



MINIMUM SUGGESTED DONATION TWO DOLLARS.

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

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

STREET SHEET



CURRENTLY ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY HOMEWARD STREET JOURNAL VENDORS IN SACRAMENTO

DON'T TAKE OUR

HOMES



Poster Syndicate San Francisco

PALESTINE WILL BE FREE

2

THE UNSEEN TOLL OF ENCAMPMENT SWEEPS

3

NO ON D NO ON 36

4-5

LEAGUE OF PISSED OFF VOTERS GUIDE

6

POVERTY IS VIOLENCE

7

FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA PALESTINE WILL BE FREE

We are witnessing an ongoing genocide in Palestine and carried out by the settler state of Israel with the financial and political support of the US government. Israel has an organized military, an iron dome, and has dropped 70,000 tons of explosives on Gaza since Oct 7th, killing at least 40,000 people. For decades Israel has controlled access to electricity, movement, water, food, and internet to Palestinians, which now puts the people of Gaza in a perilous humanitarian crisis. The Israeli Defense Force is openly committing war crimes, including bombing hospitals, mosques, evacuation routes and dropping white phosphorus on Palestinians.

CEASEFIRE & ARMS EMBARGO NOW!
Here are some ways to take action!

1. CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND DEMAND THEY SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA!

FIND YOUR REP HERE ---->



2. AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF PALESTINIANS AND NAME THIS AS GENOCIDE TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW

- @WIZARD_BISAN1
- @JOEGAZA93
- @NOURAERAKAT
- @BYPLESTIA
- @ABORJELAA
- @GAZANGIRL
- @JENANMATARI
- @WAELELAHDOUH

3. BOYCOTT ISRAELI PRODUCTS

The Boycott-Divest-Sanction (BDS) movement is a great way to support the ongoing work toward peace in Palestine! The main targets of this movement right now are Starbucks, McDonalds, and Disney. Scan here to learn what to boycott.



HELP KEEP STREET SHEET IN PRINT!



SCAN ME

coalition.networkforgood.com

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

- PHOTOGRAPHERS
- VIDEOGRAPHERS
- TRANSLATORS
- COMIC ARTISTS
- NEWSPAPER LAYOUT
- WEBSITE
- MAINTENANCE
- GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
- INTERNS
- WRITERS
- COPYEDITORS

DONATE EQUIPMENT!

- LAPTOPS
- DIGITAL CAMERAS
- AUDIO RECORDERS
- SOUND EQUIPMENT

CONTACT:

TJJOHNSTON@COHSF.ORG

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

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

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's 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.

Editor: TJ Johnston
Artistic Spellcaster: Quiver Watts
Cover Art: Jules Ratzlaff / SF Poster Syndicate

Hollie Garrett/Street Spirit,
Cathleen Williams/Homeward Street Journal, Jack Bragen, Madeleine Matz, Stop the Sweeps, League of Pissed off Voters

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!

THE UNSEEN TOLL OF ENCAMPMENT SWEEPS

HOLLIE GARRETT

I watched the correctional officers from the sliver of the cell door window as they strapped on their rubber gloves and set up their metal detectors in preparation of the mass search. I had known this would be coming for days, but that did not simmer the anxiety and stress I felt in my chest and stomach as I watched them prepare to shatter any sense of privacy I may have developed during my stay in this prison.

I had already hid the most important contraband. The most important item was my cell phone. This was my connection to the world outside of prison and getting caught with it cut like a double-edged sword, because not only would it cost me 90 more days on my sentence, but the anxiety of having to live without it after having it was almost like getting locked up all over again. The THC wax papers I had were hidden away as well. Still, I felt anxious. I looked at my celly as the look on his face reflected the same stress and anxiety that I felt.

“I will never get used to this,” I said. “That’s because they are about to dig through our stuff and take what they want. You are not supposed to get used to that.”

