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STREET SHEET



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A WIN FOR TAY HOUSING ON FOLSOM 2

HOMELESSNESS AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE 3

THE TRAP OF THE BENEFITS CLIFF 4

VICTORY FOR RV DWELLERS 5

RAPID REHOUSING SUBSIDIES APPROVED 5

A WIN FOR YOUTH HOUSING AT 1174 FOLSOM STREET

RIVER BECK

On December 4, a diverse coalition of housing advocates in San Francisco succeeded in toppling a series of obstacles facing a 42-unit housing project for transitional-age youth in the city's South of Market neighborhood. The permanent supportive housing (PSH) project, which will support LGBTQ+ young adults, is a critical step towards solutions desperately needed to avoid chronic homelessness.

The intergenerational and multi-racial bloc of residents, youth service providers, scientists, researchers, educators, and housing advocates defended the 1174 Folsom Street project, which the Board of Supervisors already approved in July 2023. The project was delayed by opposition from affluent neighbors, but thanks to the supporters' community organizing, the project may move forward.

Advocates waited up to six hours at the board's Budget and Finance Committee to make two-minute public comments. The panel passed the resolution on a 2-0 vote. The full board adopted it six days later.

The hearing on the project was delayed from November 20 to December 4 after District 6 Supervisor Matt Dorsey, along with the project's neighbors, voiced their disapproval.

Those neighbors pushed Dorsey to delay over concerns of illegal drug use. However, the lease for 1174 Folsom already prohibits using illegal drugs, yet the opposition sought to institute this policy anyway.

As a result, frontline, majority trans and other queer young adults were denied housing for weeks during wintry weather, while encampment sweeps brought arrests and trauma to unsheltered residents.

In a swipe at the Coalition on Homelessness, which supported the project's opening, Dorsey posted a leaked email on X (formerly Twitter)

on November 25, decrying harm reduction as "drug fundamentalism."

Coalition executive director Jennifer Friedenbach delivered powerful testimony to the committee. "This building sat empty for a year and a half," she told the panel. "It was delayed twice over language in the lease which was a political statement and the kids are stuck outside subject to exploitation, violence and sleeplessness."

A chorus of project supporters joined Friedenbach at the December 4 meeting. Karin Adams, director of programs at Homeless Youth Alliance, echoed these sentiments.

"On any night 1,200 youth are experiencing homelessness in San Francisco," Adams told the panel, adding that 50% of homeless adults in San Francisco had their first episode of homelessness before the age of 25. "This is a matter of life and death. A six-year research study of youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco showed young people without a safe place have a mortality rate that is more than 10 times higher" than those with shelter.

San Francisco's struggle with homelessness is often discussed in public spheres and in the media,, but what is less often discussed—particular by politicians and "not in my backyard" types—is evidence-based public health best practices. Data shows a clear connection: Youth homelessness creates adult homelessness if competent support is not available. Young people forced to navigate developmental years without stable housing are at greater risk of experiencing the trauma that causes long-term homelessness as adults, which perpetuates a vicious cycle.

Several service providers said "let's do better next time" at public comment. In contrast with 1174 Folsom supporters, there were few in opposition at the meeting.

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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 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!

STAYING CONNECTED: HOMELESSNESS AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

HOLLIE GARRETT

I can remember the empty feeling of being disconnected from society while I was in prison. Every day it was a pressing issue to get on the pay phone. Not knowing if we would get out the cell, if there was going to be another lock down, if the phone line was going to be extra long, or if someone was even going to answer the call. Even when I got on the phone, the 15 minutes was never enough to say what needed to be said. The situation was so dire that a fight could easily break out over use of the phone. The isolation was so unbearable that I was willing to pay up to \$1500 for the cheapest cell phone, just to maintain that connection. That comfort of hearing a familiar voice made the world outside feel a little closer and accessible.

I learned inside the wall that a phone is much more than a device. They are lifelines of hope, support, and the feeling of love and belonging. Now that I am no longer incarcerated, I have learned that the struggle to stay connected is not unique to those locked up. It is a challenge for many people, especially those who are living on the street. Homelessness, like incarceration, goes hand-in-hand with the digital divide—while the challenges are different, the need to connect is the same.

