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# STREET SHEET



CURRENTLY ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY HOMEWARD STREET JOURNAL VENDORS IN SACRAMENTO



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"AINT I A WOMAN?"

2022



# BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF SAN FRANCISCO'S SWEEP OPERATIONS

**LUKAS ILLA**

Every weekday morning, somewhere in San Francisco, well-coordinated teams of City workers destroy people's homes. Unhoused residents beneath freeway overpasses, tucked in Tenderloin side alleys, and living in recreational vehicles in the Bayview know the horror of this near-daily operation, where they have mere minutes to collect their belongings and escape the City teams intent on seizing as much of their property as they can.

The Healthy Streets Operation Center, or HSOC, is the City of San Francisco's multi-department apparatus that is charged with "encampment resolutions," or sweeps. HSOC teams are made up of employees from at least seven City departments, including Fire, Police, Emergency Management, Public Works, Public Health, Municipal Transportation Agency, and Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

But these departments do not assign an equal number of employees; at many sweeps, there are up to eight police officers, but no Department of Public Health workers to be found.

This is where the root of the problem arises: HSOC's emphasis is on the criminalization of homelessness rather than its solution. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) deploys a handful of its Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) employees to go to each sweep, where the HOT workers sometimes ask residents if they want "services," without elaborating which ones are available.

But with sweeps beginning at 8 a.m., HOT can only offer so much, as shelter allocations aren't made available until 11 a.m.. This leaves residents who have been offered shelter stuck in limbo when it's found that no available beds exist for them that morning.

Most strikingly, though, is that HSOC workers do not follow the City's policies around "bagging and tagging" the property of the residents they sweep. San Francisco Public Works' policy dictates that workers must store belongings requested

by residents that are not soiled, perishable or health risks.

Too many homeless people have watched in horror as HSOC workers take their medication, mobility aids, survival gear, valuables, heirlooms, IDs and cell phones and toss them in the back of a garbage crusher.

Since the Coalition on Homelessness brought a lawsuit against the City in 2022, HSOC has been ordered by a judge to follow a preliminary injunction. The City shifted gears and now conducts encampment resolutions under a health emergency exemption in order to clean and sanitize the space where homeless people reside. But the guise of sanitation falls away when HSOC teams follow residents for blocks outside the designated sweep zones, confiscating their property and falsely claiming that residents can take only a predetermined amount of items with them.

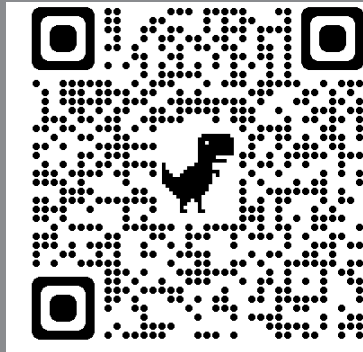
For vehicularly housed San Franciscans, an HSOC operation could cost them their entire home. When residents are not home, HSOC teams coordinate the towing of RVs, pushing single adults and families into homelessness.

HSOC does not follow the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's guidelines for best practices in resolving encampments, such as accommodating special needs and disabilities, addressing encampments humanely, and conducting comprehensive housing-focused outreach.

Homeless neighbors deserve dignity and respect from City workers. HSOC has unfortunately failed in that mission; with an over-emphasis on criminalization, effective outreach to residents has fallen away.

Without a behavioral health-centered and by-unhoused person name approach to encampment resolutions, HSOC will continue to push people from block to block, destroying people's homes and livelihoods along the way.

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:lpierce@cohsf.org)

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS!





# BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY HOUSING MOVEMENT THROUGH MUTUAL AID

CATHLEEN WILLIAMS, SACRAMENTO HOMEWARD STREET JOURNAL

## INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL DOGON OF THE LA COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

*General Dogon is an organizer at the Los Angeles Community Action Network, or LA CAN. This interview took place on April 13, 2024, at the headquarters of the organization, where visitors are greeted by a sunny reception area with comfortable chairs.*

LA CAN's sturdy cement block building is set back from East Sixth Street in the heart of Skid Row, where over 4,400 unhoused residents live on its streets, its shelters, and its single-room only hotels. Its meeting rooms, offices and gathering spaces are open to the community for organizing work.