It was watching the unhoused citizens of San Francisco scrambling to gather their belongings as city workers moved in to clear encampments that brought back the memory and feelings of the cell searches. I recognized the anxious looks on the faces of the unhoused that I shared with my celly as we prepared to have any sense of privacy shattered. As I watched the unhoused scramble from one block to another with all their personal belongings, I had to know what was bringing on the new, aggressive sweeps to these encampments.

There has been a major uptick in San Francisco encampment sweeps since July, when Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order that directed state agencies to clean up homeless encampments on state-owned property. Newsom’s executive order follows the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the City of Grants Pass v. Johnson case, which permits cities to enforce bans on public camping

without violating the Eighth Amendment. With this ruling, Governor Newsom threatened to withhold state funding from local governments who fail to comply.

IMPACT ON THE UNHOUSED

For people like Albert Defuentes, who has been homeless for 15 years, these encampment cleanups mean losing everything he owns—over and over again.

“The only property I can keep is the clothes on my back and the blanket I sleep with,” says Albert. And instead of the 48-hour notice suggested by Newsom’s Executive Order, Albert says the city workers often only give 45 minutes to move before an encampment is cleared. “I wish I could be part of the solution and get housing,” he says, “but every time I go to a shelter, they don’t offer housing, so I just sleep on the street.”

Brandon Underwood is not homeless but he has many close friends who are unhoused. Brandon compares watching the encampment sweeps to his house burning down in 2005. “I literally had 10 minutes to grab whatever I could and leave town. I can imagine that’s how they feel. Like, what do I grab?” His friends often return to find their encampments wiped out, left scrambling to recover whatever wasn’t taken or destroyed by city workers.

Brandon also shared a personal anecdote of how hard losing property as an unhoused individual can be. “If they grab your blanket...then you have to roam the streets all night in the cold because somebody took your blanket. That’s when you really feel it. That has happened to me personally. People die from that.”

LEGAL AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS

The Coalition on Homelessness, a non-profit advocating for the rights of unhoused individuals in

San Francisco, has been locked in a years-long legal battle with the City over the treatment of the unhoused during these cleanups. Initially filed in 2022, their lawsuit alleges that the city violated its own policies regarding the treatment of the unhoused, including criminal enforcement during sweeps, destruction of property, and a lack of adherence to “bag and tag” policies.

“The only property I can keep is the clothes on my back and the blanket I sleep with,” says Albert. And instead of the 48-hour notice suggested by Newsom’s Executive Order, Albert says the city workers often only give 45 minutes to move before an encampment is cleared. “I wish I could be part of the solution and get housing.”

While the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling may have removed the Eighth Amendment argument—that sweeps represent a form of cruel and unusual punishment—from the Coalition’s lawsuit, the Fourth Amendment claim still remains: that the City is in violation

of due process with the illegal search and seizure of personal belongings. One Coalition investigator says they watched a woman’s leukemia medication be discarded during a sweep. On another occasion, a local artist named James lost all his art supplies and pre-sold paintings during a sweep. These are the types of situations that gave rise to the Coalition’s Fourth Amendment argument.

Beyond the legal issues lies the ethical question: Does the removal of encampments truly address the problem of homelessness, or does it merely displace individuals who are struggling to survive?

THE CALL FOR COMPASSION AND REAL SOLUTIONS

Attorney Andrew Nitm with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of San Francisco (LCCRSF) says there are alternatives to criminalizing homelessness. He proposes universal rental assistance, allocating funds from Proposition 1 towards affordable housing, utilizing vacant public housing units, and practicing preventive measures to keep people from ending up on the

streets. These measures may offer a chance to break the cycle rather than perpetuate it.

Reflecting on my own experience as a warehoused non-citizen and watching the unhoused navigate a system that strips them of their dignity and belongings, I am taken back to that cell. Stripped out by the guards and made to sit outside in the cold while they search my belongings, the anxiety of what was being taken or destroyed would not subside. Prepared for the damage and losses, my celly and I headed back to our cell. Clothes, boxes, and paperwork were all scattered around the cell. But I cared less about the mess and more about what they took. Once the door was closed and the coast was clear, we went straight to our hiding spots to retrieve our unfound contraband. While a few items were missing like extra shoes and clothes, I still had my phone and my wax papers. The anxiety and stress I had felt for hours dissipated, I still had the property that was most important to me. That is, until the next search.

