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

STREET SHEET



CURRENTLY ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY HOMEWARD STREET JOURNAL VENDORS IN SACRAMENTO

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FEATURING REVOLVING DOOR MONOPOLY IN THE CENTERFOLD



Budget Add-Backs for Homeless People in San Francisco

Helps prevent family homelessness by providing assistance and advocacy with benefits, emergency housing support, and skill development

District 5 One-Stop Center

(Mayor's Office on Housing & Community Development)

Amount saved: \$82,948

Immigrant Services in the Mission

(Mayor's Office on Housing & Community Development)

Amount saved: \$339,328

Referral, case management, and support services for immigrant families, including those facing homelessness

Mobile health care, STI testing, and overdose prevention program for sex workers

Healthcare

(Mayor's Office on Housing & Community Development)

Amount saved: \$291,605

Employment Services for English Learners

(Mayor's Office on Housing & Community Development)

Amount Saved: \$166,430

Digital literacy, internet access expansion, and job readiness for non-English-speaking residents, including homeless individuals

Testing capacity focused on trans & sex worker communities

HIV/STI Testing

(Department of Public Health)

Amount saved: \$256,000 over two years

Health Access Points

(Department of Public Health)

Amount saved: \$650,000

Restoration of services

District 6 Pitstop

(San Francisco Public Works)

Amount saved: \$300,000

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coalition.networkforgood.com

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

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

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

STREET SHEET STAFF

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

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

ORGANIZE WITH US

HOUSING JUSTICE WORKING GROUP TUESDAYS @ NOON

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

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP WEDNESDAYS @12:30

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

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS!

ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND UNMET CAPITAL NEEDS

JORDAN WASILEWSKI

Lately, as a permanent supportive housing tenant activist who has been in the trenches on and off for ten years, and who has so much institutional knowledge that hasn't yet been fully shared and, who could write enough evergreen/backlog/retrospective pieces to get this august publication through the Trump administration, I've found that we PSH tenants have been in the news a lot, for better or for worse, or for "it's complicated." The San Francisco Chronicle's most recent coverage falls into the latter category.

On June 23, the Chronicle ran a story about how Mayor Daniel Lurie received \$7 million in private donations to help improve permanent supportive housing. The money was raised through the nonprofit Housing Accelerator Fund, which raised \$50 million in total last year. That \$7 million will be allocated to 63 supportive housing buildings for capital needs. What makes this a hollow victory is that in the last fiscal year the City allocated \$39 million for repairs, following \$20 million disbursed in FY2023–24, so I guess we are relying on wealthy investors to make these basic improvements instead of, I dunno, taxing the rich and eliminating wasteful carceral spending from the budget.

In general, I feel uneasy about public-private partnerships, as they can be a slippery slope to the privatization of City services and eventual disinvestment from vulnerable communities. I would be less circumspect if they were only targeting one-time capital costs that produce long-term savings. Still, if \$7 million are on the table, I say let's take it to bring tenants some much-needed relief.

If we look at capital needs in the big picture, then permanent supportive housing must go even further before tenants can not just live in habitable conditions, but truly thrive. Here are four unmet capital needs that could be improved with money brought in from public-private partnerships

Unmet Need #1: Refrigerators and Cooking Appliances

SROs often lack basic appliances, such as refrigerators and microwaves. Last March, I wrote a piece for both Street Sheet and Street Spirit on how Assembly Bill 628, which requires landlords to provide refrigerators and ovens in good working order, carved PSH tenants out of the legislation regardless of unit configuration and size, and omitted SRO tenants without providing adaptive requirements—similar to federal requirements that a refrigerator and cooking appliance must be provided in each unit. I recently reached out to Lauren Hall, executive director of Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH) to discuss the issue. She said that every DISH tenant is furnished with a "refrigerator and microwave in every SRO unit regardless of unit size—some sites have larger fridges if there is more room—or if there is a reasonable accommodation. Our standard one is decently sized: not the tiny box-style ones that are marketed for dorm rooms but not quite a full-size fridge. We take responsibility for replacement of appliances if they fail, although if it is clearly intentional damage we have worked with tenants to have them pay for replacement." She also agreed that at the very least a refrigerator and microwave should be provided. Such a policy could be a model moving forward. However, she noted that some electric upgrades were needed.

I then emailed Tabitha Allen, the deputy director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, which runs the site where I live. She is also open to a universal refrigerator requirement, provided that electrical upgrades and financing are present. That same email signaled a victory for tenants in several buildings, including mine: THC agreed to repair or replace fridges for all tenants who are experiencing issues, as long as the tenant submits a work order. In a handful of sites, refrigerators and microwaves were already equipped, though repairing and replacing them wasn't guaranteed, but they now have a "better understanding of turnover and need and have determined that we have sufficient budget to replace refrigerators and microwaves that are damaged due to age, wear and tear." I

was so excited by this news that I announced it to tenants and my building manager at my building's weekly coffee hour.