Dogon told Street Sheet about the work of LA CAN and its campaign to repeal the city's infamous "sit-lie" ban, which makes it a crime to sit or lie on the sidewalk.

"We have a lot of next steps—planning the overall campaign," Dogon said. "End game is abolition. It's a long road, it's a fight, it's a war. You have to face the city that don't give a damn about people."

LA CAN takes a militant stance in the struggle for housing. To put its strategy in motion, LA CAN uses a variety of tactics, Dogon said.

"That's what we are fighting

against: we are educating folks, doing delegations, writing reports, getting the word out." he said. "They know we are coming for them: There are tens of thousands of us—our goal is to organize every homeless person for the fight back."

"We aren't going anywhere without house keys," Dogon continued. "We need to shut the whole city down. Get rid of these laws. It's a desegregation of LA—one humanity, one people, one fight."

Dogon described LA CAN's function in the community as "a bulwark—an organizing base and strategy center—for the unhoused people of Los Angeles, officially counted at over 75,000 in January 2023. Three-quarters live outside, enduring both the extremes of the desert climate and the unrelenting hostility of City Hall and the private real estate interests that dominate it. Almost a third of the unhoused population is African American—although they are only 8% of the city's people."

In the following interview, General Dogon describes the importance and role of mutual aid in building a revolutionary movement. As Wikipedia defines it, mutual aid is "an organizational model where voluntary, collaborative exchanges of resources and services

for common benefit take place amongst community members to overcome social, economic, and political barriers to meeting common needs." As opposed to charity work, mutual aid projects grow solidarity and meet needs by mobilizing people rather than hoping for so-called saviors.

In the following exchange, Dogon elaborated on the role mutual

aid plays in community organizing.

Street Sheet: How do we grow our campaign of mutual aid into a strategy to defeat the sweeps that are being undertaken by our cities today?

General Dogon: Revolutionary greetings, first of all!

Yeah, and thank you for that. And that's a good question. How do we do that? A lot of folks, first of all, when they do think of mutual aid, right, what do they think of? They think of just coming out to help be their brother's and sister's keeper, which ain't nothing wrong with that. That's a good thing, we encourage people to get involved.

But in doing that, you understand me, we all got limits. There's only so much that you can give out, because the resources are going to run out. Unless you got a well that never runs dry.

So what do you do? There's only so much you can do because people are just going to take the resources—"thank you, thank you, thank you" – and they're gone. People appreciate it, right, but that is not solving the problem.

Because the issue is what's pushing the oppression to the point that we gotta give my brother sleeping bags, right, that we gotta come out here and give people survival gear—they are being hit that hard, they are losing tents, they are being swept off the street, losing everything they got. How can we just keep doing that? We can't keep doing that.

Mutual aid, in a sense, is how you grow it—you gotta organize the brother that you're giving that tent to, you gotta let them know what the fight is all about, what it takes to get that tent. You know, that tent didn't come easy, it didn't come from a well that don't run dry.

And so we need to let people know, "You need to become involved in the fight, basically. If we gotta come out here and give you a tent, under these conditions, you already know you need to get involved in the fight."

Because that's what's going to

change it, because we need to stand up, come together, and fight back against what's causing the oppression—to where this brother is even getting this tent and the sweeps are even happening—from the beginning.

So that's how you grow mutual aid: It's getting the people involved. Look at the Christians: The church has some good organizers, you know, you understand me?

They are going to come out there, they are going to feed you, but then, they going to tell you about Jesus, too! They going to slide up under you with the Bible, and they going to tell you all about John 3:16, and "Come on," try to get you on your knees, "Come on, accept the Lord, come on, get him now, right now, it ain't going to happen every day, you better get him right now!"

So that's what we need to do in the revolution, you understand me. We come out there, we gotta give the brother food, a plate, a tent, [and] we say, "Hey, come on, these are your rights, know your rights!"—"When you see them doing this, then this is what you gotta do!"—educate our people. "Where are you going to be this time tomorrow? We want you to come to this meeting," and then we come out and we gonna be our brother's keeper and we gonna start doing some Street Watch, we gonna do some mutual aid, and we gonna do some revolutionary theater. We are gonna get out here, we gonna do some art and culture, we gonna decorate the place. That's what mutual aid is, when taken to the next level.

