

MINIMUM SUGGESTED DONATION TWO DOLLARS.

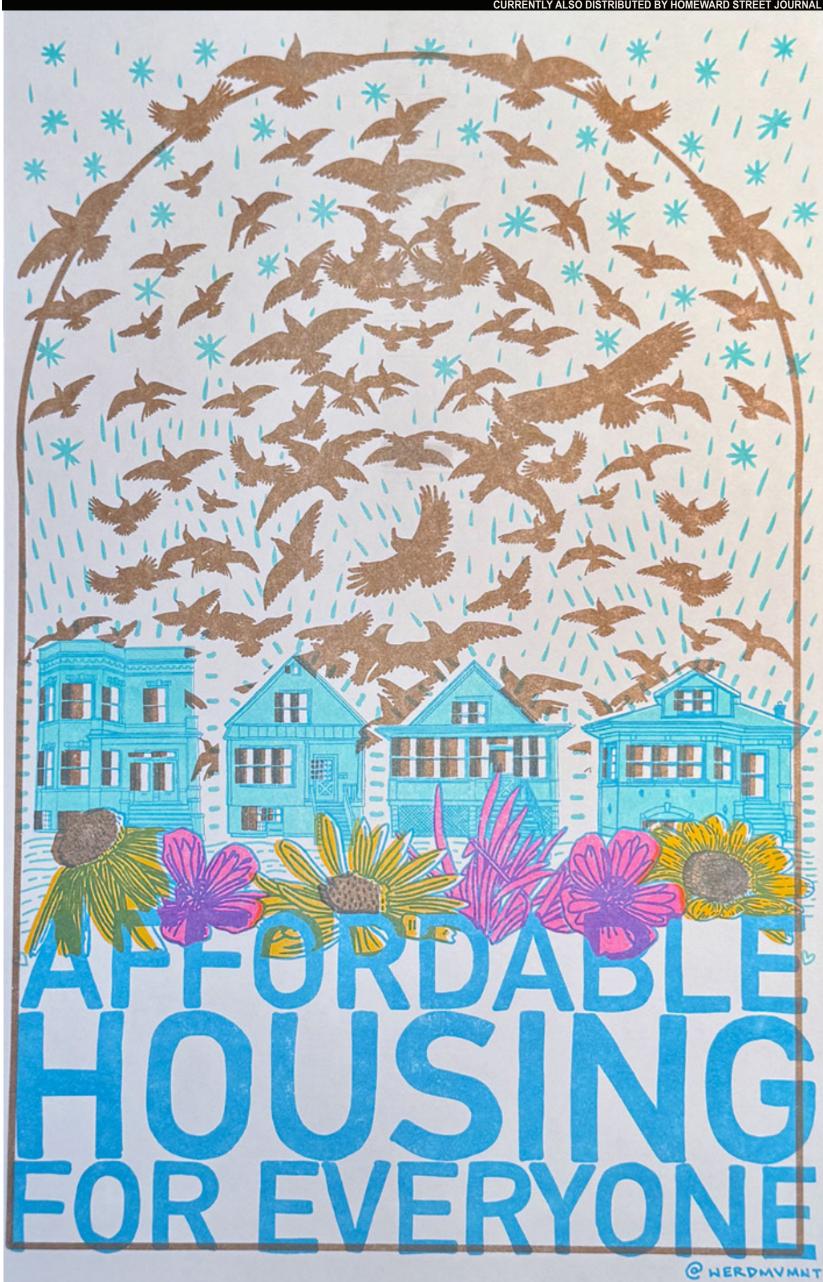
STREET SHEET IS SOLD BY HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME VENDORS WHO KEEP 100% OF THE PROCEEDS.

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

6



THANK YOU FOR **JOINING US**







PHOTOS BY JOHN AVALOS

HELP KEEP



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 to peer and the peer a not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agendas to ús.

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.

