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# STREET SHEET



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# RESIST



@HERDMVMT

# AN OPEN LETTER TO DANIEL LURIE ON PSH, CORRUPTION, THE DRUG CRISIS, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

JORDAN DAVIS

Dear Mayor Lurie,

Congratulations on winning the mayor's race. I certainly did not vote for you or anyone else for mayor, because I believe San Francisco's strong mayor system needs to be scuttled. However, as you are now in office, there are some things you should know.

I know that you want to focus on shelters as a homelessness response. However, this approach has many pitfalls: Focusing on acquiring more shelter beds without providing exits just keeps people locked in homelessness.

Instead, expanding scattered-site supportive housing throughout San Francisco would allow existing resources, i.e. vacant apartments on the private market funded by an ongoing subsidy, to be used to expand housing opportunities for formerly or currently unhoused folks. Even if these opportunities are initially only for those current permanent supportive housing tenants (PSH) who have demonstrated that they can function without supports, that still frees up units in entry level and even some step-up permanent supportive housing sites, which then causes turnover in the shelter system.

Furthermore, engaging diverse stakeholders is necessary for dealing with crises such as homelessness, fentanyl and corruption. However, this should not be an excuse to offer a platform for recovery grifters who want to exploit a very real overdose crisis to dismantle Housing First. Though it has been imperfectly implemented in San Francisco, if anything Housing First should be mended, not ended. Besides, eliminating such programs will neither save the City money nor will be more ethical and efficient, as it will steer contracts towards organizations like the Salvation Army.

As for the fentanyl state of emergency you're advocating, I believe that police should not be senior partners, and that the broad emergency powers should be used to promote programs

that meet people where they are without stigmatizing them, while helping people get into recovery. I know that there has been scaremongering over harm reduction, however, many people who have experienced addiction and have practiced harm reduction eventually go into recovery. Harm reduction and recovery are not mutually exclusive.

On the subject of upholding honest and ethical government, I have been raising alarm bells about permanent supportive housing providers being awarded contracts to run the SRO collaboratives, which are supposed to be independent watchdogs for residential hotel tenants. As somebody who lives in a permanent supportive housing building run by the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, I and so many of my fellow tenants are offended that my landlord continues to run the Central City SRO Collaborative. Separating the collaboratives from PSH landlords should be an easy task to accomplish; it's low-hanging fruit.

The City must also tackle the eviction crisis in permanent supportive housing that the San Francisco Chronicle investigated in 2022. As much as we PSH tenants are concerned about safety, we also want to ensure that the organizations contracted by the City don't evict tenants for frivolous reasons. Various stakeholders, including tenants who have been threatened with eviction or have been evicted, need to be involved in these discussions.

There is a lot that needs to be discussed, and I don't pretend to have all the answers, nor do I have the "spoons" to be an activist anymore. However, when it comes to permanent supportive housing, our success is the City's success; even if someone climbs no higher on the housing ladder, it still means one fewer person requiring costly emergency services.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Davis

## HELP KEEP STREET SHEET IN PRINT!



SCAN ME

[coalition.networkforgood.com](http://coalition.networkforgood.com)

## COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

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

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

## STREET SHEET STAFF

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

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

## ORGANIZE WITH US

### HOUSING JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

TUESDAYS @ NOON

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

# “LA MUERTE” IN THE MISSION REARS ITS HEAD AGAIN AT PLANNING

LUKAS ILLA

In a deeply emotional and well attended hearing, the San Francisco Planning Commission began review of the newly proposed luxury housing complex at 2588 Mission St., on the corner of 22nd Street.

What is currently a grassy, empty lot was once the site of rent-controlled housing for over 60 people and 26 businesses, until a devastating fire in 2015 destroyed the property, displacing the residents and business and killing 38-year-old Mauricio Orellana. While the Fire Department ultimately determined the cause of the fire to be electrical failings, the owner of the property, Hawk Lou has long been accused of gross negligence for the building’s blocked fire exits and broken fire alarms; many have even suspected and suggested to the media that Lou was responsible for the fire to make way for greater profits from future development.

At the February 6 commission meeting, hundreds of Mission residents and housing advocates spoke out against the proposed building, which activists coined

as “La Muerte,” or “The Monster”—181 new market-rate condo units, of which only 19 are affordable housing units, barely meeting the minimum required under state law.

For years, anti-displacement activists have argued that the predominantly Latinx residents and businesses should be granted the right to return, and that the site should be 100% affordable housing.