Mutual aid reminds me also of, when you look at any war, you see the Red Cross. They are right there with their tent with the little red cross on it. They are doing mutual aid, but at the same time they got their helmet on, they're telling people, "Do this, do that"—they doing the same thing [like us, they're in the fight]. So that's what it's really about.

We gotta understand we are out on the battlefield, too. So we want to be able to take mutual aid to the level of revolution.





# CAMP RESOLUTION WINS L

ISIDORE MIKA SZÉKELY MANES-DRAGAN

Camp Resolution, the self-governing encampment for unhoused Sacramento residents, received a notice on March 28 for its nearly one hundred members to vacate by May, preceding an eviction on June 1.

On May 15, the residents and their allies organized and marched to City Hall, saying “no.” Then the city called off the eviction.

Earlier this week, the Sacramento Homeless Union and camp residents announced that the city rescinded termination of the camp’s lease. Assistant city manager Mario Lara sent this notice: “[P]lease accept this as the City of Sacramento’s formal rescission [sic] of its Notice of Termination of the Camp Resolution Lease. The City considers the lease, and all rights and obligations of the parties thereunder, to be in full force and effect.”

The camp residents learned of the looming eviction from lawyer Mark Merin, who represents Safeground, a nonprofit that currently provides city-sanctioned ground for homeless shelter, and manages the relationship between Camp Resolution and the city.

The residents stated their intention to fight back, and so throughout the month of May, their chants have been heard on the streets of downtown.

“Who are we? Camp Resolution! What do we want? Housing! When do we want it? Now! If they don’t give it to us? Shut it down!”

What else do we want? Stop the sweeps!”

The campers began at the courthouse to serve a notice demanding specific performance to follow the terms of the lease, that it will renew automatically every 120 days until everyone at the camp is housed affordably and permanently and then marched to City Hall where several residents and advocates met with the press.

Crystal Sanchez, president of the Sacramento Homeless Union, and a liaison at Camp Resolution, spoke on the nature of the camp’s conflict with the city. “The definition of oppression is cruel or an unjust use of authority or power,” she said. “Oppression comes in many forms for the homeless community, which is traumatizing not only to our homeless community but our communities as a whole. These oppressive systems create a cycle of poverty, instability and suffering. This looks like years of forced migration in the form of sweeps. To fund systems that never intend to resource or house. To violent cycles of displacement and losing everything at the hands of authority figures. To a set of false narrative and set of expectations of hopes to the unhoused and to the community as a whole. What’s left is the remnants of broken promises, broken contracts, that the city of Sacramento continues to hand down to this community. Big business here looks like what we call ‘poverty pimping.’ Millions of dollars coming down on behalf of backs laying on the streets that were never actually intended to go to them or support them.”

Sanchez called upon the crowd to ask if they have received that funding in any way, shape, or form, to which the crowd called back “NO!”

Additional speakers addressed the crowd. Tamatha, a resident at Camp Resolution states “All they give us is a bus pass and food stamps,” she told the crowd. “We know where we want to go, we need services”. Donald Cooper, another resident speaker, added that residents got everything they needed on their own.

Camp Resolution members see the encampment as a safe haven from recurring violence and trauma. “I don’t even wanna call it a camp, it’s home. It’s community,” Sanchez said. She cited some important statistics reflecting the general homeless population: 44 of the 48 current residents have a disability, and all reported a chronic health illness or major health diagnosis. Most of the camp’s residents are aged 45 or older.

“The camp itself is a resemblance to what is actually on our streets currently,” Sanchez added. “Camp Resolution has always been about the fight to not only protect the residents of Camp Resolution but to those experiencing homelessness as a whole as it, and many other organizing brothers and sisters came out of a statewide fight started in 2019 by the Union. There are union members and camps across the state fighting for something similar to what Camp Resolution has been able to accomplish.”

Camp Resolution council member Susan Alhaqq also touched on the violence of sweeps. “I’ve been homeless for 13 years,” she said. “And I’ve been swept, had everything taken away from me. I felt I was less than a person, they took that from me.”

Camp Resolution costs only \$3,900 to run, according to Sacramento’s city audit whereas operating costs from First Step Communities for equivalent services cost \$3.3 million. With minimal cost to the city, advocates see little justification for eviction.