This brings us to the topic of free government phones, commonly referred to as “Obama Phones.” These phones were first introduced as part of the Lifeline Assistance Program, which was created under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This program is meant to provide low-income Americans access to basic phone services. Initially distributed as landlines, the program began offering cell phones and eventually smartphones as technology advanced. For the homeless, these phones can mean the difference between thriving and slipping further into the margins of society. But maintaining these phones remains an enormous challenge.

Take Michael Wheatly, a homeless man living in San Francisco’s Tenderloin district. Michael relies on his cell phone to communicate with loved ones, fill out job applications, and look up job references. Although he owns his own Motorola, Michael rarely likes to bring it out due to fear that his own friends want to steal it from



A recently unhoused child holds up the free phone her aunt got her to stay in

him. Instead, he uses the free phone as a safeguard, but despite his tactic to protect his line of communication, Michael admits to losing or having his phone stolen repeatedly, a consequence of his drinking and drug use. Michael tells me that the loss of his phone cuts off his ability to reach loved ones and his caseworkers, making it impossible for him to be successful. Then there’s Christopher, who also lives in the Tenderloin streets and shares a similar story. He described how crucial having a phone is to his success. “Everything is online,” he explained. Without a phone, simple tasks like filling out applications or accessing social services become almost impossible.

“With a phone I can accomplish maybe four or five things in a day. But without it, I might get one thing done because I have to travel to these places in person,” Christopher told me. His story highlights how easy it is for a single phone theft to derail a homeless person’s day, week, or even month.

The importance of phones is not just about staying connected with family and friends, but also about survival. Phones are essential for accessing emergency services, keeping appointments with case workers, applying for jobs, and managing government aid like EBT benefits. “Without a phone,” Christopher explained, “you’re left out of the critical network of resources needed to survive.”

Yet, despite the importance of maintaining these phones, homeless people frequently lose their phones to theft, especially

when forced to sleep outside. Both Michael and Christopher talked about falling asleep only to wake up with their pockets or bags run through and phones gone. This cycle of theft forces them to seek replacements constantly, either from government distributors like SafeLink or buying them directly off the streets.

I spoke with some Obama Phone distributors who distribute in San Francisco and they understand the struggle well. Two distributors identifying as O-4 and Turby Tuesday say they see the same faces return within days or weeks in need of replacement phones. O-4 says the reason is almost always theft. He says about 80% percent of his clients are homeless and return because their phones were stolen. The same sentiment was shared by phone distributors CJ and Simon, who say the same people are returning for new phones within one to two weeks. Yet these distributors continue to do their work, knowing that for each phone given out there is a chance it could help someone take their first step toward stability.

For those living on the street, like Chris and Ozzy, staying connected is about more than just convenience. It’s about maintaining a sense of control over their lives. Chris told me that having a phone is only part of the equation, he says you have to be motivated. Speaking to his motivation, I wanted to know how they kept their phone charged. Chris said you could go to the library or the BART. He says charging isn’t a problem as long as you can plan ahead. For

Ozzy, he has struggled to acquire government phones because his ID and other personal items are often stolen. This cycle of losing essential documents, losing a phone, and starting over from scratch is a constant barrier for many people living on the street.

Employment caseworker Verla Morris of the Hospitality House in San Francisco knows first-hand how critical phones are for her clients.

“It reminds me of trying to fill up a cup that has a hole in it,” Verla explained when discussing how difficult it is to assist someone without reliable phone access. Many of her clients have lost multiple phones or maxed out their ability to receive new ones due to the repeated theft or loss. When clients can’t be reached, their job prospects diminish and their chances of securing stable housing or employment slip away.

Reflecting on my own experience, I realize how crucial my phone has been to my success since being released from prison. It’s been a year this October and in that time my phone has been my greatest tool. With it, I have been able to return calls, answer emails, and respond to messages promptly. Coming out, I was homeless myself and transitioned to a halfway house. I can’t imagine where I would be right now if I were not able to maintain a line of constant communication. My phone has allowed me to meet my basic needs and thrive, rather than just survive.