The fear of losing your personal property, whether in prison or in the streets, is an unbearable strain of anxiety and stress that never goes away until you lose what you cherish. Then you are free of that fear until you collect items again that may be deemed contraband or trash.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed has said that sweeps are intended to force the homeless into compliance in part by making life very uncomfortable for them. But some of us understand in our bones that making a person uncomfortable only further destabilizes them, it does not give them the tools they need to “comply.” That for every item so easily discarded and thrown away is a treasure of comfort and necessity for an unhoused individual already living in a painfully uncomfortable situation. ■

Hollie “Wali” Garrett III is a communications major at SFSU and advocate of criminal justice reform, addressing systemic issues through writing and media. He creates work that amplifies marginalized voices and explores justice and human rights.

NO ON PROP. D, A DANGER TO OUR DEMOCRACY

MADELEINE MATZ

Proposition D, a San Francisco ballot measure that would scrap the City's system of oversight boards, commissions and committees, is antithetical to our local democracy. It should be an easy 'no' vote.

First, Prop. D's origin is sticky with the right wing's fingerprints. As SPUR notes, Prop. D was drafted by TogetherSF, a political action committee heavily financed by the billionaire Michael Moritz, without input from commission members or community stakeholders. Despite claiming center-left politics, TogetherSF has run candidates who openly deride homeless people, support unfettered policing, and generally lean far to the right of San Francisco voters. Mission Local has reported that Prop. D is part of an attempt by TogetherSF to push progressive voices out of City government.

Second, the campaign for Prop. D appears to be functioning as an illegal slush fund for Mark Farrell's campaign. TogetherSF has funneled over \$7.8 million into Prop. D and put out multiple rounds of campaign mailers where Farrell figures prominently. San Francisco law caps donations to mayoral candidates at \$500 per person, but allows unlimited donations to ballot measures. As news sources across the Bay Area have reported, Prop. D fundraising appears to be supporting Farrell's candidacy. This is potentially a criminal issue, with former SF mayors and others calling for the state's attorney general to step in.

But Prop. D is not wrong because it was written and funded by a right-wing group. It is wrong because it would dismantle a cornerstone of San Francisco's civilian oversight system, a vital component of our local democracy.

The City's commissions oversee everything from our police department to the administration of our public hospitals. These bodies empower diverse voices—including youth, formerly and currently houseless people, transit

riders and others—to give advice, and in some cases make impactful policy decisions, about how our City runs.

If it passes, Prop. D would arbitrarily limit the number of commissions in San Francisco to 65, eliminate several commissions without review and shift power away from the remaining commissioners to the mayor or department heads.

The Our City Our Home (OCOH) advisory committee is an example of all we have to lose. The advisory committee makes recommendations about the allocation of the funds generated by 2018's Prop. C, which implemented a tax on wealthy businesses in San Francisco to support shelter, permanent housing and behavioral health services for unhoused people. The advisory committee, which includes formerly houseless people, is one of the few places in City government that solicits and respects the voices of poor and unhoused people. Its rigorously researched policy recommendations and publicly available reports help all San Franciscans understand how the City spends our tax dollars in fighting homelessness. The advisory committee holds mayors and City departments accountable to the goals set out by the voters who passed that measure.

Under Prop. D, the Police Commission would also lose the key power to set San Francisco Police Department policy, severely hampering any efforts to reform the department. Without the authority to set policy, the commission would be limited to holding officers to the standards set by the SFPD. Police departments around the country already set lax guidance for their officers on everything from use of force to developing reasonable suspicion to conduct a stop. If the Police Commission were unable to set policy guidelines for SFPD, its important oversight powers would be limited significantly and be reactive rather than proactive.

Though the power and scopes of these panels differ, they reflect the strength of the commission and advisory board system. Both ensure transparency in our City works and empower diverse, expert voices to challenge the status quo.