Anthony Prince, a lawyer representing the Sacramento Homeless Union and Camp Resolution in regards to the specific performance order, criticized the city and its practices regarding homelessness. “Let me start by saying that this is a clear cut case of breach of contract,” he said of the eviction order. “This is a legal issue and political issue. There is no question in our minds that the undue influence of this district attorney is putting pressure on the city which the city was only happy to accept and then turn around and intensify the sweeps all across the city of Sacramento. There is only one place in Sacramento that is legally immune from those sweeps because the people there fought tooth and nail to get that space and that space is named Camp Resolution, am I right?”

The lawsuit also calls on the city to honor the lease terms with Camp Resolution, especially clauses that name residents as beneficiaries and automatic lease renewals every 120





# AWSUIT AGAINST SAC CITY

days until everyone is provided permanent housing.

But the city claims in its eviction notice that the camp is in violation of the Central Valley Water Control Board Variance, which states that vehicles may stay only on the

paved portion of Camp Resolution. If the camp can move the trailers on the lot's unpaved area to the paved one, it would seem that the city would no longer need to evict them, but other legal threats from the city contradict this. The Sacramento Homeless Union claims the city could easily renew the variance

at any point, but chose to let it expire instead of getting a waiver from the water board. When asked why, city spokesman Tim Swanson referred to a November 14 document from 2023 from District Attorney Thien Ho ordering the closure of Camp Resolution.

Prince countered that the city was granted the variance before Camp Resolution was established. "What Assistant City Manager Mario Lara didn't say is that the fact that the variance that went for two years is to accommodate the city ... before people organized in Camp Resolution and the city was anticipating that the camp would only be there for a short time, but that is not how it worked out because we fought, we organized," he said. "We fought

in the courthouse on the corner, and we fought in the court of public opinion, and that means that Mr. Lara is in for a rude awakening when you realize that you can't breach contracts, tear up agreements and think there would be a consequence so we told

the city that they had to rescind that lease termination notice."

May 16 arrived, but no eviction took place. The city declared they would postpone the eviction until an agreement for affordable housing was reached, but the lease remains as of this writing unrenewed.

On May 28th, as the city discussed the lawsuit during a closed session, the camp descended upon downtown again to march from the Capitol Building to the city hall.

At the Capitol, the camp and its advocates spoke about the lawsuit and the struggles surrounding life at the camp, as well as its upsides compared with the struggle of homeless living before the camp. One such advocate is mayoral candidate Dr. Flojaune Cofer, who argued the city should live up to the terms of the contract. "That agreement was [that] until the people of Camp Resolution were found permanent housing that the camp would remain open," she said. Empathizing with the struggles of the homeless community, she continued "I'm

frustrated because the city could have done more under the current agreement, to make sure that there's water on site and electricity on site."

Cofer had

previously experienced self-governance when living in Michigan, which made her sympathetic to those living in the camp. Additionally, her experience as a public health professional has made her conscious of the residents' health concerns, knowing that constant displacement lowers life expectancy.

Shonn, a camp resident who moves in a wheelchair, gave a touching story about her experience with disability and homelessness. "I got chased around by the cops, and people who weren't even homeless stealing my stuff," she said through tears. "My generator so I could breath, my truck so I could move my trailer – gone. These are people with houses who took my stuff. Now finally I got to Camp Resolution. I didn't have to run no more, I didn't have to be scared no more. I can't lose that place. I can't go back out like I was." A crowd member called out, "You're not goin nowhere 'til we get you a house."

Shonn told the crowd about her experience becoming disabled and the dehumanization that homelessness brings. "You people need to know we are people, we do care, I raised three kids here, I went to work, I went to college. I did those things. I studied three years in community college to be a vet tech. I had three kids. I came home from work I could barely walk, I had to use the walls to walk, and get up the next day, go back and work. I didn't want to be here, I don't wanna live like this, I want to take a shower. I haven't taken a shower in years. I dump a bucket of water on my head every day. It's ridiculous. I am a person and I deserve to be treated like one."

Satearah Murphy, camp resident, added in support "No air, no amenities. I still gotta wash my butt like I'm outside, I still gotta cook like I'm outside, while cooking while I'm inside. You know? So that's what housing is to me – an opportunity."