For those living on the street, maintaining access to a phone is a daily struggle. Without the ability to communicate, they are left disconnected from opportunities and resources that could change their lives. I would hope my story, as well as the stories of those I’ve interviewed, sheds light on how vital this issue is. Phones are not just luxuries—they are lifelines. And until everyone has the ability to stay connected, the gap between survival and success will continue to widen.

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.

HOW THE

Generally speaking, the less someone earns, the more government support they receive. But these programs also come with income restrictions, which cut residents off from benefits as their salaries rise. Street Sense Media reports from the ground in the District of Columbia, US.

Imagine two single parents raising toddlers in DC. One has an annual salary of \$65,000, while the other earns \$11,000 a year by working part-time. Their financial situations seem quite different; the parent paid more has much more money at their disposal, right?

Financial analysts say not necessarily. These Washingtonians likely have similar amounts to spend each month, and not because one uses their dollars more judiciously. Experts chalk it up to a phenomenon known as the “benefits cliff.”

In the US, many public assistance resources – like Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – are based on income. For people with the greatest financial need, public benefits programs make it possible to pay grocery bills, childcare costs, and even rent.

Generally speaking, the less someone earns, the more resources they receive. But these programs also come with income restrictions, which cut residents off from benefits as their salaries rise. For a person earning \$65,000 a year, this gap in coverage can stall their spending power at nearly one-eighth of their actual salary, making the road to higher earnings rocky.

A SUDDEN DROP-OFF

Rachelle Ellison is a Street Sense Media vendor – and the assistant director of a local housing advocacy group called the People for Fairness Coalition. Her work today is informed by the 17 years she spent navigating homelessness herself, all while struggling with co-occurring health issues like lupus, coronary artery disease, and emphysema. A certified peer specialist and substance use disorder recovery coach, Ellison says that her path to long-term employment has been riddled with obstacles. In 2019, she finally found a full-time job that fit her needs and passions, working as a case manager for a local substance use disorder treatment center. “I loved that job,” she says. “It was so amazing.”

Then, she learned that her Medicaid benefits were about to be terminated. The salary increase from her new job pushed her above the threshold for program eligibility, which left her with a tough choice. If she took the new, higher-paying job, she would have to swap healthcare plans and forego months of coverage in the process. Given her medical history, that felt like too much of a risk. She decided to leave the new role.

“Even though these organizations that I work for have great benefits, you have to work 90 days before they take effect,” she says. “I had no insurance coverage. If anything would have happened, I would have been in debt. I had to resign.”

Ellison is not alone. Across the District, low-income residents seeking long-term employment face uncertainty and difficult decisions as they lose access to public benefits. D.C. has one of the most robust social safety nets in the US.

Take, for example, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a federally funded cash payment program. As of 2022, a DC family of three could receive as much as \$665 per month in TANF funding, more than they could get in 40 other US states.

But benefits like TANF, SNAP, and the city’s Childcare and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidies are income dependent, which means that an increase in household income can be countered with a loss in public assistance. Residents must pay more to cover their needs, which means that raises in pay do not always translate to increases in quality of living, or the ability to save up for big purchases.

Plus, living in the District is expensive. This year, the Council for Community and Economic Research found that DC has the ninth-highest cost of living out of any city in the nation.

Employers in urban areas tend to pay their workers more, which can offset some of the costs associated with city life. But that higher salary can disqualify households from benefits programs administered by the federal government, which might set participation guidelines based on lower national averages for pay.

For example, while TANF eligibility guidelines vary by state, SNAP eligibility is based on the federal poverty line. Households experiencing financial insecurity by local standards might be overlooked by aid from the national level.

“What ends up happening is that individuals who are on public assistance, because they are making more in a high-cost metro, are closer to income thresholds that will kick them off of public assistance programs,” says Alvaro Sanchez, a senior research analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. “That can pose a pretty serious challenge for people in places like DC.”

Sanchez co-authored a September 2023 paper on the benefits cliff and workforce development efforts in the District. He says that a gradual loss in public assistance can jeopardize a low or middle-income household’s long-term financial stability.

In Ellison’s case, an increase in income meant suddenly becoming ineligible for her healthcare plan, a problem that she encountered more than once.

After leaving her job as a case manager, she eventually found another full-time role as a recovery coach at Howard University Hospital. Like clockwork, she was notified that the added pay meant that she would lose Medicaid. She chose to depart from that position, too.