TogetherSF has said its goal is to make the City government run more efficiently. Commissioners are uninformed and self-serving, according to the organization. Also, the City has many more commissions than other comparable cities.

TogetherSF correctly points out that commissioners are unelected and that City government could and should run more efficiently. The group may even be right that some of our commissions should go. But Prop. D is sloppy, rushed and antidemocratic.

TogetherSF is explicitly and implicitly opposed to civilian oversight of government. But we know that the most vulnerable San Franciscans rely on advocates and community members serving on boards overseeing areas as diverse as public transportation and community health, as well as the Youth Commission and the OCOH advisory committee, to advocate for their needs without concerns about their re-election.

Many groups and elected officials have come out opposing Prop. D, including Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Shamann Walton, Connie Chan and Rafael Mandelman; Assemblymember Phil Ting; the American Civil Liberties Union; and several labor organizations and Democratic clubs. Even Mayor London Breed rescinded her original endorsement.

Our commission system supports democracy. Vote no on Prop. D. ■

STOP P CALIFO LATEST INDUST

"With California dealing with such a serious housing crisis—actually I would say beyond a crisis, we are living through a housing disaster—the idea of re-introducing tens if not hundreds of thousands of felonies into families across California [through Prop. 36] will make that problem not only worse, but it will make it unimaginably worse. It's not about fixing anything or making anyone safer. Instead, it's a re-investment in the prison-industrial complex because it is a big cash cow, and power grab by certain special interests in the state of California..." Lex Stepling, LA Community Action Network.

The fight against Proposition 36 is gathering. Recently, grassroots organizations came together from across the state—from Humboldt County to San Diego—to get out the vote against Prop. 36 and let the public know of the danger.

Prop. 36 elevates nonviolent offenses like petty theft to felonies and imposes harsh prison sentences on low level drug offenses, which will be on California's November ballot. It is a return to California's ruinous "three strikes" rule, as well as other punitive laws, and an attempt to rebrand the failed war on drugs, which Emily Kaltenbach of the Drug Policy Alliance labels as "a war on class and race."

The campaign to put Prop. 36 on the ballot is funded by a coalition of retail corporations, including Wal-Mart and Target, claiming that theft has increased when in fact it has been trending downward since the pandemic. A key ally of this corporate-funded initiative is a standard bearer for law enforcement, the California District Attorneys Association. Significantly, it is also backed by the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, the prison guards union that recently received an almost \$1 billion pay and benefits package from the state legislature.

Using fear and misinformation to manipulate California voters, the entire Yes on 36 campaign is based on lies: In addition to the provably false claim that overall crime is

PROP. 36, CALIFORNIA'S PRISON- INDUSTRIAL SCAM

CATHLEEN WILLIAMS,
HOMEWARD STREET JOURNAL

Increasing the campaign claims that the measure will get more people into drug treatment, when it will actually decrease funding for treatment and force people who want treatment to go to prison instead. Supporters claim that the opposition addresses homelessness when it actually reduces funding for drug disorder treatment and provides zero dollars for housing, while allocating hundreds of millions for prisons and jails.

Prop. 36 is designed to roll back the gains of the abolitionist movement against police violence and criminalization—powerfully expressed in the George Floyd uprisings of 2020, which brought together millions in multi-racial protests. This movement has won sentencing reforms and a 25% reduction of the prison population nationwide from its peak in 2009.

Prop. 36 proponents aim to repeal Prop. 47, the 2014 initiative that reduced certain nonviolent drug and property crimes to misdemeanors, limiting penalties and keeping offenders away from state prison. Prop. 47 has saved over \$800 million reducing incarceration, and redirected those funds to behavioral health treatment and other critical services.

Prop. 36 is not an isolated California proposition; it is an integral part of the ongoing nationwide fascist campaign to take over the government which is laid out in Project 2025, the playbook of the Trump candidacy.

