

STREET SHEET



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CURRENTLY ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY HOMEWARD STREET JOURNAL VENDORS IN SACRAMENTO



MIGRATION IS BEAUTIFUL.

ABOLISH ICE

INCREASED POLICING BEFORE SUPER BOWL LEADS TO DISPLACEMENT SURGE AMONG VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

LUPE VELEZ

Historically, the Super Bowl in the City of San Francisco has prompted city officials and local authorities to ramp up sweeps and the clearing of homeless encampments in the downtown area. Leading up to the 2016 Super Bowl—or Super Bowl 50 to sports fans—City officials stated there was no formal City policy to move people for the Super Bowl, which actually took place 45 miles away in Santa Clara and will be on this year’s gameday.

Despite these claims, the City has ratcheted their efforts to remove homeless people from public view in the runup to Super Bowl LX. Mayor Daniel Lurie has echoed the same sentiment as Ed Lee ten years earlier and has stated that sweep operations will continue as planned.

However, City officials have opened at least one shelter in response to Super Bowl activities, and community organizations in the Mission District are already noting an uptick in requests for services. Gubbio Project opened an additional 80 beds overnight with emergency funds from the City, in anticipation of Super Bowl-related law enforcement increases. This approval of funds is a tacit acknowledgement that the City will displace unhoused San Franciscans from the downtown area in time for the opening kickoff. Similarly, the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District has been receiving reports of law enforcement ordering unhoused

people to stay away from downtown.

Sweeps, arrests, citations and the criminalization of homeless people has only risen in the last decade due to concerted efforts from City officials ,most notably since the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2024 Grants Pass decision. In the first six months after the ruling, Mayor London Breed increased arrests and citations for illegal lodging by 500%. Under the Lurie administration sweeps have peaked to new heights as of April of 2025. With sweeps and citations remaining at high levels and policing of homelessness on the upswing, sweeps and criminalization have become the City’s standard operating procedure in addressing this humanitarian crisis. Sadly, the Super Bowl’s impact on homeless people is not an isolated event – it simply spotlights a time in which the City ramps up its cruelty in hiding visible signs of poverty to suit the economic interests of the City’s wealthiest.

The Super Bowl’s impact on the unhoused community serves as a reminder that poor and unhoused people are penalized daily. The Coalition on Homelessness stands in solidarity with people impacted by increased policing and sweeps and urges the City to uphold compassion-driven and permanent solutions to the homelessness crisis long after the big game’s final whistle.

STREET SHEET CONTRIBUTORS

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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COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

HELP KEEP STREET SHEET IN PRINT!

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.



coalition.networkforgood.com

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 Miguel Carrera, 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 Shakema Straker, sstraker@cohsf.org

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS!

SAN FRANCISCO PIT COUNT CHANGES WILL (STILL) LIKELY LEAD TO UNDERCOUNT

LUPE VELEZ

Every two years, the City of San Francisco conducts a Point-in-Time Count (PIT) with which it attempts to capture the number of people experiencing street homelessness, as required by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a condition for funding. San Francisco's latest PIT Count was conducted in the early morning Thursday, January 29. Historically, advocates and government officials alike have criticized the PIT count for underreporting its figures. The City drastically changed its methodology from what was essentially a spot-check of visibly unhoused people in such a way that will likely result in an egregious undercount. These changes include narrowing who is authorized to conduct the count and changing the time of counting from evening to pre-dawn.

The City excluded non-city outreach workers, except for select favored organizations such as Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), from the count. Before, the count was open to community volunteers and non-governmental organizations. This change of

policy undermines accountability and oversight, while excluding key stakeholders who have deep trust relationships with members of the unhoused community. Lastly, the change in timing is substantial. Homeless people are often on the move in the morning, or hiding for fear of sweeps. In the early evening it is far easier to observe unhoused people, while in the mornings, folks are on their way to school and work.

Many homeless rights advocates and shelter providers have voiced concern about who could be left out of the count. Marnie Regen, division director of government relations at Larkin Street Youth Services, said, "Transitional-aged youth providers are concerned that the change in methodology could miss unhoused youth that we have historically engaged during the evening counts."

Following along with crews of counters, the SF Standard reported how the new PIT Count procedures slowed down the process, likely leading to an undercount. City workers were required to approach folks they assumed to be homeless and survey them as part of the new

rules, a requirement that is done successfully in other areas, but requires more volunteers.