Since then, Ellison has settled for part-time and contract work that provides consistent pay but doesn’t jeopardize health insurance. While she wants the benefits and responsibility of a full-time position, she says that the transition period is just too big a risk.

“Every area that I have been able to overcome barriers, I wanted to

BENEFITS CLIFF TRAPS PEOPLE IN POVERTY

JACK WALKER

get credentialed. I already have the lived expertise to help other people,” she says. “But with these income benefit cliffs, it’s another barrier put in our way.”

SEEKING LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Meanwhile, DC benefits administrators say that they are aware that the benefits cliff exists and are launching specific programming to address it.

“Most of our benefits that families and individuals [that are low income] in the District receive are federally supported, and have really strict rules,” says Geoff King of the DC Department of Human Services (DHS). This means that, for households, the benefits cliff can pose a “penalty for doing what they need to do to advance and earn more.”

In December 2022, DHS launched a program called the DC Career Mobility Action Plan, or Career MAP. King serves as program manager and says that Career MAP aims to alleviate the burden on families as they transition out of public assistance programs.

Career MAP provides support to offset decreasing benefits through a “combination” of means, ranging from rent discounts to annual cash payments of up to \$10,000 per year, King says. This ensures that participants are “keeping much more of those earnings and able to make economic progress as they go.”

As a five-year pilot program, DHS officials are using Career MAP to examine how direct support impacts the long-term financial stability of roughly 500 actively enrolled participants.

The program is designed to serve participants who have completed the DHS Family Rehousing Stabilization Program, also known as Rapid Rehousing, which connects people with housing and rental assistance.

King says that securing housing marks a first step toward financial security. Then Career MAP aims to help participants to manage their benefits, offering guidance and financial support as they build up their annual income.

So far, King says that it looks like the program is paying off. Of the roughly 500 households participating, about 70 have increased their income enough to phase off some federal benefits and begin receiving support through the Career MAP program.

He adds that he hopes that the multi-year nature of the program helps to support participants’ needs as they arise overtime, as opposed to addressing issues on a short-term, case-by-case basis.

Sanchez’s research paper on the benefits cliff paid particular focus to the Career MAP program. He found that the program significantly alleviates the financial burden that households incur when they are cut off from public benefits. For a household earning \$65,000, their annual net financial resources goes from under \$10,000 without the program to more than \$30,000 with Career MAP.

Sanchez adds that the program is distinct in its efforts to directly address the benefits cliff as an issue.

“They’re kind of saying head on, ‘We’re going to structure this workforce development program to actually try and mitigate these benefits cliffs,’” he says. “That’s

why this program in DC is so unique.”

Ellison says that her daughter is currently enrolled in Career MAP and that the program is “a resource that was definitely needed for mothers and children and families.”

But, as a pilot program, enrollment in Career MAP was limited, and new participants are not yet being considered. Ellison says that she hopes that the program expands because securing long-term employment can be a years-long ordeal that residents are still navigating, often without enough support.

“People are scared to overcome [the benefits cliff] and find work,” she says. “It’s a process, getting the amount of courage it took for me.”

Courtesy of Street Sense Media / INSP.ngo



VEHICLE RESIDENTS SUCCEEDED IN APPEALING OVERNIGHT RV BAN

LUKAS ILLA

On December 10, for the first time in its history, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors overturned a decision passed by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA) Board of Directors that would have banned oversized vehicles citywide.

The move prevented the ban from taking effect. It would have targeted streets in the Lake Merced area after vehicle-dwelling San Franciscans were swept from the area earlier this year.

Initially passed on October 1, the original resolution granted the director of transportation sole authority over restricting oversized vehicles parked on specific city streets from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m., punishable by tow if the residents don't accept shelter—regardless of whether shelter space is available.

Current law requires the SFMTA Board of Directors to pass a separate resolution per street in order to restrict overnight parking of oversized vehicles, after holding public hearings.

Proposed by departing Mayor London Breed, the resolution would have eroded that public input, leaving it to the SFMTA director to

assign at will. The SFMTA board passed the resolution on a 6-1 vote.