“It is the responsibility of this city to aggressively pursue the rights of protected classes—formerly housed, renting business, holding jobs—at this site, and to ensure that any project proposed here is serving the protected classes of this community to uphold their legal obligation to affirmatively further fair housing,” Larisa Pedroncelli of United to Save the Mission said

The obligation Pedroncelli was referring to is the City’s “housing element,” which serves as San Francisco’s eight-year plan for meeting its housing requirements. Its most recent update in 2022 saw the explicit inclusion of racial equity considerations,

including the aims to “repair the harms of racial and ethnic discrimination against American Indian, Black, and other people of color; foster racially and socially inclusive neighborhoods through equitable distribution of investment and growth; and provide sufficient housing for existing residents and future generations for a city with diverse cultures, family structures, and abilities.”

However, the commission’s ability to curtail the project by conforming it to the housing element’s standards has been stymied by a change in state law.

California’s Housing Accountability Act (HAA) and the State Density Bonus Law (SDBL) both prevent the local housing element from being used in any part to modify or reject the proposed use for the site. It significantly hampers any substantive changes the commission could assert in its discretionary review of the development plans.

This paradox infuriated both the public commenters and commissioners alike.

“[HAA and SDBL have] created a situation, where—I think—we have a lot less room to maneuver in very bad situations like this, in a project with a history like this one does,” said commissioner Derek Braun.

“This thing that you are creating is death for our community,” a representative of Latinx day laborers added during public comment.

Yet the commissioners signaled that the project will most likely continue as is, due to the restrictions placed upon the body by state law—much to the dismay of residents and community organizations urging the commission to overturn the project and slate it for fully affordable housing.

Still, SF Planning Commissioner Theresa Imperial charged her colleagues to “find the courage to [sic] protect our most vulnerable communities ... I think it’s time for us to make that kind of stand.”

Final approval for 2588 Mission St. is scheduled for April.

## WHAT TO DO IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR



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ICE CAN NOT COME IN WITHOUT A SIGNED WARRANT. TELL THEM TO PASS THE WARRANT UNDER THE DOOR BEFORE YOU OPEN.



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### DEFENDERSE

CONSIGA UN ABOGADO DE CONFIANZA Y EXPLORE TODAS LAS OPCIONES PARA LUCHAR POR SU CASO. ¡PROTEGE A TU FAMILIA Y VECINOS!

# FAMILIES DEMAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS IN BOLD PROTEST RALLY

**YESSICA HERNANDEZ**

On February 11, homeless families and their allies rallied and marched to San Francisco City Hall, demanding more affordable housing and critical changes to the family shelter system. The rally, which started from Hamilton Family Shelter, called for immediate action to restore the waitlist for housing, ensuring that families living in hotels or doubled-up situations can access shelter and support.

Among the key demands, protesters urged the City to establish a transparent process for families seeking shelter extensions, including providing adequate support and clear information. They also called for the expansion of permanent housing options by adding 125 five-year subsidies to the 125 already slated for release in March, as well as 50 flex-pool subsidies, which would provide more families with the chance to transition from shelter to stable housing.

Their call to action was motivated by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing moving to implement a controversial 90-day time limit for families in shelters in December. The department's measure created confusion throughout the community, as families feared exiting to the streets without knowing that they have a right to ask for an extension. This lack of transparency in the process has added to families' existing anxieties as they navigate an ever challenging housing crisis marked by increasing rents, job losses and limited resources.

One of the protest's central themes was the time limit's destabilizing impact on children. At the rally, Formerly unhoused mother Tina Collins led a chant of "shelter to housing," emphasizing that all families desire the stability of a home that provides safety, warmth, and happiness. The emotional toll of housing uncertainty on children has become a critical concern for many families who are desperate for change.

Following the rally, protesters marched to City Hall, where they met with local officials, including Kunal Modi, Mayor Daniel Lurie's chief of health, homelessness and family services. Policymakers listened attentively to the demands of families and service providers, encouraging organizers who hope it will lead to meaningful progress in securing affordable housing and support for families in need.





PHOTOS BY LEON KUNSTENNAAR



# IMPRISONMENT INCLUDES ASSAULT ON THE SOUL

JACK BRAGEN

The messages are hammered in when you're incarcerated, and you're expected to believe them. You are told you're no good. You're bad news. You don't deserve anything. Not love, not comfort, not money, nothing. You are undeserving. You are a bad person, and you should be punished.

Other people believe this of you under these circumstances. Try as you might, you can't control someone else's beliefs.

But deep inside, you cry in protest. "You have me wrong. I'm a good person, I'm a decent person. I deserve things the same as anyone."

There are many ways your soul can be hurt. There are many ways you can lose your soul. Sometimes this happens without a single physical blow; a bad enough social situation can do it.