HUD guidelines require each municipality to have an independent community oversight body, typically called a Continuum of Care board, to oversee the count. In SF, this body is called the Local Homeless Coordinating Board. This year, the Mayor's office was much more deeply involved in making several changes to the methodology, making the count more vulnerable to manipulation for political gain. For example, the City refused to count families on the waitlist for shelter as it had in previous years, until family shelter providers told the City they were going to do their own count by calling families during the time the count was happening, whether the city included those numbers or not. The Mayor's office then switched gears last minute and included the families.

There was also the switch to counting in the morning. This is a fine time to do the count—UNLESS that is when sweeps are happening. If the city is citing, arresting and

confiscating property, that can lead to an undercount in that area. One of the areas with the largest number of unhoused community members in SF is Sixth Street. This year, the city swept the whole street before the counters arrived. Advocates such as the Coalition on Homelessness had been asking the City for a moratorium on morning sweeps on the day of the PIT count if they switched from night time, which is when they did the count for the past 20 years. The City refused.

This is just the latest example of executive overreach by Lurie's administration. This includes his current proposal to reform the city's charter to decrease people's initiative power and his attempt to eliminate independent government oversight, committees and commissions across sectors. The Coalition on Homelessness demands accountability and transparency and an improved methodology that brings back important elements of past PIT counts while working towards community driven and permanent solutions to address the homelessness crisis.

CAN AI HELP MAKE HOMELESS CALIFORNIANS HEALTHIER?

MARISSA KENDALL, CALMATTERS

As AI expands into every facet of society, a California company is testing whether the technology can help improve the health of people living on the streets.

Akido Labs, a Los Angeles-based health care technology company that runs clinics and street medicine teams in California, plans to start using its AI model on homeless and housing insecure patients in the Bay Area next month. The program generates questions for outreach workers to ask patients and then suggests diagnoses, medical tests and even medication, which a human doctor then signs off on remotely. The idea is to save doctors time and allow them to see more patients.

The new model, called Scope AI, is addressing a very real problem:

There aren't nearly enough doctors visiting encampments and shelters. At the same time, homeless Californians are in much poorer health and are dying earlier than the general population.

"There are individuals who haven't seen doctors for years. There are individuals who haven't seen a dentist ever," said Steve Good, president and CEO of Five Keys, which is partnering with Akido to launch the AI technology in its San Francisco homeless shelters. "There just aren't enough resources to go in there and find out the needs these individuals have."

Experts who research AI told CalMatters that if done right, the technology has the power to increase access to care for homeless and other marginalized

communities. But while many health care providers already are using AI for administrative duties, such as transcribing patient visits, using it to help diagnose people is still a relatively new field. It brings up concerns around data privacy, biases and patient outcomes, which are particularly pressing when the technology is being used on homeless patients and other vulnerable groups.

"We don't have perfect solutions to a lot of these challenges yet," said Angel Hsing-Chi Hwang, an assistant professor at USC who researches human-AI interaction.

How Scope uses AI to diagnose homeless patients

Scope AI essentially allows non-medically trained outreach workers

to start the intake and diagnosis process before a patient sees a doctor.

An outreach worker goes out into the field with Scope on their tablet or laptop. As they start interviewing a patient, Scope suggests questions the outreach worker should ask. Scope listens to, records and transcribes the interview, and as the interaction progresses, it suggests new questions based on what the patient says.

When it has enough information, Scope suggests diagnoses, prescriptions and follow-up tests. That information is then sent to a human doctor, who reviews it (usually the same day) and either

continues on page 7...

PHOTO: LEON KUNSTENAAR



THE FUTURE OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO

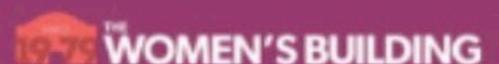


*Responding to the Recommendations of
the Commission Streamlining Task Force*

March 11, 2026, at 6 pm

The Women's Building + Virtually

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THE ICE ATTACK ON US ALL—AND THE RESISTANCE

CATHLEEN WILLIAMS

Since December 31, 2025, ICE agents have killed three U.S. citizens: Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, and Keith Porter Jr. in Los Angeles.

On February 3, 2026, Renee Nicole Good's two brothers, Luke and Brent Ganger, testified before Congress. "What a beautiful American we have lost," Luke Granger said in his opening remarks. Reflecting on his sister's being and essence, he described her as a dandelion in sunlight. Optimistic. Growing without permission. Brent Ganger summed up the meaning of these losses:

It is "the small everyday deeds" of ordinary people like Renee Nicole Good, and Alex Pretti, that "keep the darkness at bay."

