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FREEDOM BY LINNAEA MALLETT CC

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Coalition on Homelessness
280 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

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.

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

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

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

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STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR? CITY ASKS SERVICE PROVIDERS TO POLICE CLIENTS.

LUKAS ILLA

In May, the Mayor's Office announced a new "Citywide Good Neighbor Policy" that aims to punish homeless and public health nonprofit providers for inadequately responding to neighborhood complaints about streets conditions around their sites.

This new policy applies to all "shelters, transitional housing programs, access points, drop-in centers, permanent supportive housing sites, and (Department of Public Health) client-serving programs." For providers contracted to run these sites, it would require provider staff to "acknowledge or respond to Good Neighbor concerns within 24 hours," meaning that if a neighbor were to complain about the presence of a person they've profiled as homeless in front of a particular site, the provider of said site would be required to respond to that complaint within a day or face retribution by the City.

A Good Neighbor concern is broadly defined by the City: "A concern related to site operations or behavior in the immediate surrounding area that affects health, safety, accessibility, cleanliness, or neighborhood conditions, including but not limited to litter, blocked sidewalks or

entrances, excessive noise, public drug use, trespassing, graffiti, unmanaged animal waste, threatening or harassing behavior, repeated disruptive conduct, or failure to respond to community complaints." But later in its draft policy, the City includes encampments and loitering as examples of concerns providers would be required to "actively discourage" and report to City agencies,

After responding within 24 hours, providers must "make reasonable efforts to resolve routine concerns within 72 hours, including forwarding complaints related to the presence of visible homelessness to carceral city departments, like the Police Department and neighborhood street teams—predominantly staffed by the Police Department.

Even with 30 funded ambassador programs that aim to regulate and police street homelessness from block to block, the new policy mandates cash-strapped nonprofit providers to do perimeter checks at least three times a day and to "take reasonable, proactive steps to reduce neighborhood impacts connected to site operations." This nebulous directive includes "actively discourag[ing] loitering that

obstructs access or creates repeated neighborhood disruption," which could mean that a continued complaint of a homeless person existing in their own neighborhood could qualify as creating a "repeated neighborhood disruption" and serve as cause for their service provider to be punished.

Throughout the draft policy, there are multiple mentions of discouraging "public drug use," but where are drug users supposed to go? The Tenderloin Linkage Center provided the privacy and safety of supervised drug use, and yet the same reactionary forces compelling this new policy closed the sites within the calendar year it opened.

If providers fail to document, regulate, and report their clients they are attempting to serve, they risk "restrictions on expansion, administrative payment holds where legally authorized, scope modification, re-procurement, or termination." There is a serious concern among harm reduction providers who have long felt the ire of conservative San Francisco media and Supervisors that this policy will force them to either police their clients with whom they are attempting to build trust or refuse and face closure.

Notably absent in the policy is any additional funding for the expansion of community or recreation spaces at these sites. There are already rules that restrict clients from bringing in carts or other property that they need to keep safe on the street simply due to spatial capacity. In their shelters—if they have a bed at all, as the adult shelter waiting list hovers above 500 people in May 2026—homeless San Franciscans are barred from having visitors or guests. As social creatures, unhoused folks congregate where their community exists; at times, it's in the public right-of-way because they cannot afford privacy.

This new policy regulating nonprofit providers does nothing to expand dignified services—it serves simply to create yet another means for angry neighbors to weaponize their aggravation of having to witness visible poverty in their neighborhoods. For the City unhoused San Franciscans, the question should be: With the City hundreds of shelter beds and thousands of extremely affordable housing units short, where are people who cannot afford anywhere but the sidewalk to exist supposed to go?

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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



COH CARTS GIVEAWAY 2026

PHOTOS BY ZACH BOLLINGER

ADVOCATES CALL FOR END TO WAR ON HOMELESS PEOPLE AT CITY HALL

TJ JOHNSTON

On the same day that Mayor Daniel Lurie's office announced "record-low number of tent encampments and large vehicles on San Francisco streets," advocates for homeless people gathered on the steps of City Hall to demand more services and an end to criminalization.

Three organizations, including the Coalition on Homelessness (COH), which publishes Street Sheet, hosted the rally on June 9 to protest what they call a futile and cruel response to homelessness.