Cover Art: William Estrada Editor: TJ Johnston Artistic Spellcaster: Quiver Watts **Copyeditors:** Kaveh Waddell and J. Cretella

Contributors: Apple Cronk, Leslie St. Dre, TJ Johnston, Stephen Przybylinski, Cathleen Williams and Sandy Perry, Lupe Velez, John Avalos

CORRECTION: Cover Art from our last issue was by Quinn Keck

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!**



TJ JOHNSTON



PAGE 3

Heather's testimonial highlighted injustices and cruelty toward unhoused people

Heather Lee, an unsheltered woman who was interviewed by the Stolen Belonging project that documented San Francisco's theft of unhoused and unsheltered people's possessions, died on July 26 at Laguna Honda Hospital after a long illness, Street Sheet has learned.

"Heather's presence was more than friendship—she rocked exceptional strength and dignity, earning my trust and admiration like a sister," Stolen Belonging project member Couper Orona wrote in a Facebook post announcing Heather's death. 'The realization I'll never see her again is a weird feeling, it's hard to process coping with the void and disbelief that my friend is actually gone. She will be missed by so many, I'll miss her so much. She's finally painfree and probably taking (her dog) Louis for a heavenly stroll right now."

In 2019, San Francisco Public Works seized a green wagon containing Heather's belongings, including

recent birthday presents, artwork, photos of her children and her ID during an encampment sweep. She recalled another incident where a Public Works crew tore away tarps and blankets covering women who were changing their clothes underneath them. The crew also threw away Heather's recently prescribed medication.

Stolen Belonging followed Heather, recording the first of two unsuccessful attempts to retrieve her stuff at the San Francisco Public Works storage yard. The video showed Heather and project member Couper Orona being stonewalled by office workers and instructed to wait for staff to search for her property.

Heather waited for more than an hour in the rain without reclaiming her stuff.

Heather told the project how heartbroken she was and how the workers' lack of compassion struck her. "I was crying and like you know, not even hysterically, I was being really rational with the workers," she said. "But I was crying asking them to please not throw my stuff away, and there was like,

no reaction. They were completely unaffected by anyone, mine or anyone else, that was their emotion about the whole thing, you know?"

The City agency's policies and practices were the focus of a recently settled lawsuit filed by the Coalition on Homelessness, the homeless advocacy organization that publishes Street Sheet. The "bag and tag policy" mandates that City workers document and store property taken at sweeps for up to 90 days. Under the settlement, pending a Board of Supervisors vote and the mayor's signature, the City agreed to outside sweeps monitoring from the American Civil Liberties Union to ensure compliance with Public Works' policy.

Heather, who was never named in the lawsuit, died three days after the settlement was announced. She told Stolen Belonging in 2023 how she believed the City could be held accountable for its improper-and arguably illegal—confiscation of homeless people's survival materials and treasured possessions.

"The best way they could make it

right with me is to not continue what they're doing, the way that they're doing it," Heather said. "Be professional, be a human being and care about other people and their stuff when they're out there. I don't think [those responsible for the sweeps] would like people going into their homes and doing what they do to us out here. This is our home for the time being for whatever reason."

Heather also pleaded for empathy from housed people by asking how they would react in a similar situation.

"The only way to do that is to try to describe to them whatever it is that you've gone through and make it like, how would they feel if it was happening to them in their environment, like these horrible things were happening to them in their workplace or in their home and how they feel about it? And a lot of times if you ask people that question their tune changes pretty quick. Start opening your eyes, these things are happening out here to us and nobody is believing it or doing anything about it, you know. It's ridiculous that abuse is going on, you know, out here, and it needs to stop because it's happening from the people that should be helping us the most."

Heather's sister, Abby Lee, said that when thinking of the sibling whom she called Sissy, she's reminded of a Dr. Seuss quote: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

"I'll miss Heather for the rest of my life, many will, but she would want us all to try and be as happy as possible," Abby said. "She's no longer in any pain, and is beyond her suffering, free of that cage. No sorrow will live in me with that joy. I love you, Sissy."