Enforcement of the ban was paused after the End Poverty Tows Coalition filed an appeal with the Board of Supervisors in late October, pending a decision by the lawmaking body.

In the coalition's presentation, Gabriel Medina, executive director of La Raza Community Resource Center, urged the supervisors to reject the resolution and instead focus on investing in infrastructure that directly supports vehicularly housed people.

"We need to prioritize and invest in sustainable solutions that work," Medina said, "such as culturally and linguistically competent engagement to get people housed and provide appropriate services; targeted services to meet needs, such as fixing vehicles; RV and mobile home parks; [and] safe

parking sites, including community self-run sites."

After End Poverty Tows' presentation, members of the public were invited to speak in support of the appeal and the overturning of the ban. About 50 people lined up to ask for the ban

to be overturned, including many RV residents who expressed their experiences facing harassment by city workers and housed neighbors alike.

"I live in fear and I feel like I cannot trust anyone," Jorge Rivas, a RV resident who faced assault for living in his vehicle, told the Supervisors in Spanish through a translator. "I would like to know where it is where I can actually live."

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The SFMTA presented a rebuttal, but no one in public comment spoke in favor of the ban.

Once the coalition gave a three-minute response, Supervisor Dean

Preston spoke in support of the community members who shared public comment, calling the City's infrastructure to support the 90% of unsheltered families living in vehicles "inadequate." The board passed Preston's motion to reverse the SFMTA resolution conditional on written findings by the City Attorney's office.

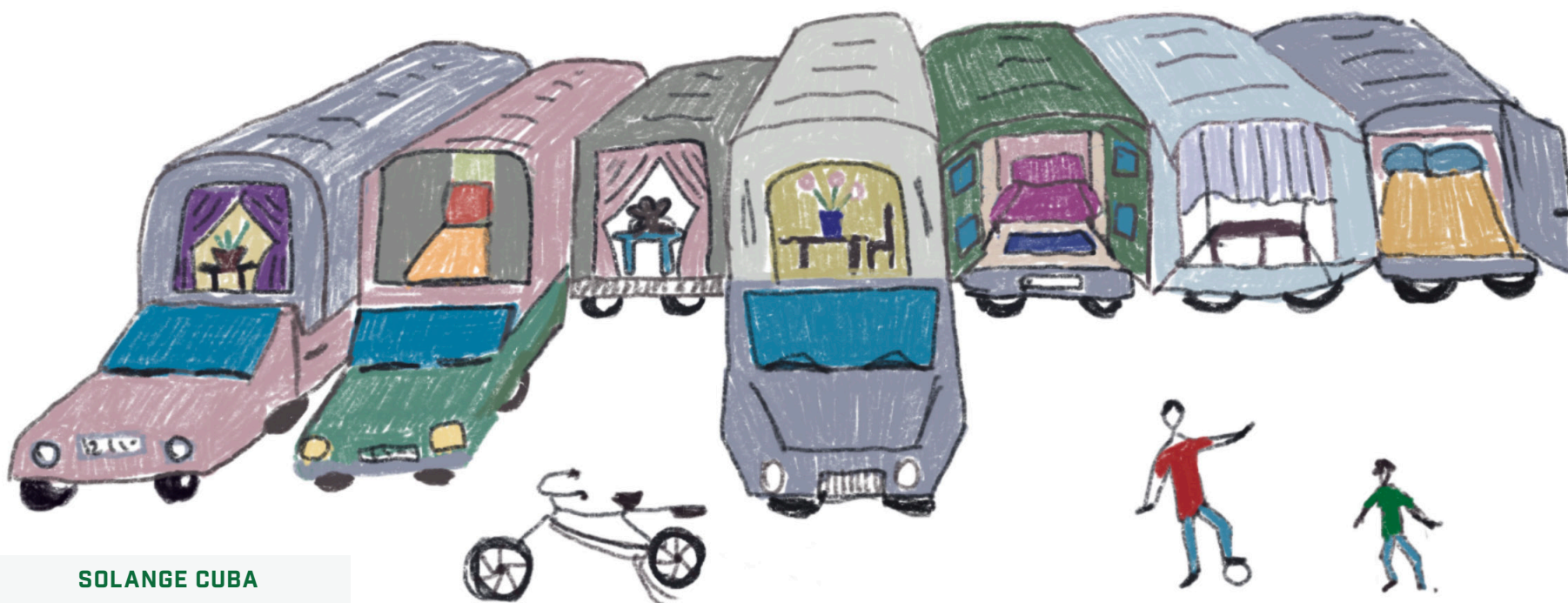
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman was the only member who spoke in favor of the SFMTA's resolution. He spoke to his constituents' demands "that they be able to use their public spaces, that they not be privatized in a completely unregulated way."