Prop. 36 will funnel millions each year into the prison-industrial complex. The corporate class is promoting Prop. 36 for political reasons, trying to consolidate its grip on the state and the electorate itself by preying on fears about crime. It benefits the retail industry by activating a police response to felonies at taxpayer expense rather than paying private security to handle the same offenses that are charged as misdemeanors.

Prop. 36 also wants to reinforce the lie that homelessness is caused by drug addiction, not by destitution.

The financial, insurance and real estate industries are treating housing as a profit-making commodity while the economy is being revolutionized by technology. This rapidly automating system can no longer provide living wage work, and resultingly can no longer distribute the wealth of the society, which is increasingly concentrated in billionaire dynasties.

The revolution in technology has created a growing mass of dispossessed people, the most vulnerable part of the working class, including the unhoused in their millions. They have been abandoned by the corporate state—and criminalized. In the words of prison abolitionist Ruthie Gilmore: “Prison is not just a response to a ‘free floating thing called crime’—it’s a response to ‘surplus populations.’ Which is to say that prisons are designed to absorb people: those people who have been abandoned by the state.”

Organizer and educator Mariame Kaba said in an April 10, 2019 interview with Chris Hayes on MSNBC, “For me, capitalism has to go. It has to be abolished. We live within a system that’s got all these other -isms, and we’re gonna have to uproot those. So, we’re doing work every single day to set the conditions for the possibility of that alternate vision of a world without prisons, policing, and surveillance.”

This will be a long fight with many battles, according to Brian Kaneda, Deputy Director and Los Angeles coordinator for Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB). He told the online activist publication Rally that investing in proactive solutions, rather than punitive measures, would reduce harm to communities. He also noted that the “tough on crime” messaging is losing its punch with voters.

“What we saw is the fear mongering isn’t landing the way we’re being told it is,” Kaneda said. “And that tells me that our ideas are resonating with people, no matter what the polls say.” ■

**Your community.
Your city.
Your future.
Your vote is your voice.
Register now. Vote early.**

November 5, 2024 Election RegisterToVote.ca.gov



SAN FRANCISCO
ELECTIONS

Experiencing homelessness in SF? You can still vote!

Register online at registertovote.ca.gov

- If you don't have a fixed address, provide the location of where you spend the most time (e.g. cross streets, a public park, or a shelter) in the HOME ADDRESS field on the form
- If you can't receive mail where you live, but have a separate mailing address, you can provide it in the MAILING ADDRESS field, and you'll receive your ballot there
- VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOV. 5



A PISSED OFF VOTER GUIDE, BRIEFLY

BY THE SF LEAGUE OF PISSED OFF VOTERS

Our friends at The San Francisco League of Pissed Off Voters recently released their periodic guide with recommendations on important ballot propositions. In this edition, Street Sheet reprints an abbreviated version focusing on housing and local governance.

PROP. D: NO! (SEE ACCOMPANYING OPINION IN THIS ISSUE)

It's San Francisco's very own Project 2025. It was put on the ballot by MAGA Mark Farrell for three reasons: as a slush fund to launder money from his sleazy Republican donors; to spin a right-wing narrative that demonizes commissions as government 'bloat', thereby justifying axing them to block healthy public oversight; and to increase the scrutiny-free power of the Mayor's office - an office Farrell hopes to occupy soon.

Prop. D guts public oversight by dissolving the commissions' decision-making ability and transferring it to the Mayor. The Mayor would gain even more power than granted already by our exceptionally "strong mayor" system. Prop. D is billed as a way to streamline inefficient bureaucracy, but its real purpose is to reduce transparency and slide decision-making out of view of independent oversight.

Under Prop. D, a task force would have nine months to arbitrarily reduce SF commissions to fewer than 65 or BOOM! all the existing commissions dissolve, except for those required by law. There goes the last check on mayoral power.