While this was a victory, many tenants are still doing without, and we still have no universal policy or lease provisions around this issue. One week before contacting THC, I had brought this up to members of the Board of Supervisors and City departments during a Tenant Empowerment Week in June and told them that the Supportive Housing Providers Network raised the issue. Let's just say that this might move forward under an unlikely ally.

Unmet Need #2: Cooling Systems

Since 2020, I have shared the need for cooling systems in permanent supportive housing. Climate change is going to have a real impact on vulnerable communities, and there needs to be heat resilience built into the physical plant of the building. We might not be in the Coachella Valley, but we still can suffer from heat. I will laugh and ugly cry if THC director Randy Shaw, whose signature early career accomplishment was pushing for heat minimums in residences, decides to oppose heat maximums in buildings.

Unmet Need #3: Wi-Fi

I also wrote extensively about this in 2020. The pandemic is long over, but being digitally connected is more important than ever. Some tenants are employed, and these residents could end up working remotely, and it is important that the City supports this. Even tenants who don't work use the internet to connect to resources. I am glad that Senior & Disability Action has taken the lead on this issue.

Unmet Need #4: Laundry Facilities

Not all buildings have laundry services available, forcing tenants to rely on faraway public laundromats—that was the case in my old building. Now I now live in a building with laundry facilities, but still several blocks away from a public laundromat. Because the Tender-

loin Housing Clinic does not have the capital to purchase machines, the building rents machines from a shady corporation known as CSC Service Works, which has received plenty of complaints on Better Business Bureau. A few years back, the laundry company put up signs saying that the laundry would transition from being coin-based to requiring the use of an app. While I support a high-tech option, many older tenants in my building are Luddites on this issue, and coin options are necessary.

In April, the coinbox became full, and the company neglected to empty it, forcing laundry machines out of commission for a month. When the company did collect their coins, they also raised the price. Eventually, it lowered the prices—but only after a fellow tenant's petition drive and another extended outage caused by full coinboxes. It's still wild that we don't have our own free on-site laundry machines. Given the number of senior and disabled people living in permanent supportive housing, there is a need for easily accessible and free laundry whenever possible.

Far be it from me to detract from other capital needs—I have been involved in campaigns around fixing elevators in PSH SROs—but we must not be dependent on "housing accelerators" to only fix some issues while leaving larger ones unresolved, lest we need another "Broken Homes" investigation. Perhaps we could have something like the Dignity Fund for PSH tenants, based on a successful 2016 campaign that set aside \$38 million to help seniors and disabled people live in their homes. As former congressional candidate Kat Abughazaleh has said, "What if we didn't suck?", and I agree. What if we didn't suck at making supportive housing a place where tenants not only survive, but truly thrive?

Jordan Wasilewski (she/her) is a long-term permanent supportive housing and SRO tenant advocate, former commissioner, and affordability activist. You may follow her on Instagram @sfpshtsro.

**RENT INCREASE
BACK TO
HOMELESSNESS**

**THE PEOPLE PREVAIL!
CITY LISTENS TO THE PEOPLE
AND CREATES LONG TERM
SUBSIDIES.
YOU RECEIVE ONE!
MOVE FORWARD 6**

**HOURS CUT
GO BACK 2
SPACES**



Revolving Door

**THE PEOPLE PREVAIL!
STABILITY ALLOWS A YOUTH
TO GET FULL RIDE
SCHOLARSHIP TO UCLA!
MOVE FORWARD 4!**

**CAR BREAKS DOWN
-NO MONEY FOR
REPAIRS
GO BACK 4 PLACES**

**CHANGES IN TRUMP AMERICA
MEANS YOU LOSE YOUR HOUSING
- BACK TO HOMELESSNESS**



**YOU BEAT THE GAME-
STABILITY IN HOUSING AND
A WONDERFUL LIFE !!!**

**START:
HOMELESSNESS**



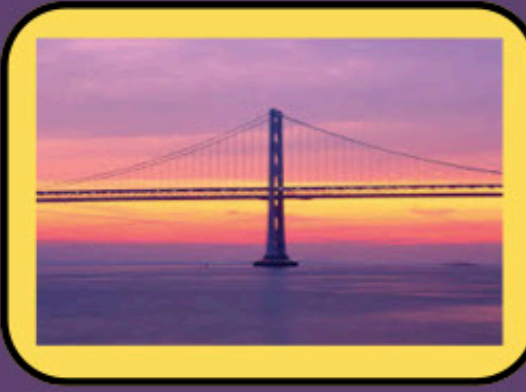
**WAITLIST FOR HOUSING
THOUSANDS LONG
GO FROM SHELTER TO SHELTER
TO HOTEL TO STREET TO
SHELTER FOR TWO YEARS**