Adding to the usual signs and banners, other visual elements stood out at the action. A pair of figures held together a makeshift jail while a man dressed as Batman stood with the crowd and later handed out water bottles to the unhoused people at the action. But most striking was the layout of foldable wagons as a reminder of unsheltered San Franciscans' continual displacement from city streets. Organizers gave them away to homeless folk after the rally.

Despite the mayor's announcement of fewer tents and other structures on the streets, along with an almost one-third drop in the number of RVs, COH noted that sweeps have increased in frequency since the Supreme Court's ruling in 2024 on *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, which empowered cities to arrest unhoused people for sleeping outside without providing available shelter. Arrests and citations spiked during the last months of London Breed's mayoralty and continued into Lurie's.

"Sweeps have changed under Daniel Lurie," COH human rights organizer Lukas Illa said. "Sweeps have become every single day, every single moment."

Sweeps also make it difficult for unsheltered people to keep their possessions or manage medical conditions, Kema Straker, another COH organizer, said. She described incidents at sweeps where City workers deprived a man of his hepatitis C medication and seized a

woman's clothing on a rainy day.

"These stories are evidence," Straker said. "Evidence of a city that had options—real options, proven solutions—and chose removal instead. It chose punishment instead. It chose to make the problem invisible instead of actually solving it."

"That is not a service," Straker added. "That is criminalization."

Apple Cronk addressed the City's reduction of noncongregate shelter, permanent supportive housing and harm reduction services since they were rehoused after spending eight years homeless. They sued the City in 2002 over its property confiscation practices in sweeps. COH joined Cronk and others in the lawsuit, which they settled last year. They noted that when City workers evicted them from public areas, staff only gave them 10 minutes to gather their things and clear out. City policy recommends workers to allow 30 minutes to pack up, plus extra time for people with disabilities.

"It doesn't matter if you're disabled, elderly, pregnant, mentally ill, injured, sick, sleep deprived, traumatized or running on pure survival instinct after months or years outside," Cronk said. "You have 10 minutes until everything is reduced to debris and thrown in the back of a fucking trash truck. This is violence. This is inhumane."

After the event, the Batman of San Jose, who has attracted public attention for criticizing city councils in Oakland and San Jose on the removal of unhoused residents from public space, posted a video on Instagram.

"What I'm seeing in San Francisco is a lot like what I've seen in San Jose, what I've seen in Oakland, what we're seeing around the country is the treatment of unhoused people is barbaric," he said. "People are being treated unjustly and we need to fight back. People are being killed by these sweeps."



HOMELESSNESS IS DOWN IN CALIFORNIA AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY, SAYS NEW FEDERAL REPORT

MARISA KENDALL / CAL MATTERS

The Trump administration downplayed the decline in homelessness, contending far more people are on the streets today than a decade ago.

The number of people with nowhere to call home decreased both in California and nationwide last year, according to a long-awaited federal report.

The data, showing the first decrease in homelessness in years, provided fuel for activists challenging the Trump administration's narrative that current homelessness policies are failing and need to be overhauled.

There were 181,934 homeless Californians counted last year – a 2.8% decrease from 2024, according to the new federal report. Overall, the country saw a 3.3% drop in homelessness, marking the first decrease since 2016. Nationwide, an estimated 745,652 people are homeless.

Those numbers come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which released its annual homelessness report to Congress on Friday after an unexplained five-month delay. As the country's main barometer for how efforts to combat homelessness are working, the report plays an important role in allocating funding and shaping policies – and is a major political tool.

The Trump administration used the report to promote its policies, including its crackdown on immigration and efforts to direct funding away from permanent housing. Meanwhile, the National Homelessness Law Center was quick to point out that the decrease in homelessness happened while former President Joe Biden was still in office.

“Homelessness is down because President Biden funded things that we know work, like housing and support,” law center spokesperson Jesse Rabinowitz said in a news release. “Sadly, the Trump administration is doing everything they can to backtrack on this progress.”

The federal government downplayed the small one-year decrease in homelessness, instead focusing on the fact that homelessness has increased 27% nationwide since 2013. That's when the country started following a practice called “housing first,” which moves people into housing right away instead of requiring them first to get sober or meet other conditions.