Heather is survived by her two daughters, Norah Geiger and Olivia Keaton; her brother, Sean Lee, and her sister, Abby Lee; her niece, Avrion Zerbe, and her nephews: Ever Zerbe, Austin Lee, and Alex Lee.



"TODOS SOMOS SAMARA—WE ARE ALL SAMARA": LUPE VELEZ

HOMELESS ACTIVIST AND MOTHER FIGHTS FOR HOUSING AS DISABLED DAUGHTER LEAVES HOSPITAL

On Tuesday August 27, Faith in Action, in collaboration with United Educators of San Francisco and the Coalition on Homelessness, held a press conference, rally and march, starting at Cesar Chavez Elementary School in the Mission District and continuing to Catholic Charities. The event was held in support of a houseless family, Maria Zavala and her daughter Samara, who is afflicted with an immunity disease called CLIPPERS syndrome, an inflammatory disease of the brain and spinal cord.

The Zavalas migrated from Honduras in search of appropriate medical care. For the past three months, Samara has endured a series of surgeries to her spine and now is recovering at Oakland's Children's Hospital.

However, as the Zavalas prepare for Samara's discharge, they face a potential obstacle: the shelter

where they were staying previously won't provide a safe, stable environment needed for Samara's continued recovery.

That's because of the City's coordinated entry system, which most cities use to evaluate the needs of unhoused clients to move them from the streets and shelters into housing.

"Todos Somos
Samara," or "We Are
All Samara," was
the theme of the
religious activist
organization's
event, and one that
rallygoers chanted
as they marched to

Catholic Charities' access point on Mission and 25th streets.

"Who is San Francisco a city for?" Maria said when she took the podium.

At the press conference before the march, teachers at Cesar Chavez Elementary spoke in support of the family and demanded the City allow the family to retake the assessment needed to re-enter the shelter.

Under coordinated entry, cities and counties require people seeking homeless services to undergo a battery of questions about their specific needs to exit homelessness—as well as their histories that often include traumatic events. At the end of the assessment, service providers assign a number of points based on factors, such as length of previous homeless episodes and severity of medical conditions, and prioritize clients accordingly.

Under this method, critics argue, most clients are considered "not homeless enough" for available housing.

At the rally, Maria charged the crowd in joining the march for her to be "reevaluated at the access point, to witness the sad reality that we go through, every time a machine gets to decide our dignity as people."

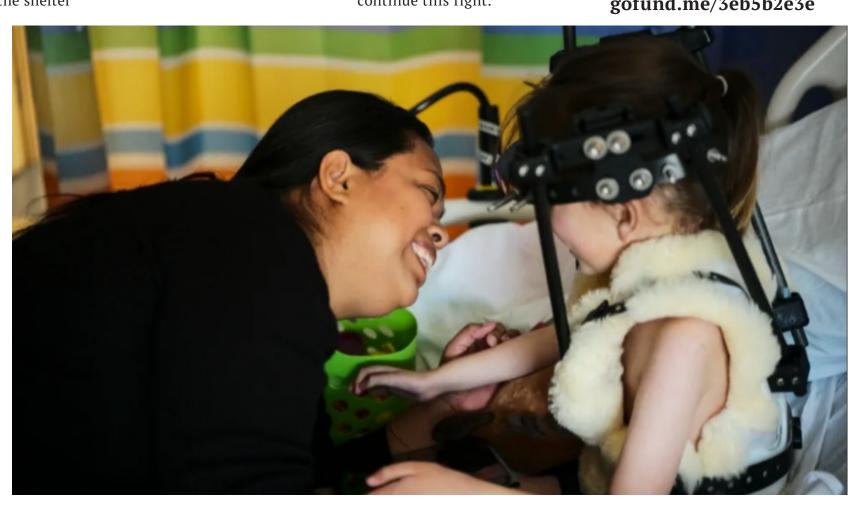
The group marched with signs, including one with a heart balloon and a picture of Samara with the message "The hope for a home is Samara's wish."