The ban was overturned on a 7-3 vote, with Supervisors Joel Engardio, Matt Dorsey and Mandelman voting in opposition.

GLIDE policy manager Eleana Binder applauded the successful appeal as a human rights victory. "This decision reaffirms that we cannot solve homelessness by hiding it or punishing those experiencing it," she said. "The Board of Supervisors has sent a clear message: We need solutions rooted in dignity, equity, and investment—not in mass displacement and criminalization."

"I live in fear and I feel like I cannot trust anyone," Jorge Rivas, a RV resident who faced assault for living in his vehicle, told the Supervisors in Spanish through a translator. "I would like to know where it is where I can actually live."

HOME IS WHERE YOUR HEART IS



SOLANGE CUBA

THE COMPASSION DILEMMA

JACK BRAGEN

Where I live it is expected—if not outright required—that tenants do not bring strangers into the building. This precaution adds to our safety, and it helps the owners of the building prevent mishaps, such as fire or flooding. Damage means money spent. But from the tenants' perspective, damage to the building or to innocent bystanders could bring bigger consequences: eviction leading to displacement to the street or worse.

The people trying to get in the building are often less fortunate than the tenants, who are already low-income. I cannot make assumptions as to how this became the case. I don't know the individual stories of how people became homeless, but I understand their fear.

On a rainy night, there are probably a lot of unhoused people who would love to get indoors and dry off. If I go downstairs to get my nighttime smoke, doubtless I will encounter some of these desperate souls. Then I am in a position of not letting in a person who is otherwise stuck in pouring rain. If I do, I might be doing the right and compassionate thing. Yet, if I get nailed for it, I could lose my housing. It's a difficult position to be in. Sometimes I forgo my nighttime smoke to prevent such an encounter altogether.

A Zen riddle, also called a "koan," echoes this dilemma. It involves a man hanging from a tree by his teeth, who is asked how to get to the Zen temple. When the man dangling by his teeth opens his mouth to answer, he falls to the ground and to his death. When played out, the answer is rather humorous.

Even Zen practitioners aren't immune to the human condition: They too must enact self-protective measures when they meditate together. Additionally, those who meditate usually have methods to protect themselves from violence. At a Zen temple I visited, a sign said the premises were monitored by closed circuit video.

These days, bringing up the word "compassion" opens a person up to all kinds of ridicule, as a holdover from the 1980s spirituality movement or just a foolish and antiquated practice. But Buddhists do have a history of compassion and helping, as well as a socially conscious ethic.

When we see someone in need, sometimes we are faced with a difficult choice. Do we try to help someone who possibly cannot be helped? When we try to help such a person, do they pull us down into a figurative pit of alligators and snakes along with them? Thinking of that might make you think twice before lending a hand.

Sometimes, I face a dilemma about sharing smokes.

The other day when I was in my car smoking, a passerby asked me for a smoke. Of course, giving someone a smoke isn't rescuing them, but I wasn't going to say no. She asked how I was doing, and I said, "hanging in there," and she responded kindly. And I usually give out a free smoke unless the person asking for one adds extra baggage to that request.

For example, I have been approached by people trying to give me cash for a few of my smokes, and the mere thought gets me riled. That is an example of a criminal agenda in which someone is trying to pull me into their drug trafficking. Or even if it is merely handing me cash, which is unlikely, the interaction isn't clean. Additionally, if that person seems even remotely underage, there's no way I'm giving them one.

The dilemma of helping is a compromise. If it's not, you might be doing something wrong. I'm not going to jeopardize myself by being a goodie-goodie helper. But if I can do something for someone in need, and it doesn't harm me, I'm inclined to help when asked for it.