The messages that detainees of the "corrections system" are expected to believe are more punitive than the physical discomfort and physical suffering of living in extremely rough conditions. If people affirm your goodness while you're subjected to the same discomforts of living under cramped circumstances, being caged, having no privacy, etc., then living in prison would be considered heroic. This would happen if we had a different

label than punishment. If we called it "an experiment" and if it were thought to be a way to gain knowledge, many people would admire you for it. The difference is in the messages.

If your name were Nelson Mandela, who was incarcerated 27 years, on the inside you would have been protected from these negative messages, which you would not give them credence.

During the Vietnam War, many activists were jailed for their anti-war activities. This is an example of a broadly accepted reason to be jailed. Presumably, the incarcerated anti-war activists would need a lot of support and morale-boosting during their stay. Without this support, their justified reasons for being jailed could be forgotten, and they might be left absorbing the messages and hating themselves, regardless of the initial reason for being in there.

Our 47th president knows something about defiance. Donald Trump has been convicted of 34 felonies, yet his followers perceive him as a hero. In his case, Trump has not absorbed the label of "crook," probably because he won't serve any prison time.

I was severely punished for breaking the law because of my psychiatric illness. When I was

released, my probation officer said to me that I was "not a criminal," and this was "not a criminal matter."

One example of incarceration's assault on the soul is the environment itself: it's so "in your face" that it leaves our minds wide open and unable to resist the evil-minded messages that falsely call us evil people. These messages get a foothold in our psyches, and this can take months or years for a person to get it resolved.

I sat at the very bottom level of society. It was like living at the bottom or even underground level of a giant structure.

In our culture, experiences and circumstances can warp people's minds, hearts, and souls, as do the messages force-fed to them. In a carceral environment, we are not permitted to think of ourselves as good—and, as a result, we are damaged by these messages and labels. While these wounds aren't visible, the soul feels it deeply.

When you label someone a criminal, dress them in an orange jumpsuit, and attach chains to them, that's a powerful statement. It isn't necessarily true that you are guilty as charged, just that the courts have found you guilty. Even so, the courts can and do get it wrong sometimes and punish innocent people.

Regardless, the negative messages get hammered in. The punishment continues when you're released.

You could find you are unable to get a loan from a car dealership. You could find that you are unhirable, regardless of whether you can do the job. And it is partly the fault of computers, databases and the digital age. It's worth noting that some cities, such as San Francisco, have "banned the box" of job application questions of any carceral history.

What does it do to a person when society has branded them as worthless? It can ruin a person's hope for a better life, foster resentment, and instill trauma.

The messages forced on you in custody cause you to function at an emotional, mental and spiritual deficit.

Indeed, the human soul can be harmed. The abusive treatment that prisoners receive is evidence of that.

Jack Bragen lives and writes in Martinez, California. Available on LULU.com, now: "Instructions for Dealing with Schizophrenia: A Self-Help Manual, Second Edition."

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**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!

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PIECES ASSIGNED BY THE EDITOR MAY OFFER PAYMENT, ASK FOR DETAILS!

# WE MUST ORGANIZE AGAINST TRUMP AND HIS BILLIONAIRES. POOR AND UNHOUSED COMMUNITIES ARE UNDER ATTACK!

CATHLEEN WILLIAMS

Protests have ignited across the nation in the first weeks of Donald Trump's second presidency, with protests against Trump's deportation policies taking place in Arizona, Arkansas, Missouri, Georgia and North Carolina. In Los Angeles, protesters shut down U.S. Highway 101 on February 2 to bring awareness to the threats to migrant and immigrant populations.

Hundreds of Californians of diverse ages and ethnicities rallied at the state capitol in Sacramento on February 5 to bring attention to this and other developments. They raised the flags of the United States, Mexico and Canada, and held high their homemade signs.

Other groups are also at risk from Trump and Elon Musk's broad-based attacks on federal agencies, including poor and unhoused communities that are disproportionately represented by people of color. One example is the recent short-lived cancellation of all federal grants and payments, including Head Start's child care programs that serve thousands of low-income children. As of publication time, payments are still delayed in the aftermath of the freeze.

Trump's executive orders outlawing diversity, equity and inclusion programs, or DEI, in all federal agencies will protect and perpetuate racist and discriminatory practices in federal housing programs and block enforcement of civil rights laws, as reported by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (1/24/25). Another executive order imposing a hiring freeze will weaken the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which administers housing programs like Section 8 vouchers and other low-income housing investments. The removal of protections for transgender people will strip away fair housing and legal safeguards for shelter and public housing programs. Yet another executive order, which attacks "sanctuary jurisdictions" that refuse to cooperate with Immigration and

Customs Enforcement (ICE), is intended to block federal funding of their local and state housing programs. An additional decree that lifts restrictions on ICE arrests in shelters and disaster relief centers threatens to drive away vulnerable migrant and immigrant community members who are in crisis.