After arrival at Catholic Charities, the chants continued as Maria waited to be admitted for reassessment. But the access point didn't let her in because of the large group that gathered outside.

The group reconvened and later decided to return another day to continue this fight.

As Samara's departure from the hospital draws near, her family and supporters continue to push for housing justice for Samara and other families like hers, as well as a system that doesn't leave our most vulnerable families, children and people behind by labelling them "not homeless enough."

To support Samara please call the Mayor's office at 415-554-6141 and demand she and her family be housed and that we invest in permanent solutions for the thousands of homeless children across San Francisco. You can also donate to her gofundme: https://gofund.me/3eb5b2e3e





SAN FRANCISCO AND OTHER CITIES, FOLLOWING A SUPREME COURT DECISION, ARE ARRESTING MORE HOMELESS PEOPLE FOR LIVING ON THE STREETS STEPHEN PRZYBYLINSKI

Homelessness is on the rise in the United States, and in some places, it is becoming more common for the police to arrest someone for sleeping or living in a public space.

In June 2024, the Supreme Court issued a ruling, Grants Pass v. Johnson, that determined it is constitutional to issue citations to or arrest homeless people, even when there is no available shelter.

The ruling reversed earlier federal appeals court rulings from 2019 and 2022 that determined cities cannot enforce anti-camping laws against homeless people if there are not enough shelter beds available for them.

The Supreme Court's ruling also determined that the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishments does not protect homeless people from laws criminalizing resting in public places.

As someone who has spent more than a decade researching homelessness and speaking with unhoused communities, I have seen firsthand how enforcement of such laws imposes unavoidable hardships on homeless people and makes it harder for them to find a stable home.

A RISE IN PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

In 2024, there were an estimated 771,480 people in the U.S. who experienced homelessness on a single night, the highest number ever recorded.

Since June 2024, almost 220 local measures have passed that restrict or ban acts like sleeping, sitting or panhandling in public in cities that include Phoenix; Gainesville, Florida, and Reno, Nevada.

The rate of unsheltered homelessness, meaning homeless people who are sleeping in places that are not meant for humans to rest in, like parks or cars, is the highest in California.

After the Supreme Court's decision, California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order in July 2024 that directs state agencies and departments to adopt new policies that remove homeless encampments. Those are temporary outdoor living spaces used by homeless people, often on public or private property. Following this executive order, more than two dozen California cities and towns adopted or considered adopting sweeping bans on homeless encampments.

Not every leader has embraced this approach of what some observers call criminalizing homelessness. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, for example, rejected criminalizing homelessness as "backwards" in June 2024.

Nevertheless, many cities are enforcing existing and new bans on homeless encampments more aggressively than before the Supreme Court decision—despite evidence that such enforcement is not effective in dealing with the problem of homelessness.

THE IMPACTS OF AGGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT

Research shows that arresting someone without a home for sitting, resting or sleeping in a public place does not reduce homelessness.

Instead, encampment sweeps and camping bans typically displace people from one area to another, while discarding or destroying their personal belongings in the process, such as identification cards, medications and sleeping gear.

This approach also wastes public resources by paying groups to throw away people's belongings instead of investing that money into actual housing solutions, like creating more affordable housing options.

Homeless encampment sweeps by police or other government officials are also shown to make people living in camps sicker, leading to increases in hospitalizations and even deaths among those dependent on drugs or alcohol.

A PUNITIVE SHIFT IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco is an example of an American city with a relatively large homeless population that has taken a more aggressive approach to enforcing bans on homeless encampments over the past year.

A few weeks after the Supreme Court decision, then-San Francisco Mayor London Breed promised to be "very aggressive" in removing homeless encampments. She also said that "building more housing" would not solve the homelessness crisis.

City data shows that in the 12 months since the Supreme Court ruling, San Francisco police had arrested more than 1,000 homeless people for living in a public space—a scale of enforcement rarely seen in the city's past. In the year leading up to the ruling, 111 people were arrested for illegal lodging

San Francisco identified approximately 8,300 homeless city residents in 2024.