What is that darkness? As described by journalist Caitlin Dickerson,

"I really think that we're looking at a reality, with this more than \$170 billion for immigration enforcement, that involves armed law enforcement in the streets as a regular fixture of our lives. Chaotic conflicts in the streets are something that we're going to become accustomed to and massive detention centers that are going to come up and are going to be built for the purposes of holding people and then getting them out of the country."

Immigration Laws – Who Wrote Them and Why?

U.S. immigration legislation is essentially written by the corporations themselves, following the ugly grooves carved in our society by white supremacy. Today, we face the reality that governments are making it more difficult to migrate. Automation, robotics, AI: These technologies are reducing the need for human labor, and at the same time a global class of people is struggling with permanent unemployment, displacement, and the climate crisis, all resulting from the rapidly



consolidating worldwide system of corporate control that transcends boundaries and borders. Migration is the age-old human response to catastrophe.

Nationally, the corporate goal of immigration policy is to keep labor cheap and vulnerable, while reaping the huge profits promised by criminalization of the workforce. This goal also drives the "guest worker" program for importing seasonal workers. The Southern Poverty Law Center has described guest worker programs as "close to slavery."

Like they did with the notorious Bracero program for migrant workers in the agricultural and railroad industries in the 1950s, corporations threaten workers with deportation if they lose their jobs, and at the same time they render labor laws unenforceable. The guest worker program has just been vastly expanded by the Trump regime.

Recently, the officers of the UE electrical workers union affirmed the function of immigration policy in a ringing denunciation of ICE:

"All working people have a stake in standing up for immigrant workers' rights. As our union and the rest of the labor movement have learned over the past half-century, the real purpose of immigration enforcement is to maintain a permanent underclass

of workers afraid to stand up for their rights — which drags down wages and working conditions for all workers."

Although U.S. immigration policy has always been about control of labor, its racist political justifications have continually evolved. The label "illegal" started to be imposed in the 1960s to demonize and criminalize undocumented people, parallel to the way the "super-predator" was in the 1990s to justify the broad repression, the mass incarceration, and the police profiling of the African American community.

But the ultimate goal of the attack on immigrants is political control of the country itself. According to Nick Estes, a historian at the University of Minnesota and enrolled member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, the shooting and killing of white people on the streets of Minneapolis is "a war on solidarity."

"White supremacy is meant to control white people first and foremost," he said. "So if they're not complying with the status quo, and they're trying to defend immigrant neighbors, I see this as retaliation [against them for that]."

The Developing Resistance What shines in the darkness is the scope of the new civil

rights movement that is coalescing around opposition to the campaign for mass deportations, the uprooting of communities, the attack on neighbors. The imperative "Abolish ICE" is no longer radical. Key elements in building this movement are the networks — based in neighborhoods and organizations — that have mobilized uncounted thousands in Minneapolis and across the country. In that embattled city, opposition has cohered into a highly effective, self-organized, and well-maintained communication system,

using the most advanced electronic means to coordinate local action.

Nationwide, the progressive organization Indivisible has sent out a call for a third "No Kings" action on March 28, outlining goals, strategy, and tactics. The goal is to stop the fascist regime from consolidating its grip on power; the strategy is to organize overwhelming nonviolent people power and foster a culture of mass defiance; the tactic — one among many, as the activist organization wrote — is to open an "entry point" for millions to get involved in the struggle, "from ICE watch, to mutual aid, to electoral work."

The "Eyes On ICE" virtual training that the No Kings Coalition sponsored in January brought 200,000 people together days after ICE killed Alex Pretti. "Know your rights" trainings have been effective in getting people involved across the country. In Minneapolis, the community organization Unidos trained an astounding 30,000 people in response to ICE's surge.

The crisis is here. Find your place in local and national movements!

A third "No Kings" rally is scheduled in San Francisco on Saturday, March 28.

An earlier version of this piece was originally published in People's Tribune.

CAN AI HELP MAKE HOMELESS CALIFORNIANS HEALTHIER?

MARISSA KENDALL, CALMATTERS

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signs off on the prescriptions, makes changes, or, if it's a more complex case, arranges to see the patient to get additional information. The medical care is paid for by Medi-Cal through its CalAIM expansion into social services.

In demonstrating the technology to CalMatters, using an imaginary 56-year-old female patient who complained of trouble breathing, Scope asked several follow-up questions to drill down on her symptoms. Then, it made suggestions that included: a diagnosis of COPD or chronic bronchitis, a chest x-ray and spirometry breathing test, and a prescription of an albuterol inhaler.