After marching to City Hall, advocates entered City Hall to comment on homeless spending, joined by members of LGBTQ+ and Jewish organizations.

The camp's advocates spared few harsh words for the council, telling them exactly how they believe they should proceed in regards to the lawsuit and why it would be beneficial for their bottom dollar to do so. Many speakers focused on demanding nothing but water and electricity and to be left alone at the camp and, if they remain able to do so, they will be able to continue placing homeless people into homes as done on multiple previous occasions.

"I ask you, truly do better because this is cyclical violence", said one commenter. "A person died within the past two weeks right outside that door," referring to the body of a homeless individual found in front of City Hall earlier in the month. Commenters got their point across regardless of the 2-minute time limit imposed for comments, often speaking over the cut microphones loudly enough for the audience to hear, with a valiant fervor in their hearts that they will get their demands met at any cost.

Delphine Brody blasted the council, continuing after their mic was cut off. "Working tirelessly setting up the systems of community mutual aid that you've been blowing off in favor of using your organized terrorism force to steal their belongings, hounding them literally to death," they said. "Where's our housing first? Where's our rent control? Where's our training on the new issues? You spend all your time chasing people, stealing their shit!"

After March 28, the city announced they would extend the deadline for Camp Resolution to leave to May 31, which passed without any evictions. Two months later, the threat of removal has now passed.

With the power of resilient campers and swift legal action from the Homeless Union, Camp Resolution remains a unique project providing safety, support and a future for its community inside and out of its gates.

**The camp's advocates spared few harsh words for the council, telling them exactly how they believe they should proceed in regards to the lawsuit and why it would be beneficial for their bottom dollar to do so.**

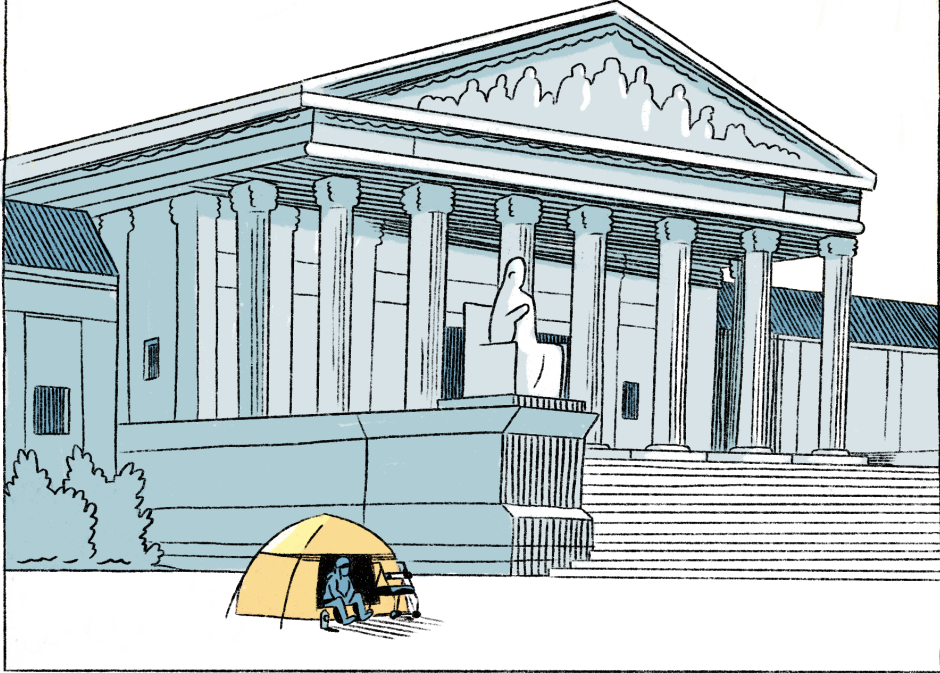


LEFT: Dr. Flo speaking in advocacy of Camp Resolution in front of the Capitol Building, Photo by Isidore Mika Székely Manes-Dragan

RIGHT: Shonn, Camp Resolution resident, speaking through tears at the May 28th Rally, Photo by Isidore Mika Székely Manes-Dragan



By the end of June the Supreme Court will rule on a law dealing with "Public Camping" that was originally ruled on by the 9th Circuit of Appeals in 2018.