**SHELTER TIMELIMIT -
HIT THE STREETS
GO BACK TO
HOMELESSNESS**





**SHORT-TERM
SUBSIDY ENDED.
GO BACK TO
HOMELESSNESS**



**STABLE HOUSING LEADS
TO DEGREE FOR MOM-
YOU LEAVE POVERTY
BEHIND
SKIP TO TO END**

oor Monopoly



**YOUR RV GETS TOWED GO
BACK TO START:
STREETS AND
HOMELESSNESS**



**SHORT TERM SUBSIDY
YOU ARE PLACED OUTSIDE
SACRAMENTO AWAY
FROM JOB AND FAMILY
SUPPORT.**

**CASE MANAGER QUIT
MOVE BACK 2**

**LOST CHILDCARE
MUST LEAVE JOB
BACK TO START &
RETURN TO
HOMELESSNESS**



**FINALLY REACH TOP OF
COORDINATED ENTRY:
HOUSING REFERRAL
STATUS!**

**YOU RECIEVED A SHORT
TERM RENTAL SUBSIDY!
MOVE FORWARD 3**



AS PART OF A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT AT SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL ON JUNE 17, THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS HOSTED AN INTERACTIVE BOARD GAME (SEE PAGES 4 - 5) WITH STAFF FROM THE SUPERVISORS' OFFICES. THE MONOPOLY-STYLE GAME ILLUSTRATES THE REALITIES UNHOUSED HOUSEHOLDS AND INDIVIDUALS FACE WHEN NAVIGATING THE PROCESS TO SECURE SHELTER OR HOUSING. ONE ROLL OF THE DICE COULD SIGNIFY A SINGLE STEP FORWARD, WHILE THE NEXT ROLL COULD MEAN TWO STEPS BACKWARDS. THE ACTION TOOK PLACE WHILE THE CITY CONSIDERED CUTS TO HOMELESS SERVICES IN THE CITY BUDGET.



PHOTOS BY ZACH BOLLINGER



LOCAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROTEST CICERO INSTITUTE HOMELESSNESS POLICY CONFERENCE

WILLIE FUTRELLE



In *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, the Supreme Court upheld a city's ability to arrest people for sleeping outside without available shelter space for the unhoused, allowing for more punitive legislative measures across the nation, including several pushed by the Cicero Institute.

The Cicero Institute is a conservative think tank founded by billionaire surveillance tech entrepreneur Joe Lonsdale. Its lobbying arm is a key architect of model legislation that has been passed in states such as Kentucky, Florida, Texas, and, more recently, Louisiana, that ban camping and further criminalize homelessness.

Housing advocates such as the National Coalition for the Homeless, National Homelessness Law Center, VOCAL Kentucky, and Miriam's Kitchen organized a protest outside of the group's policy conference, where these laws that criminalize sleeping outside and then force those arrested to work unpaid labor for the state to pay for rehab are drafted.

"Cicero's homeless policies have had a horrendous effect on homelessness in DC," said Andy Wassenich, the director of policy at Miriam's Kitchen. "Our shelters are full; our treatment centers are full. Our behavioral health organizations are overwhelmed, and we don't have any housing solutions right now."

Along with helping organize the rally, the National Homelessness Law Center released a report tracking the connections between the Cicero Institute and businesses that would profit off the increased criminalization of homelessness, like Palintir, also founded by Lonsdale, which sells data analytics software to governments for policing and surveillance, and a private "nonprofit" prison known as Social Purpose Corrections.

The fear from housing advocates is that the bills and policies being discussed at Cicero Institute's conference will continue to spread, and that more states will jail people for sleeping outside.

Lindsey Krinks, co-founder of Open Table, a nonprofit homelessness outreach organization based in Nashville, also attended the rally. She recounted her own state's experiences with Cicero Institute's policies enacted in 2022, when the chief policy strategist for the institute testified in favor of a bill that made sleeping on public property a felony.

"That means that Tennesseans that are just simply existing can now get up to six years in prison, a \$3,000 fine, and the loss of voting rights," Krinks informed the crowd.

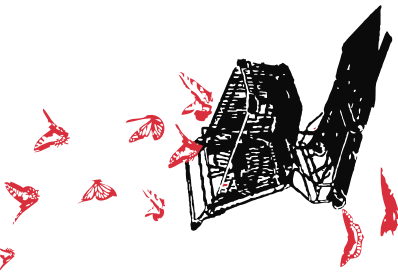
With Cicero's involvement with and support of the for-profit prison model of companies like The GEO Group, advocates worry that they treat homelessness like a crime without caring about proven solutions. Krinks believes that if the current administration puts Cicero's policies into legislation, anyone opposing them could falsely be charged with "sleeping in public" and lose the ability to vote.

"And that's authoritarianism for you, folks. They don't care about you. They don't care about your story or your circumstances," Wassenich stated, before handing the mic off to the next speaker as the protest continued through the early afternoon.

Courtesy of Street Sense Media / INSP.ngo

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END HOMELESSNESS!**

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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 ART
AUCTION 2026**

CALL FOR ART

**SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10**

deadline to submit: Friday, July 17th

scan here to apply!