PROP. G: FUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS AND FAMILIES: YES

Because of convoluted housing formulas, many low-income seniors don't make enough money to qualify for the City's low-income housing! The Board of Supervisors responded to this ridiculous situation in 2019 by setting up a subsidy program, but the Mayor's budget reduced its annual funding from \$4 million a year to a measly \$125,000. Prop. G would establish a baseline of \$4 million annually to subsidize units for seniors and families who are too poor to qualify for low-income housing, so that the people who most need homes aren't shut out.

PROP. 5: LOWER VOTING THRESHOLD TO 55% FOR HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS: YES

Prop. 5 would make it easier for voters to approve general obligation bonds to fund affordable housing and infrastructure projects, by lowering the vote threshold for approval from two-thirds to 55%.

This measure was put on the ballot by affordable housing advocates in order to make it easier to pass the regional housing bond Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (which was unfortunately pulled from the ballot at the last minute, despite being supported by every local government across the Bay Area). Even though Prop. 5 won't have the intended impact of supporting a historic affordable housing investment, it's still important, because it makes it easier to pass important infrastructure bonds like this election's Prop. B and Prop. 4. It also paves the way for an easier path to victory for future campaigns to fund affordable housing.

This makes a real difference. For example: If Prop. 5 were already the law of the land, then June 2022's Prop. A would have passed, which would have unlocked a once-in-a-decade opportunity to fund Muni's capital needs. Instead, Prop. A failed with 65% "yes" votes because it didn't make it to 66%! Gah! The failure of that critical transit bond, fueled by the conservative furor around the Chesa Boudin recall, drove Muni right up to the edge of the fiscal cliff it's now facing.

Prop. 5 is an important step to reclaiming our democracy from rich people who don't want to pay taxes to fix our crumbling city and state. Vote yes on Prop. 5!

PROP. 33: ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO EXPAND RENT CONTROL: HELL YES!

This prop would repeal the awful Costa-Hawkins Rental Act of 1995, a landlord-friendly state law that restricts the type of units eligible for rent control. Costa-Hawkins is why single-family homes and buildings built after 1979 don't have rent control in San Francisco. Prop. 33 won't change any local laws, or enact rent control everywhere (we wish!). It just lets cities make their own rules. We're stoked that if this passes we could expand rent control in SF (especially if we have Mayor Peskin in Room 200-squee!). Don't fall for the well-funded misinformation on this one—let's make sure SF voters push Prop. 33 over the finish line.

Is rent control pro-housing or anti-housing?

Rent control expansion is pro-housing, actually, because it keeps people in their homes. The biggest problem with rent control is that there isn't enough of it! We reject the real estate lobbyist framing that says that any legislation that gets in the way of higher real estate profits is "anti-housing." It's not "pro-housing" to increase a family's rent by 10% and force them out onto the street. Vote Hell Yes on Prop. 33!

But won't rent control hurt tenants?

There is a ridiculous real estate industry narrative that rent control is a bad thing for tenants. Corporate landlord profiteers and their lobbyists are warning us that if rent control is expanded even a little bit, everyone's rents will go up and new construction just won't "pencil out." This is, frankly, delulu. Even more wild, they accuse rent control expansion of being a Republican plot to restrict construction of affordable housing in small beach towns like Huntington Beach.

The idea that a wealthy enclave would pass super-restrictive rent control is strictly hypothetical—there is no actual history of that happening. Republican voters hate rent control and continually vote against it, so it beggars belief that Republican leaders would impose pretextual rent control—it's straight up antithetical to the way their constituents think about markets. The real estate industry argues that enticing developers to build a couple hundred apartments in snobby towns is more important than providing stability and affordability to literally millions of low and middle income renters in the major metro areas that support and want to expand rent control. Don't believe the hype: Prop. 33 is good for tenants.

WHAT'S OUR PLAN FOR THE HOUSING CRISIS?

It's becoming clearer and clearer that the private market has no plan for financing housing without the promise that rents will go up. Housing is seen as a sound investment for Wall Street instead of a human right for everybody. We have to shift our thinking about the housing crisis from one of regulation to one of financing, and specifically a form of financing that protects tenant stability and promises rents will actually come down. This will require innovative financing like public revenue bonds, which SF is currently pioneering. If there's revenue for housing production, the builders will build it.