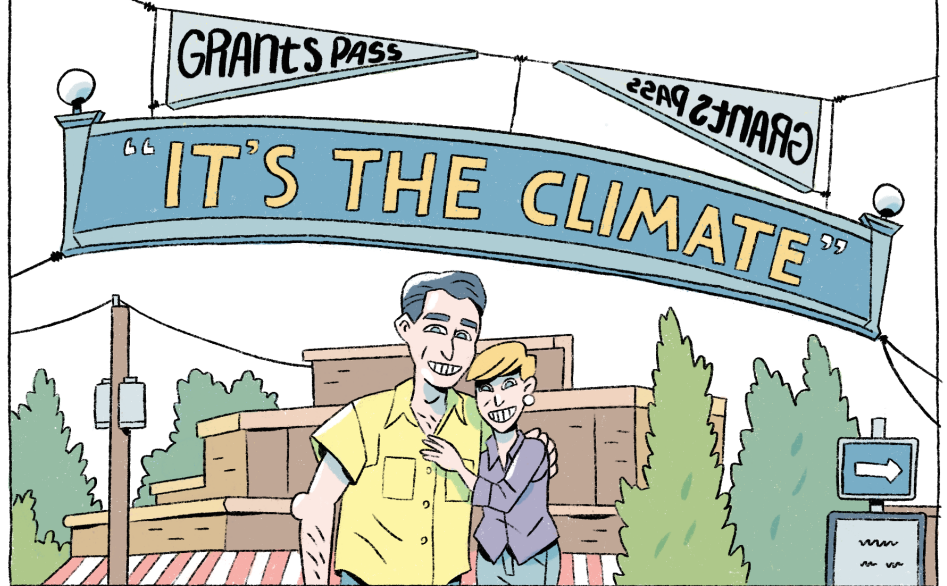
In this case "Public Camping" refers to tent communities of at-risk people reduced to sleeping outside because they have no other stable housing



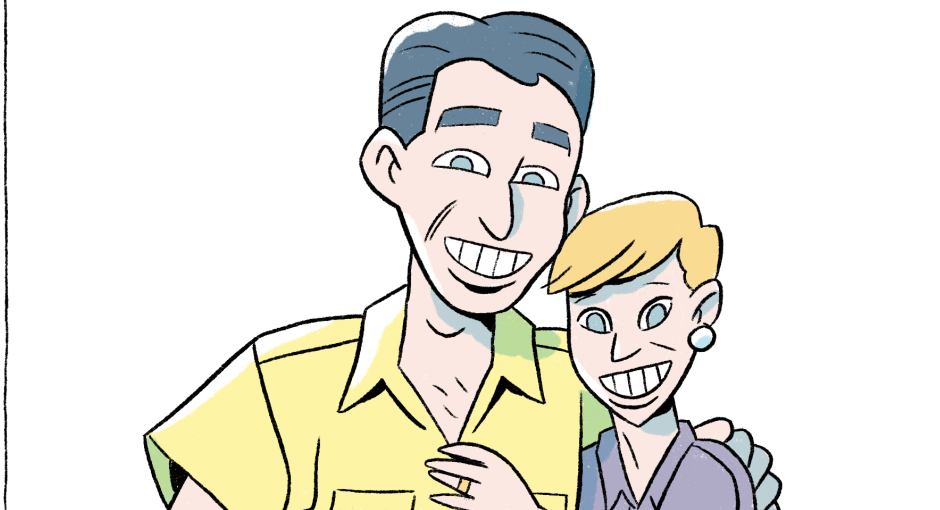
There's been a 12% rise in homelessness since 2022. About 650,000 people are living without a home, more than has ever been recorded before. Half of all those people are forced to sleep outside.



In response to this staggering crisis of human suffering places like Grants Pass, Oregon started...fining these people for sleeping outside. Fines across the country were anything from 250 to 5,000 dollars.



The fines were interrupted by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that they were cruel and unusual punishment... but only in communities that didn't provide sufficient shelter space. Rather than build housing, it seems like Grants Pass chose to push this issue to the Supreme Court.



So now they'll ultimately decide on the legal validity of the law... but not on the morality of people that would kick houseless people while they're down.