“The data is clear that the status quo of ‘housing first’ has failed to meaningfully reduce homelessness, resulting in crisis levels of people



From left to right, Vanessa Agredano and Zack Darrah speak with an unhoused person during Fresno's point-in-time count on Jan. 27, 2026. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters

living on the streets,” said HUD Secretary Scott Turner. “HUD is restoring its programs to advance recovery and self-sufficiency and to ensure that taxpayer-funded benefits serve American families.”

The Trump administration wants to end housing first and instead prioritize housing that requires people to stay sober. The administration also has tried to divert homelessness funds away from permanent housing and into temporary shelters. California is one of 19 states suing the Trump administration over that change.

The federal administration tied the 2025 drop in homelessness to immigration, saying in a news release that it was “attributable to decreases in sanctuary cities.” The full report never mentions sanctuary cities, but it says some communities in New York and Illinois attributed their decreases in homelessness “in part” to changes in federal immigration policy.

Where homelessness declined

California was among the five states that reported the largest decreases in homelessness last year, though there were more significant drops in Illinois (44%), Hawaii (41%), Florida (11%), and New York (8%).

In California, 17 communities reported decreases in the number of people who were “chronically homeless,” meaning they have a disability and have been homeless for a year or longer. Los Angeles County reported 2,394 fewer such people. Officials from communities that saw those declines attributed the trend to opening new housing, placing people in housing more quickly, using a coordinated system to match people with available units and increasing street outreach, according to the report.

The data comes from the federally mandated

homeless point-in-time count, which tallies people sleeping in shelters and outside on a given day in January. Volunteers count people they see sleeping on the street, in cars or in other places not meant for habitation. The effort is generally viewed as an undercount, as it's easy for volunteers to miss people tucked away in hard-to-reach areas.

The federal government requires each community to count the people sleeping on its streets every two years. Counts are conducted by “continuums of care,” which include a county (or multiple counties), cities and local service providers. In California, 14 of the state's 44 continuums of care did not count last year. HUD used 2024 data for communities in which no 2025 data was available.

Each community is required to submit its point-in-time count data to HUD, which reviews, verifies and analyzes the data before publishing a report. That report typically comes out in December of the year of the count.

How Trump changed point-in-time report

When the federal report finally came out Friday, the Trump administration put its stamp on it in several ways, including by scrubbing all references to gender. The prior report from 2024 broke out homelessness by gender (39% of people counted were women and 60% were men), and included categories such as transgender, gender questioning and non-binary. The 2025 data includes no such breakdown.

And while the previous report referred to “people experiencing homelessness,” the new report instead referred to “homeless persons.”

While the drop in nationwide homelessness last year is a “relief,” there is trouble on the horizon, according to Ann Oliva, CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

“So much of the progress reflected in the 2025 (point-in-time) count is due to targeted housing and service resources that were available in 2024 to rehouse people,” she said in a news release, “including the highly successful Emergency Housing Voucher program, and new funds to address rural and unsheltered homelessness. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration has largely deprioritized these tools and worked to dismantle the very systems that drove these reductions.”

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AMERICA THE NEW BANANA REPUBLIC

PAUL BODEN / WESTERN REGIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Let's be real about what's happening. The U.S. Government is endeavoring to solidify its long time quest of a fascist dictatorship rule. It's moving incredibly fast because the structures needed to pull this off have been getting implemented piecemeal and with purpose since the Reagan Revolution in 1980. So now they are ready to rock and roll.

Dictatorships always rely on a militarized police force to rain hell on a scapegoated minority that are "blamed" as the cause of whatever the authorities decide is going to put fear into their base and use that fear to stoke division and prejudice amongst people.

This militarized police force operates as an arm of a military engagement where no probable cause, due process or any of the civil rights people think protects them from government abuse or persecution. Masked, unbadged, heavily armed and using maximum force, soldiers are fast becoming America's new Community Policing Model. They/we didn't abolish the police, we militarized them. Couple this enforcement with new "black site prisons" being constructed on military bases across the country to incarcerate whoever they choose without due process—is a core facet of any dictatorship, and always has been.

At the same time, in order to ensure that the new "truth" can be spread and never discredited, all dictatorships know it is important to silence institutions that might challenge or fact check the information and documentation it spreads. So universities, public and commercial media, legal entities, and government agencies conducting research and documenting financial trends and data are defunded through public broadcasting, university grant and firing research staff at government agencies and replacing them with sycophants.