In June 2025, I conducted a survey of 150 homeless people in San Francisco. About 10% of those people who gave a reason for a recent arrest reported being jailed for lodging without permission. Another 6% said they were arrested for trespassing.

In the same survey, which is part of an ongoing project, 54% of homeless San Francisco residents reported being forced to move from a public space at least once.

Another 8% reported being cited for another reason related to trespassing.

A LESS AGGRESSIVE PATH IN PORTLAND

Other western American cities with large homeless populations have taken slightly different approaches to removing homelessness encampments since June 2024.

Portland, Oregon, for example, began enforcing a new daytime camping ban in July 2024. But Portland police have only made 11 arrests of homeless people for camping-related violations over the past year.

Other homeless people in Portland have received police citations for other offenses, like trespassing.

As part of my June 2025 study, I surveyed 150 homeless Portland residents. About 49% of respondents reported having been arrested at some point in their lives. Though no respondents were arrested for camping in a prohibited place, 68% of people I spoke with reported that police or other government officers forced them to leave a public space at some point over the past year.

And 13% of those who gave a reason for being cited by police said it was for camping in a prohibited place. Another 11% of homeless people were cited for some other reason related to living without shelter.

As part of the study, I also interviewed residents who had

been arrested while living on the street. One Portland resident I interviewed—who asked not to be named to preserve their anonymity—told me they lost the chance to rent an apartment because they were arrested in 2023 on a preexisting, unrelated warrant after a police officer checked their ID—just days before they were supposed to pick up their keys.

"Many unhoused people have warrants simply for failing to appear after being cited for sitting or resting in public space," they said. "I was supposed to go get the keys and, bam, I got picked up. I was arrested and went to court. Just me being in jail for five, six or five days screwed it all. I didn't show up to get the keys, and then (the landlord) couldn't get ahold of me, and they had no idea what was going on."

The weeklong jail stay not only pushed this person back onto the street, but it also put them back onto a waiting list for housing—where they remain in 2025.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Supreme Court's 2024 ruling did not mandate that cities criminalize homelessness. But it effectively gave cities the green light to do so without fear of violating people's constitutional protections.

The effects of this ruling will be further felt with President Donald Trump's July 24, 2025, executive order that ended federal support for approaches like Housing First, a policy that prioritizes providing homeless people with housing, before any other needed help. The order also calls for involuntarily committing homeless people with mental illness to mental health institutions.

As more cities consider tougher encampment ordinances, I think it is worth considering if more punitive measures really address homelessness. Decades of evidence suggest they won't.

Instead, arresting homeless people often deepens their poverty, increases displacement and diverts public funding away from the real solution—stable, affordable housing.

Stephen Przybylinski is an assistant professor of geography at Michigan State University. This article was originally published in The Conversation.

TRUMP'S ATTACK ON THE MOVEMENT FOR HOUSING FOR ALL

CATHLEEN WILLIAMS AND SANDY PERRY

Washington DC, August 12, 2025: "Yesterday, I walked from the White House through the National Mall... The streets are eerily empty for an August afternoon near the storied monuments. In some places, there are more ICE, DEA, ARNG, and FBI personnel than there are regular people. There are fire trucks blocking lanes of traffic for no reason. There are Humvees sitting outside of Union Station for no reason other than to terrorize people--to let *us know that we are being watched..." Facebook post, Mia Michelle McClain

In a naked assertion of police power, the Trump administration has moved to occupy Washington D.C. In its opening paragraphs, the Executive Order that launched the attack called for the involuntary "institutionalization"—actually, the mass incarceration—of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our nation, the people who live outside, called homeless but making their homes, as best they can, in encampments along the freeways and open spaces of the city.