# SOCIAL REJECTION ADDS TO HOMELESS PEOPLE'S SUFFERING

JACK BRAGEN

For 99% of human beings, rejection is a painful experience. It might not matter whether it's actual or imagined, or if it's intentional or incidental. In all of its forms, rejection undoubtedly hurts. And it's the same for unhoused people.

For some reason, many affluent people don't get this. They may feel they can treat those less fortunate any way they want, and that it has no impact—but it does.

Homeless people seem to face a great deal of rejection coming from those they ask for help: A little bit of spare change, a cigarette or a phone call on their behalf. But most housed people are looking out for No. 1, and they are afraid to get involved. Others see homeless individuals as less than people.

When some people encounter another who appears unhoused, it can bring apprehension. Sometimes this is for a good reason. As with any person you don't know, you don't always know what you're getting until you get it.

As I'm writing this, it is past 9 p.m. and it is dark out. By habit, I was exiting my building through the side exit, which is unlit. I wanted to go to my car and smoke before going to sleep. I'd fallen asleep earlier, which turned into a very long nap.

When I tried to open the heavy steel gate—the second locked door to go through to get to the outside—the motion to open the second gate was impeded. I realized I was pushing up against a man. It was dark and all I could see was a brown blanket covering a large person.

He offered to get out of my way. Speaking softly, he said he missed his bus and had been at Starbucks. I declined his offer for him to move aside, and he thanked me. He said he was trying to keep warm. I got my key, and I went back into the building lobby. I considered just going back to my room. Then I decided I needed my smoke, so I exited through the building's front door to get to my car. If anyone wanted to beat me up or mug me many could easily do so, however unlikely. But the man also didn't know me, and that could also be a deterrent.

I had most of my smoke and drank bottled water. When I looked at my watch, the display was 9:11. Whenever I see 911, I erroneously think the universe is trying to warn me of something. So, I put out my one-third remainder of cigarette and re-entered the building through the front door.

In different contexts, such as in an affluent neighborhood or one with

intolerant community members, someone would have called the police. This is not a compassionate thing to do. As I have fears of what could happen to me in my future, it is not an extreme stretch to put myself in this sleeping man's shoes.

If I had been afraid, I could have forgotten about getting my cigarette and could have turned and went back to my unit without smoking. But I had to have my smoke, and the man I'd encountered was not threatening.

I am well able to stand up to a threatening individual, regardless of how big and strong they are. You don't need to be the biggest kid on the block to stand up for your rights. I have a right to basic human respect and to being left alone when I'm not out to do harm to anyone.

Homeless people and/or panhandlers might feel rejection when someone ignores them or believes they are better than them. They may be upset when someone refuses to help. An aggressive voice in response to perceived rejection may paint homeless people as dangerous, but this is not usually the truth. Homeless people have probably experienced much rejection elsewhere in their lives. Receiving a stiff rebuff undoubtedly stings.

Everyone has rights, and everyone wants to be respected. This can look very different from one person to another. Whether homeless people just appear threatening or pose an actual danger, they might be hurting on the inside because of too much rejection, especially from people who have plenty in their lives and who do not appreciate how fortunate they are.

I have never been beaten by a homeless person. One of them recently raised his voice and said fighting words but I doubt that he meant any real harm. Many people just react.

I know that if I fear something or someone, usually that's me generating the fear, not the situation. Sometimes you just have to take a chance. Being in the presence of a man in a blanket does not rate very high on the scale of risk. A person could do things that are far riskier without being considered a fool.

Sometimes you must take a risk, even if it is only a small risk.

*Jack Bragen lives and writes in Martinez, California. His work has appeared in many publications, and he sells indie books on Amazon.*

# DRAMATIC RISE IN VEHICULAR AND FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS STATEMENT

San Francisco -- Despite a marked improvement in housing placements, underlying socioeconomic disparities combined with a lack of significant federal and state investment in affordable housing have driven homeless rates up 7% in San Francisco. In particular, the Point in Time Count showed a 94% increase in family homelessness, and a 90% increase in vehicularly housed. Increased shelter and housing availability has led to a 13% decrease in street homelessness.