For the full version of The League's voter recommendations, go to https://www.theleaguesf.org/voter_guides

POVERTY IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY FORMS OF VIOLENCE

JACK BRAGEN

Years ago, I was in a public place, and I was approached by a man wanting me to sign a petition to amend the U.S. Constitution. The amendment would have defined a corporation as not a person. Caught by surprise, I couldn't think through the idea, so I declined. It is unfortunate.

To an extent, I feel that I've been cheated by people in government and corporations, mostly because they have stood in the way of me making an honest living and not letting me in through the gate, so to speak.

Just excellence in what you do may not be good enough. As the saying goes, "it's not what you know, but who you know."

Corporations—especially limited liability corporations, or LLCs—hide behind masks of institutions, and they feel unaccountable for the harm they do to the innocent. Their status shields individuals from criminal penalties. Even if the corporation is convicted and its shareholders lose money, the executives rarely serve time in prison. Legally, a corporation is considered a person under a Supreme Court decision.

Corporations, particularly large ones, can influence the government to pass legislation by lobbying state and federal lawmakers—and consequently make money off it. That's how they can reshape society into how they want it to be.

The predominantly corporate white men sit in their boardrooms and make plans for how they will dissect people and make money through their vile acts and for how they will feed on the destruction of human lives and souls.

If evil exists, it comes from knowing that you are intentionally hurting someone.

Predatory people in corporations create various levels of hurt, mostly through economic and

social assault, and they feed on the misfortune of their victims. Forcing people to live in poverty is a form of violence.

Human beings feed on one another. One example is the classic schoolyard bully: If the bully wanted something from you, they would raise their fists and demand that they give it to you.

In the adult world, money and status are weaponized rather than raised arms and clenched fists. When nations adopt bullying behavior, it often leads to war.

Violence is real whatever level you find it on or what form it assumes.

Economic violence is where people are deprived of making a living or existing, because they lack enough income, and because the rich can do this to poor people and get away with it.

Victimizing people while you hide behind a corporation is fully immoral.

Many consider fighting in a war to be honorable. If you risk your life on behalf of your country, you are lauded as brave, mighty and heroic. But from the perspective of the family of those you've killed, you are considered a criminal.

But politicians start and wage wars, not soldiers who are ordered to fight. It is not a pretty or clean picture, regardless of how much fiction you see on the television screen or read in drugstore books.

Violence is a sickness that's harming the earth. When we decimate our atmosphere and roll back the environmental clock, the climate will go back to that which caused the dinosaurs to die off, and that's violence. ■

Jack Bragen is author of "Instructions for Dealing with Schizophrenia: A Self-Help Manual," and of three fiction collections. He lives in Martinez, California.

WHY DON'T PEOPLE EXPERIENCING STREET HOMELESSNESS ACCEPT SHELTER?

STOP THE SWEEPS

We know one main thing: shelter is not being offered to most people being swept from street encampments in the US. There are hardly ever enough shelter spaces available.

According to a decision upheld by the Supreme Court in the case *Martin v. Boise* — a decision currently at risk of being struck down in the case *Grants Pass v. Johnson* — cities cannot legally sweep people if they are not able to offer every individual shelter. The city of Seattle is regularly failing to meet its legal responsibility to provide adequate alternative shelter when sweeping people.

We know from listening to our unhoused neighbors that most people being swept are desperate for housing and would accept reasonable shelter if it were offered, but those offers do not come.

Whether it be emergency shelter, transitional housing or rapid housing, there are only about 8,000 units in King County, Washington's system available for the over 53,000 people experiencing homelessness. Even utilizing every single unit would serve only 15% of our unhoused neighbors.

The sad but very stark reality is that there simply is not enough shelter for all. The city plainly cannot meet its legal obligation to provide shelter, and to distract from that fact, it trumpets the idea that unhoused people are refusing to take what is offered.