Trump's armed attack is the latest expression of a nationwide campaign to isolate, demonize and criminalize unhoused people, but it is far more than that. It attempts to defy, reverse, and defeat our struggle, led by working class people, for unity around the right to housing and other basic needs—our very struggle for justice, equality, and democracy under the U.S. Constitution —the rights that our forefathers won by fighting the American Revolution and the Civil War against human enslavement. It achieves this by creating "outsider" classes, like unhoused people, undocumented people, trans people—and especially Black youth. They should have no rights and no right to have rights.

This is why African American-led and so-called "sanctuary" cities have been singled out for attack. Every

resident of low-income housing is under threat with the Executive Order's call to "get rid of the slums" without regard to the people living there. And finally, the order to fine or jail any homeless resident who fails to leave the city or enter a shelter (when there are literally no beds available) is an all-out assault on the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Resistance began immediately. In Washington, mutual aid groups like Miriam's Kitchen sprang into action, assisting unhoused encampment residents during city sweeps, and struggling to open new shelters and safeguard people from arrest. Free DC, a community organization originally formed to protest abuses by Biden, immediately organized resistance to Trump. It led nightly pot-banging demonstrations, morning and afternoon school support teams to protect vulnerable students, and an Adopt a Curfew Zone to protect youth targeted by Trump-directed police.

Trump has made no secret of the current strategy of the billionaire class that is ruling our nation: intensify the divisions among working class people by targeting different populations and subjecting each to police violence, drawing upon the vile ideologies of white supremacy, fascism, hatred of the LBGTQ+ community, and of migrants and immigrants. Mass deportations. Mass incarceration. There is a method to the madness: the Trump attacks on the unhoused are a calculated campaign against the movement for a right to housing for all poor working class people.

DRIVING A WEDGE

Trump's July 24 Executive Order on homelessness explicitly lies that the problem is one of "crime and disorder on America's streets". It deliberately refuses to mention the real cause of homelessnessunaffordable rents—and openly calls for cancellation of the "Housing First" program that moves people into permanent housing. Instead of ending homelessness and reducing rents by allocating more money, the administration has called for massive cuts to existing Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department programs at the same time it is ramping up sweeps and expulsions.

Deliberately separating the homelessness and housing issues serves the "real estate industrial complex", which has sabotaged government affordable housing policy for over a century, to prevent competition and preserve its exorbitant rents. This real estate bloc wields immense power politically—Trump himself made many billions from real estateit preys on vulnerable working class people teetering on the edge of dispossession. What is rent but a private "tax" for one of life's necessities? Why can't we build public and social housing the way we build freeways and roads? The plan is to divide unhoused people from housed people with vicious lies and innuendos, to turn people's wellgrounded fears that homelessness could happen to them into a visceral hatred of the unhoused themselves.

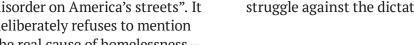
The Trump call for "getting rid of the people from underpasses and public spaces" and forcing unhoused people to "move out IMMEDIATELY FAR from the Capital" is reminiscent of Nazi "beautification" programs. So-called "Asocials" were sent to concentration camps where they were starved and worked to death. By stigmatizing the unhoused, they terrorize the hundreds of millions of other Americans who are at risk of homelessness, and discourage them from uniting in the common struggle against the dictatorship.

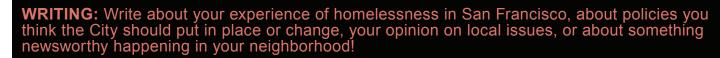
COMMON HUMANITY

Our strategy has to be to unite renters with the movement to end homelessness to win housing for all. Unhoused people and their families are allies of the nation's 45 million renters in this struggle. The current offensive that began with the 2024 Grants Pass Supreme Court decision. The Gavin Newsom sham Care Court scheme for court-ordered "treatment" of mental disability, and his order to dismantle California encampments, was next. Now, HUD Secretary Scott Turner is calling out unhoused people for their "cycle of dependency", as if the great majority of them have not worked hard for most of their lives. As if America's shortage of 7.1 million extremely low-income homes doesn't even exist. As if people are lazy because they can't work the 116 hours a week that minimum wage employees need to be able to afford rent for a twobedroom apartment.