According to Solinna Ven, Organizing Director of the Coalition on Homelessness, "This count reflects a harsh reality. Due to November 2018 Prop C, the city is housing more unhoused people than ever, but these investments are not keeping up with the systemic reality of rising rents and stagnant income." November 2018 Prop C, leveraging state and federal funding for homelessness, has meant the city has been able to place an average of 49 households into housing each week this fiscal year, compared to only 15 per week before Prop C funds were available during fiscal year 2017/2018. "This is what has led to a 13% decrease in the street count, not enforcement or sweeps. The criminalization of homelessness does not and has never decreased homelessness but instead has exacerbated homelessness and increased morbidity."

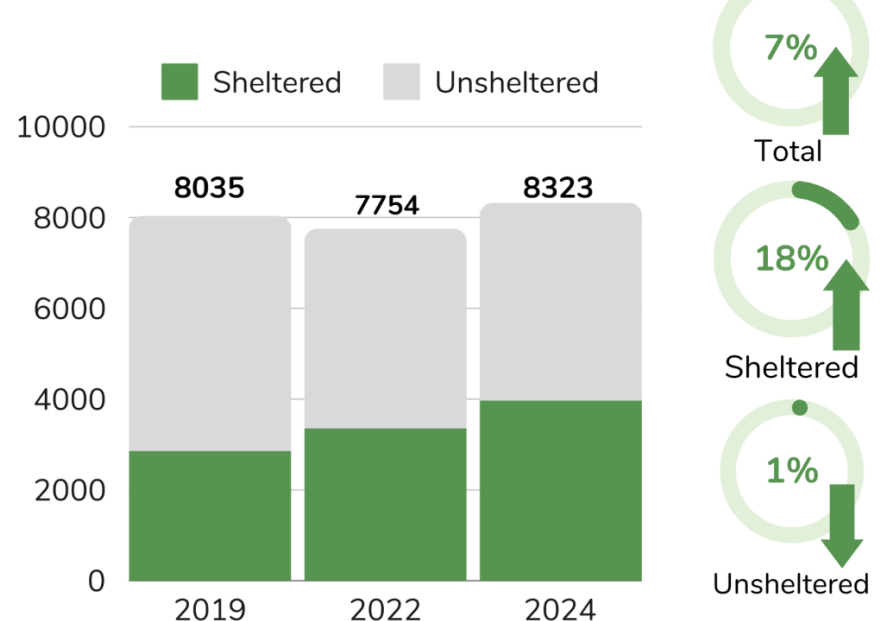
The city cannot solely rely on Prop C funds to address the major underlying systemic inequities growing homelessness represents across the country, and more federal, state and local investments are needed to prevent homelessness through

short, medium, and long-term rental assistance paired with legal eviction defense services, as well as restoring our nation's commitment to ensuring the public stock of extremely low-income housing is commiserate with need.

According to Yessica Hernandez, Housing Justice Organizer with the Coalition on Homelessness, "The city leadership has a legacy of neglecting homeless families and their children and has failed to expand badly needed housing, jobs, and safe parking sites. We only have one small safe parking site in the whole city. The city is about to evict dozens of families and individuals living in their RV's near SFSU who have nowhere to go. This will only make the problem worse."

Only 9% of homeless funding system-wide goes towards family homelessness. Part of this failed investment has been driven by chronic undercounting of the family population. There are 442 families currently on the shelter and hotel waiting lists. A recent report described the chronic undercount of families and the steps needed to correct this. (Voices of the Unseen: A Real Count for Homeless Families). Family providers, along with the Coalition on Homelessness pushed in this report for a more accurate Point in Time count. This year, the methodology did improve as they started calling families who were homeless and applying for housing to check and record their status. That meant that this year's count more accurately reflected the number of homeless families, but it still should be considered an undercount, as families tend to stay more hidden.

## Total Homelessness



Total homelessness (combining sheltered and unsheltered people) increased by 7% since 2022 from 7,754 to 8,323.



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**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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**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!

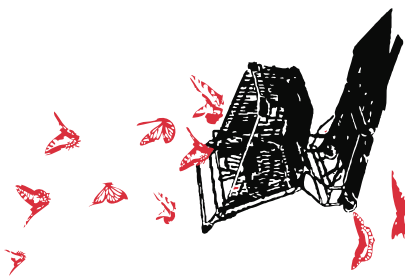
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