often street-homeless folks—with the greatest levels of acuity. Vehicle residents, whose RVs provide greater stability, protection and privacy, are therefore denied housing offers. In other words, vehicle residents will continue to compete with all other unhoused San Franciscans and face improbable odds at securing housing placements.

Most importantly, many vehicle residents are undocumented Spanish-speaking immigrants, both family and single adults alike. As the federal government kidnaps and violently deports undocumented community members, Lurie wants to further

destabilize immigrant families' lives by threatening their homes and limited financial assets. With an outreach strategy that heavily relies on cooperation with the San Francisco Police Department, how should anyone be expected to differentiate a municipal cop from a federal agent at the door of their RV, or-based on a recent investigation into SFPD's collaboration with ICE—trust that service acceptance will actually result in shelter placement, not incarceration in one of the Trump regime's detention camps?

On its face, this plan is illconceived. It skimps on the necessary time, budgetary considerations and available infrastructure to achieve its stated goal of providing longterm housing to vehicularly housed people. But Lurie's plan is draconian at its core. The implication of a two-hour time limit criminalizes the fastest growing contingent of homeless people in San Francisco: the vehicularly housed. This effort stems directly from the continual capitulation of the Lurie administration to vocally anti-homeless neighbors who demand that visible homelessness be scrubbed without any care for the treatment of homeless people themselves, nor the inventory of resources the City has to offer them.

Meanwhile, the City has ignored and openly resisted proven solutions, like safe parking sites and RV parks—both of which were recommended by the Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative's 2022 vehicular homelessness study in Oakland. San Francisco's only safe parking site, which offered on-site wraparound services and case management, closed in March—10 months ahead of schedule.

The City might put itself forward as supporting immigrants and other vulnerable communities, but San Francisco's willful ignorance of research-backed solutions, coupled with increased policing and criminalization, will not forge a path out of this crisis.



SURVIVING **AS AN** OLDER, DISABLÉD **ADULT: THE** STRUGGLE IS REAL

Living with a mental illness can sometimes be a no-win scenario.

If you fail to take your medication or if you fail to follow other rules, you are subject to being thrown out on the street from your housing because you are considered a troublemaker.

If, on the other hand, you're taking your medication and you're doing all of the things you are expected to do, people might say you're not disabled, and you will be thrown out of your housing, and your benefits could be cut off.

Yet, I have come to realize that keeping up appearances is an essential part of surviving. This is akin to many animals adapting to hide their pain, so as not to seem like a good catch for a predator. If you are a human being and if you have let it go too much, society will stop serving you,

and the system will come after you. Society also has a predatory characteristic.

But you must also maintain that you are disabled. You might be better off if you do not come across as too accomplished or too "with it." I'm not advising that you fabricate anything. Yet people should be able to see the struggle you're having.

I live in an affluent area and I'm poor. Sometimes when I've gone to Walgreens, people have avoided me or have behaved as though I spell trouble. I recently invested thirty dollars in a haircut and beard trim. This was a good investment. It made me more comfortable in public and probably made me more relatable.

But now I might look well put together. Will people think I'm not disabled?

My disabled status is provable.. Four years ago, the government examined and verified me for a "continuing disability." I don't think it's possible to fake these disability assessments, because the very capable psychologists and physicians who perform the exams can spot a faker.

A friend brought up that I am not job-ready, because I struggle merely to get a load of laundry done and do other basic tasks. A job developer at the Department of Rehabilitation expressed a lot of pessimism concerning my

ambition to be employed.

The aforementioned shifts the emphasis of the struggle. Although I might need to occasionally substantiate being disabled, I really need and want to have more economic security. I don't fit into a 9-to-5 job, and consequently I need to come up with alternatives. In general, when mentally ill people age but remain in acceptably good health, we have the opportunity and often the need to earn a few dollars, unless we have family with unlimited wealth who will take care of us. There are some people in that situation.

The possibility of homelessness is a specter that haunts some of us. Some of the people reading this likely have been homeless. I could not survive that, being sixty years old and being dependent on pharmaceuticals, in addition to having osteoarthritis and a slew of other health issues that will remain minor as long as I am living in relatively comfortable conditions.

Aside from mental illness and sleep apnea, I have arthritis in my lower body, and I have spinal stenosis. That could qualify me for not being able-bodied, and it could allow me to legitimately dodge the Trump Administration's requirement of eighty hours per month of work or other activity to qualify for Medicaid benefits. But that doesn't produce money in my

pocket.