There are some instances where unhoused people do not accept shelter that is offered, but often, it is because the offer does not meet their needs. In other cases, it is because shelters can hurt more than they help. The system of shelters is inflexible and riddled with problems.

When you get an offer for shelter, you are expected to show up that day or the next. Otherwise, the offer expires. The time limit on the offer assumes you or a loved one do not have a medical emergency, have work that day or have mobility issues that make moving difficult. Additionally, you might not be able to get a ride or help to move your belongings.

You might not even qualify for shelter, as many places have restrictions in place based on

gender or criminal record. Other shelters will eject people if they have mental health episodes while they are struggling to get medication, and there usually is no way for an unhoused person to appeal if they are ejected and banned — they do not receive due process.

If you do manage to make it to the shelter on time, there are often still additional, severe restrictions, including no pets, no visitors and a strictly enforced curfew — so good luck if you work the night shift. Many shelters force you to leave during the day, meaning that they offer nothing beyond a place to sleep.

Even then, there is no privacy: you sleep in a dorm-style setup or maybe a three-sided cubicle. You might end up sleeping in the middle of a big open room with dozens of other beds. You might not even get a bed. It could be just a mat on the floor. You cannot secure your belongings, and you have limited storage space.

This layout often creates an unsafe environment, especially for those on a journey of recovery from substance abuse. There has been a long history of staff at many shelters and tiny home villages being uncaring, abusive or simply untrained. If you do not experience mistreatment by staff, you might find yourself staying in a shelter with someone who has harmed you on the street, or you could even be physically attacked by others staying in the shelter. Additionally, it is not uncommon for personal belongings to be stolen because you were unable to store them.

When people accept shelter in the city, they put themselves at risk of being isolated from friends, family and pets. Shelters restrict their freedom of movement and put their privacy, safety and any jobs they might have in jeopardy.

Some people decide that accepting shelter is worth it; some do not. But it is never a straightforward, obvious decision, especially when one is forced to make it under the pressure of being swept.

If you think that this sounds wrong, we encourage you to contact your city council member or the mayor's office. When the system is set up so fundamentally against people, only collective action can create change. ■

BECOME A VENDOR
MAKE MONEY AND HELP END HOMELESSNESS!

STREET SHEET is currently recruiting vendors to sell the newspaper around San Francisco.

Vendors pick up the papers for free at our office in the Tenderloin and sell them for \$2 apiece at locations across the City. You get to keep all the money you make from sales! Sign up to earn extra income while also helping elevate the voices of the homeless writers who make this paper so unique, and promoting the vision of a San Francisco where every human being has a home.

To sign up, visit our office at 280 Turk St from 10AM-4PM on Monday-Thursday and 10AM-Noon on Friday

CONTRIBUTE TO STREET SHEET

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!

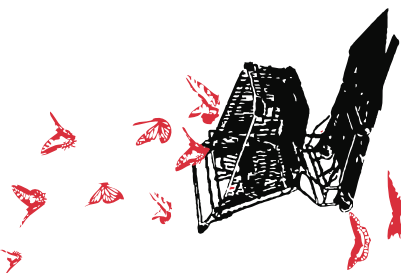
VISIT WWW.STREETSHEET.ORG/SUBMIT-YOUR-WRITING/

OR BRING SUBMISSIONS TO 280 TURK STREET TO BE CONSIDERED
PIECES ASSIGNED BY THE EDITOR MAY OFFER PAYMENT, ASK FOR DETAILS!

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

Coalition On Homelessness
280 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.346.3740
www.cohsf.org
streetsheetstf@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on Homelessness
San Francisco



This year marks the 35th anniversary of Street Sheet, the longest continuously running newspaper in the United States! In celebration, we are holding a year-long fundraising campaign with a goal of \$90K, enough to cover the cost of printing the Street Sheet over the next three years! Street Sheet has been an integral part of the Coalition on Homelessness's history and a crucial platform for unhoused writers and artists to share their experiences. Please donate to celebrate its monumental legacy, and help Street Sheet continue for years to come!
<https://bit.ly/donate2streetsheet>