None of this is true. Unity is the key, and many understand that.

"So what are you going to do criminalize the homeless?" asked one resident as he was being swept out of an encampment in San Jose, California. "If you can work together to lock everybody up, why can't you do it to get people into housing? All across the country, the way they're dealing with encampments and homeless people is all the same. Think about what they're doing in Gaza. Where's the difference? Even if you give them something for a year, or six months, what have you done to change that situation, that they're going to get back into again? I've seen a lot of crazy stuff happen out here and I've seen a lot of beautiful things happen out here, people helping out, people going out of their way to do things. So I know that we can solve the problem."





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

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!



TRUMP'S NEW SUBSTANCE USE POLICY WOULD HAVE MADE MY OWN RECOVERY IMPOSSIBLE APPLE CRONK

Last month, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14321—"Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets." By criminalizing homelessness, addiction and mental health crises, the order strips federal support from lifesaving public health solutions like Housing First and harm reduction—the very policies that saved my life and my daughter's, and made my nearly three years of recovery possible.

I spent over a decade unhoused in San Francisco. I was already used to instability-much of my childhood was spent living in cars, motels and campgrounds, until I landed in foster care. They kept placing me in institutions, each more restrictive than the last. I ran away often. The threat of forced placements where abuse was common taught me early to value my freedom. But freedom, without any foundation, can come at the cost of survival. I used substances to manage trauma I had no tools to process. It wasn't glamorous. I did what I had to do to

By age 29, I was pregnant and living in a makeshift shelter beside the freeway with my partner. A massive storm hit and everything we had was washed away. We were soaked, freezing, and standing in knee-deep water when the city's Homeless Outreach Team arrived. No judgment. Just one question: "Are you safe where you are right now?" They got us into a hotel that night. That simple act saved my life—and gave me a chance.

With shelter, I was able to schedule a prenatal appointment. When

I missed it due to withdrawal symptoms, a public health nurse came to me and helped get me into a hospital bed to safely taper off opioids. I spent the rest of my pregnancy hospitalized due to complications. My daughter was born prematurely and spent two months in the neonatal intensive care unit. It was a long road, but we made it. That wouldn't have been possible under Trump's executive order.

EO 14321 eliminates federal support for Housing First policies-programs that provide housing without requiring sobriety. It prioritizes forced institutionalization over voluntary care. It defunds services like naloxone distribution, clean syringes and mobile health teams that meet people where they are. It punishes cities like San Francisco for offering compassionate, evidence-based care.

After giving birth, I entered treatment, using methadone to taper slowly. I've been sober for nearly three years. That wouldn't have happened if I'd been forced to quit cold turkey. The first time I was pregnant, I did exactly that thinking it was best for the baby. I got violently ill and miscarried. I didn't know opioid withdrawal could be fatal during pregnancy.

That's why harm reduction matters. When you've used for years, quitting all at once can kill you. I needed time, support and nonjudgmental care. If someone had tried to force me into abstinence, I would've run. The only reason I could stay was because I was met with dignity, not demands.

Harm reduction tools—like clean syringes and naloxone—kept me and my partner alive long enough to heal. Narcan brought us back more than once. These aren't fringe ideas. They're public health basics. Without them, I wouldn't be a mother today.

My daughter is 2 now—chubby, curious, thriving. I still receive medication-assisted treatment, not because I'm still using, but because my tolerance was high after years on the street. My partner is now in the sheet metal union. We have housing. We have hope. But under EO 14321, the very services that helped build this life would have been gone. The care I needed would've been criminalized.

Trump's order doesn't just shift funding—it reshapes the system around coercion. It calls for expanded civil commitment laws that make forced treatment easier. But science and lived experience say the same thing: Coercion kills, voluntary care heals. I was institutionalized for nearly a year at 16-not because I was violent, but because I was suffering. It didn't help. It hurt. It made me distrustful and traumatized. If you strip away someone's autonomy, you strip away their will to recover.