Survival for a disabled older person is directly related to how much they have in the bank. It's also a matter of health, of relationships, and of the soul. You can have every physical need met to the max, you can be materially well-off, but that alone doesn't keep you going. In the news there are occasionally gruesome stories of the rich and famous who decided that what they had was not sufficient. I won't name names. Concerning health, an example is Steve Jobs, one of the wealthiest people in recent history, who fell ill to pancreatic disease and died. To live, you must have your health.

And you must have your soul. The soul can be violated, injured, or wrecked. If we experience too many adverse situations, or too much trauma, the soul can be compromised. This affects our ability to keep going.

If we don't have a good reason to be here or if we don't have something to look forward to, "survival" could seem pointless.

Life doesn't have a money-back guarantee and it doesn't promise anything. We can't always make an unworkable situation work. But we should keep trying whenever possible.

Jack Bragen's writings are searchable.

835 TURK DILEMMA RAISES QUESTIONS

JORDAN WASILEWSKI

In May, Mission Local broke the story that 835 Turk St., a new permanent supportive housing complex that I vocally supported f in early 2022 will have to undergo extensive repairs which will require tenants to (supposedly) temporarily move out. The article, which has been the only to cover this story so far, focused heavily on how tenants rightfully distrust the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to ensure a just transition and a right of return once the building's rehab is completed.

According to Mission Local, the city was well aware of muchneeded upgrades, and yet, officials never alerted tenants beforehand.

Tenants only learned about it from a relocation consultant from Five Keys at a community meeting this spring.

In fact, this month, I reached out to Christin Evans of the Homelessness Oversight Commission, which didn't even know about this (despite the fact that the body is supposed to keep HSH honest and transparent

This presents some troubling dynamics.

- 1. 835 Turk is located west of Van Ness Avenue in the Cathedral Hill neighborhood. It's common knowledge that one of the reasons permanent supportive housing is facing criticism is because of its concentration in the Tenderloin neighborhood. One tenant highlighted in the article said that they didn't want to go back to the Tenderloin after living there for many years.
- 2. Tenants were given the choice of either being moved into the Granada Hotel, which the Department of Building Inspection cited for vermin and lack of heat, or even be forced into shelter,

which could retraumatize formerly unhoused tenants, and lead to more of the decompensation that recovery grifters use as an excuse to undermine PSH.

- 3. The absence of an HSH protocol for when housing goes offline requires an outside relocation consultant to be hired at taxpayers' expense.
- 4. Also, HSH apparently lacks a protocol for notifying the oversight commission when things like these happen.
- 5. There have been a lot of attacks on permanent supportive housing/ Housing First lately from trolls on X/Twitter, and there have been a lot of calls to only do recovery based housing for new acquisitions. Could this be a way to force tenants into recovery housing?
- 6. With the passage of the unconscionable amendment to the "Our City Our Home" legislation that would allocate more funds from housing to shelter, this creates great risks that there will not be housing available.

Because I do not live at 835 Turk,

I don't want to be too prescriptive about how to solve the building's problems. I want tenants to take the lead on solutions and to be made whole. But I do know that us tenants do not want to be needlessly displaced, and if we are, even if it is an emergency, there should be a consistent process that ensures continuity of housing.

To this end, I propose that HSH create a protocol for what happens when housing goes offline, whether for an emergency or otherwise, that honors tenant autonomy, does not force them into congregate shelter for a long period of time, and leads to comparable or better housing. This policy needs to be written in consultation with tenants and needs to be publicly available. Furthermore, the Homelessness Oversight Commission must be notified when a permanent supportive housing site is about to go offline or (in case of emergency) has gone offline, so this can be handled in a public process.

It is time for transparency and honesty.

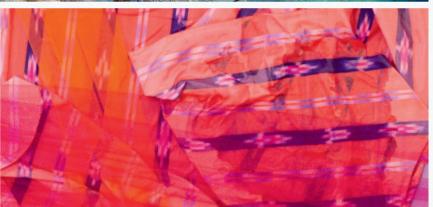


ARTAUCTION25

HOUSING HEALS, TRANSFORMING ART INTO ACTION SUPPORTING THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS SAN FRANCISCO SOMARTS • SEPTEMBER 11, 2025







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

UNITE THE FIGHT ORGANIZE LIKE OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT... **JOIN ORGANIZERS** FROM ACROSS WESTERN US Come together for collabrative Street Action, march, dance. Let's celebrate our common humanity TENS NOT HANDER while we collectively build power! SAN FRANCISCO SATURDAY **AUGUST 16** 2-3PM **CIVIC CENTER**

FOR MORE INFO: joemae@wraphome.org

STOP THE SWEEPS!



www.cohsf.org streetsheetsf@gmail.com

Coalition On Homelessness

San Francisco, CA 94102

415.346.3740

280 Turk Street

Coalition on Homelessness San Francisco