A person who gives away anything and everything asked for will not last for very long. At the same time, a person who never gives will become known as being an ass.

Sometimes it's a judgment call. A person might be better off without my help. Or a person could be so far gone that it is not feasible to help them. Or I might get a bad vibe from the person or from the situation. These are all valid reasons to get some distance and protect myself.

Jack Bragen lives and writes in Martinez, California. He is also the author of Instructions for Dealing with Schizophrenia: A Self-Help Manual and other books.

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES EXTENDED RAPID REHOUSING SUBSIDIES TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS

JULIAN HIGHSMITH

San Francisco took a monumental step forward in addressing its homelessness crisis this week as the Board of Supervisors approved new legislation on a 10-0 vote to extend the duration of rapid rehousing subsidies from two to five years. This landmark decision promises greater stability for families at risk of returning to homelessness by providing longer-term financial support, ensuring they have the time and resources necessary to transition into permanent housing.

Championed by housing advocates and supported by a broad coalition of allies, the legislation aims to dismantle what many refer to as the "revolving door" of homelessness. Rapid rehousing programs, while effective in providing temporary relief, have faced criticism for ending subsidies after one to three years, which often forces families back into precarious housing situations. By extending subsidy durations, this new measure seeks to bridge the gap between temporary assistance and sustainable, permanent housing solutions.

A DATA-DRIVEN VICTORY

The push for this legislation was bolstered by compelling data demonstrating the correlation between longer subsidy periods and successful exits from homelessness. Families receiving subsidies for 25 months or more showed an 86% success rate in securing permanent housing, compared to significantly lower rates for shorter subsidy periods.

"Homelessness is not solved overnight," the Coalition on Homelessness said in a statement. "Families need time to stabilize, secure employment, and find housing that meets their needs. This legislation provides that time." The San Francisco-based homeless advocacy organization also publishes Street Sheet.

The legislation also addresses key systemic issues by acknowledging the importance of income growth and employment stability in preventing homelessness. For many families, particularly those transitioning from shelters or temporary accommodations, the extended subsidies will provide a critical lifeline, allowing them to build the financial stability needed to stay housed.

A UNITED FRONT FOR CHANGE

The unanimous board vote highlights a shared commitment to addressing homelessness with compassion and urgency. Advocates and community members packed City Hall during deliberations, offering heartfelt testimonies to the board's Rules Committee about the devastating impacts of homelessness on families and the transformative power of stable housing.

The victory also reflects the tireless work of advocacy groups, service providers, and impacted families who worked together to bring this issue to the forefront of San Francisco's housing policy agenda. The Coalition on Homelessness, which played a key role in drafting and advocating for the legislation, expressed gratitude to its allies and the supervisors who supported the measure.

A STEP TOWARD ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

While the passage of this legislation marks a significant achievement, advocates caution that this is just one piece of the larger puzzle in solving the city's homelessness crisis. The high cost of housing in San Francisco remains a significant barrier for many families, and additional measures will be needed to address the systemic inequities that contribute to housing insecurity.

"Today's vote represents a bold step forward in ensuring that no family is forced to return to homelessness simply because their time ran out," said Coalition executive director Jennifer Friedenbach. "This legislation is a victory for equity, stability, and the future of San Francisco's most vulnerable families."

As the city celebrates this milestone, it also sets an example for other communities grappling with homelessness. The unanimous vote demonstrates the power of collective action and the impact of data-driven advocacy in shaping policies that prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations.

With this victory, San Francisco has reaffirmed its commitment to treating housing as a human right and ensuring that no family is left without a place to call home.

**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

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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!

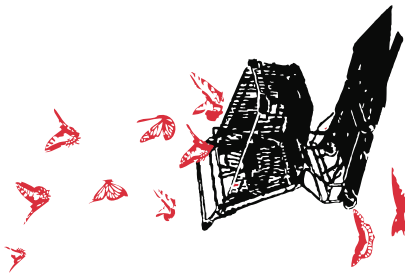
PHOTOGRAPHY: Have a keen eye for beauty? Love capturing powerful moments at events? Have a photo of a Street Sheet vendor you'd like to share? We would love to run your photos in Street Sheet!

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!

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