This order tries to legislate suffering. It replaces housing and support with jail cells, locked wards, and abstinence-only programs that don't work for most people. It replaces hope with fear. But addiction doesn't respond to

punishment. Recovery grows in trust, safety, and connection.

So what does compassion look like in practice? Start with Housing First—always. Fund syringe access and safe-use spaces. Offer medication-assisted treatment without strings attached. Train outreach workers in traumainformed care. Build trust. Respect autonomy. Celebrate survival instead of punishing it.

San Francisco has already shown it's possible. Our city is on track to become the first major US city with no new HIV infections—precisely because we invested in harm reduction and met people where they were, without shame. As the federal government rolls back those strategies, we face a choice. Do we follow them down a path of fear and criminalization, or do we lead with evidence, compassion and courage?

My daughter exists because someone gave me a hotel room, a hospital bed and a second chance. If EO 14321 had been in place, I would have been treated like a criminal, not a patient. I might not be here. She definitely wouldn't be. Until a person dies, there is hope. That hope is sacred. It's not flashy. It takes time. But it works. If Trump chooses cages, we can choose clinics. If he chooses punishment, we can choose prevention. If he chooses fear, we must choose humanity. Let's not squander the hope we still have.

Apple Cronk is a mother, artist and activist in San Francisco.

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



WHAT TO DO IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR



DO NOT OPEN DOORS

ICE CAN NOT COME IN WITHOUT A SIGNED WARRANT. TELL THEM TO PASS THE WARRANT UNDER THE DOOR BEFORE YOU OPEN.



REMAIN SILENT

ICE CAN USE ANYTHING YOU SAY AGAINST YOU IN YOUR IMMIGRATION CASE, SO CLAIM YOUR RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT!



DO NOT SIGN

DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING ICE GIVES YOU WITHOUT TALKING TO AN ATTORNEY!



REPORT THE RAID

CALL RAPID RESPONSE HOTLINE: 1-844-724-3737
TAKE PICTURES, VIDEOS & NOTES



FIGHT BACK

GET A TRUSTWORTHY ATTORNEY & EXPLORE ALL OPTIONS TO FIGHT FOR YOUR CASE. PROTECT YOUR FAMILY & NEIGHBORS!

QUÉ HACER SI AGENTES DE ICE LLEGAN A TU PUERTA



NO ABRAS LA PUERTA

ICE NO PUEDE ENTRAR SIN UNA ORDEN JUDICIAL. DÍGALES QUE PASEN LA ORDEN POR DEBAJO DE LA PUERTA ANTES DE ABRIR.



GUARDA SILENCIO

ICE PUEDE USAR CUALQUIER COSA QUE USTED DIGA EN SU CONTRA EN SU CASO DE INMIGRANTE, ASÍ QUE RECLAME SU DERECHO A PERMANECER EN SILENCIO



NO FIRMES

NO FIRME NADA DE LO QUE ICE LE DÉ SIN HABLAR CON UN ABOGADO



REPORTAR LA REDADA

LLAME A LA LÍNEA DIRECTA DE RESPUESTA RÁPIDA: 1-844-724-3737
TOMA FOTOGRAFÍAS, VIDEOS Y NOTAS

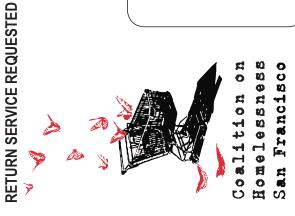


DEFENDERSE

CONSIGA UN ABOGADO DE CONFIANZA Y EXPLORE TODAS LAS OPCIONES PARA LUCHAR POR SU CASO. ¡PROTEGE A TU FAMILIA Y VECINOS!

ArtAuction25

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





280 Turk Street San Francisco, CA 94102 415.346.3740 www.cohsf.org streetsheetsf@gmail.com

Coalition On Homelessness