The Scope AI technology is already being used in a few target areas. Akido's street medicine teams began using it in homeless encampments in Los Angeles County in 2023, where it has since seen more than 5,000 patients. Akido also uses AI in encampments in Kern County, clinics in California and Rhode Island, and to treat ride-share workers in New York.

Scope lands on the correct diagnoses within its top three suggestions 99% of the time, according to Akido.

Other studies have called into question the reliability of diagnoses made by artificial intelligence. A 2024 study, for example, found that AI was significantly more likely to misdiagnose breast cancer in Black women than in white women.

The infiltration of AI into homeless services has sparked concern from some critics who argue homeless patients, because of their increased vulnerability, need a human health care provider.

"We should not experiment on patients who are unhoused or have

low incomes for an AI rollout," Leah Goodridge, a tenants rights attorney and housing policy expert, and Dr. Oni Blackstock, a physician and executive director of Health Justice, wrote in a recent opinion piece for the Guardian.

Brett Feldman, director of USC Street Medicine, agrees. When someone is homeless, much of their health status is dependent on their living environment, he told CalMatters. For example, he recently treated a patient with scabies. Typically, he would prescribe a shampoo or body wash, but this patient had no access to a shower — a key detail that AI might not know to ask.

Instead, he prescribed an oral medication. The patient needed one dose right away, and another dose in a week. He had to decide whether to give the patient the second dose now and trust that it wouldn't get lost or stolen, ask the patient to travel to a pharmacy to pick up the second dose, or try to find the patient again in a week to deliver the dose. AI couldn't make that complex calculation, and neither could a doctor who hadn't met the patient and seen their living situation, Feldman said.

And any missteps the AI makes could have outsized consequences when a patient is homeless, Feldman said. If the patient has an issue with the medication prescribed, they likely don't have an easy way to contact the doctor or have a follow-up appointment.

"I would say, in general, that this would not work for this population," Feldman said.

Akido argues the benefit of AI is clear: better efficiency and improved access to health care.

Before introducing AI, each of Akido's street medicine doctors in LA and Kern counties could carry a case load of about 200 homeless patients at a time, said Karthik Murali, head of safety net programs

for the company. Now, it's closer to 350 patients per doctor, he said, because doctors spend less time asking routine questions and filling out paperwork.

That means more patients get access to care and medication more quickly, Murali said.

Nearly a quarter of homeless Californians surveyed by the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative reported needing medical care that they couldn't get in the six months prior to the study. Only 39% said they had a primary care provider. Nearly half of homeless Californians surveyed reported their health as poor or fair — a rate about four times higher than the general U.S. population.

Good, of Five Keys, hopes the technology also will let clinicians build trust and deeper relationships with their clients. An outreach worker using Scope will have time to form a bond with the patient and better respond to their individual needs, as opposed to a doctor who is rushing through the visit to get to the next patient, he said.

His organization hopes to roll out the technology in some of its San Francisco homeless shelters next month.

Partnerships and access

Akido also plans to work with Reimagine Freedom and the Young Women's Freedom Center to use the AI technology at four centers — in San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond and San Jose — that serve women and girls who are or have been incarcerated. The clients they serve often had poor access to health care while in jail or prison, or had their medical concerns ignored, said Reimagine Freedom President Jessica Nowlan. Many have no trust in the medical system.

Currently, the centers offer health education. This new AI technology will allow them to provide actual

medical care, Nowlan said.

"Our guess is we will see a huge increase in women being able to access health and care for themselves," she said.

Reimagine Freedom started testing Scope AI at its Los Angeles clinic in November. So far, "it's going really well," Nowlan said.

Akido plans to partner with additional homeless service providers who can help it roll out its AI technology in more places throughout the Bay Area. That partnership is being spearheaded by the Future Communities Institute, which is also developing metrics to judge the effectiveness of Akido's program.

If providers who serve vulnerable patients are left out of the AI race, any benefits in the technology will go to wealthy communities instead — further widening the gap between the haves and have-nots, said Stella Tran, who researches AI companies for a California Health Care Foundation investment fund. That's why social service providers need to be involved in testing this technology and developing the ground rules and safety checks, she said.

But that doesn't mean Tran doesn't have concerns. For example, AI works differently on different communities. An algorithm that produced accurate diagnoses for patients in Los Angeles might not work as well in the Bay Area, she said. And while AI has the potential to be less racially biased than human doctors, it all depends on how the algorithm is constructed.

"I think there is a potential to increase access if we do it right," Tran said, "with the right set of guardrails and being thoughtful about safety, transparency to patients, consent, all of that."

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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

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Coalition on Homelessness

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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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