With these structures in place the dictatorship can now go about the business of governing. Ensuring that the wealth of the country gets consolidated amongst a select core of institutions and cronies.

"Banana Republics" of South and Central Amer-

ica were countries operated as a private enterprise for the exclusive profit of the ruling class. The U.S. is certainly becoming the Banana Republic of 2025. To finance this, any and all public spending must be directly connected to profits for the ruling class.

Expenditures such as public welfare, education, health care, housing and environment are being and/or have already been eliminated. Since the U.S. Agency for International Development was shut down, over 90,000 children have died, and frankly the U.S. Government doesn't give a shit!! Just like it won't give a shit about the children and others at home when they eliminate access to Social Security, Medicaid, Housing, food stamps or a livable income. Some of these massive cuts will take effect immediately and some are being rolled out so as to truly hit people after the mid term elections in November 2026. But they are all coming, and that we know for damn sure.

\$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid means 17 million people will lose access to vital health care, 411,000 people are projected to lose their housing voucher subsidies (with 500,000 public housing units have already been lost). Cuts to food stamps worth \$230 billion coupled with draconian work requirements in several programs mean more people will be living with hunger in the richest country in the world. This is just a partial list to illustrate the breadth of oppression and brutality. Militarized police and immigration enforcement systems are created to protect dictators from the pain and suffering they cause as they hoard a country's wealth and resources.

Immigrants, trans community members, unhoused people, disabled people and people of color are the primary targets for oppression, but in a fascist dictatorship, we are all targets. So is anyone who is poor and all those who are not working to protect or enrich the ruling class. of people believe that they are the rightful benefactors of this country's wealth. When a country operates as a private enterprise for the exclusive profit of the ruling class violence, fear and oppression are a core function of governing

When the Marine in LA says "Get used to it,

we're here," he is telling us that this is the new norm. When Trump says, "We'll be going after everybody," he is telling us that what we're seeing is just part of a plan that we are not a part of. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has a goal to hire 10,000 agents, offering \$50,000 bonuses and paying \$60,000 towards student loans of applicants! These are not temp jobs; this is the new world order for America.

In this context, Trump's July 24 Executive Order on homelessness makes perfect sense. Entitled "Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets," it calls for forced treatment and civil commitment for people with mental health disabilities and mandates local governments to increase their sweeps and incarceration of unhoused people—or risk losing federal funding. Round them up, beat them up, lock them up and throw away the key!! We all know who "them" is: It's us!

True community groups and organizations are faced with the new reality we are living in, and need to figure out what we are going to do to support each other and build stronger and more universal alliances, messaging and campaigns. We need to do this, 1) to survive and 2) to fight the incredible amount of truly dictatorial shit happening to all sorts of communities right now, and surely into the immediate future. We all know shit has been really bad for a long while already, but it is going to get a whole lot worse and we need each other to survive. It's not just homeless based groups, all of us need to seriously think about our organizing strategies under the current fascist regime.

As Pete White from LA Community Action Network wrote recently, "We are awake. And let this awakening be the beginning of a new chapter—a chapter where we reclaim the truth, where we demand justice, and where we refuse to allow any person or institution to strip us of our humanity. So, let us stand together, with heads held high and hearts fierce."

Paul Boden is the co-founder and executive director of the Western Regional Advocacy Project (wra-phome.org)

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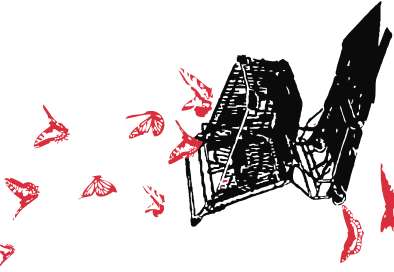
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FIRE WITHIN

A FILM BY
LAETITIA JACQUART & CORINNE SULLIVAN

Unhoused in San Francisco, Dawn and Tony find solace with Miss Terry and Rev Harry who facilitate support groups at Glide Memorial Church. They challenge them to overcome the hurdles of their situations and stand up for their community. The film weaves together their intimate stories of resilience and their fight to reclaim their place in society.