Beyond the immediate impact of the executive orders, the Trump administration, with the cooperation of several Congressional members, has announced its intention to cut \$2 trillion from the \$6.75 trillion federal budget. Experts from the Brookings Institution, analyzing budget proposals submitted during Trump's former term, have projected that crucial supports for poor and unhoused people will be reduced and eliminated on a scale that hasn't been seen since the 1930s, during the Great Depression.

These cuts, which were previously proposed but blocked by lawmakers or the courts, include dismantling the benefits of the Medicaid, and Social Security Disability Income (SSI) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which sustain the minimal needs of many unhoused people. Here's a look at what can be expected on the basis of the past budget proposals:

- Blocking SNAP's food

stamp benefits for 3 million people with incomes between 130% to 200% of the federal poverty line (\$20,000-\$31,000 per year) and ending minimum benefits, impacting an additional 2 million people;

- Requiring states to pay 25% of food stamp costs, and permitting reduction of benefit levels;
- Eliminating food stamps benefits for people aged 18-49 who are not disabled or raising children at home, with various work requirements and time limitations enforced;
- Repealing the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, and eliminating its Medicaid expansion, which extended coverage to people below 133% of the poverty line;
- Imposing funding caps on Medicaid as part of \$1 trillion funding cut over 10 years;
- Raising rents for Section 8 tenants, eliminating assistance with utility expenses, and ending federal funding for a range of local low income housing construction programs;
- Cutting Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI), reducing eligibility

for benefits and eliminating or reducing other types of cash assistance (like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).

The list is daunting but it can and must be fought, item by item, budget line by budget line. Check in with your community. This is the time to study, understand and get involved.

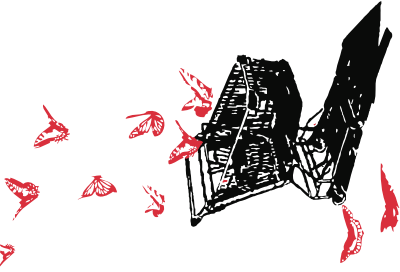
The day after last November's election, the Sunrise Movement tweeted: "Trump loves corporations even more than Democrats do, but he ran an anti-establishment campaign that gave an answer to people's desire for change." As social movements respond to outrage over Trump's policies and tie their actions to a real agenda for transformative change, they puncture the pretense that he offers any sort of real alternative to a democracy ruled by elites and an economy designed to serve the wealthy.

"We can stop him, and we must," Sunrise added. "But it's going to take many thousands of people taking to the streets and preparing to strike. And it's going to take mass movements putting out a better vision for our country than Trumpism and proving that we can make it happen." Resilience.orgs



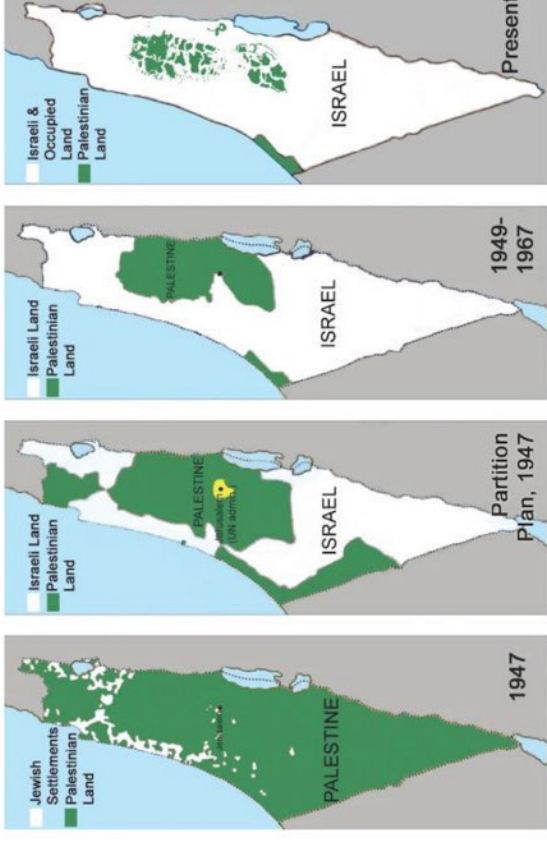
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Invitation to an Online Film Salon  
 Sunday February 16, 2025

**Made Homeless in the Homeland:  
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**VFHL presents: Made Homeless in the  
 Homeland:  
 Lawfare, Demolition, and Land Theft**

Sunday, February 16 @ NOON PST

With the world's attention diverted by the war on Gaza, displacement of West Bank Palestinians has increased dramatically in the past year. VFHL's Salon will focus on Israel's aggressive use of lawfare in its campaign of ethnic cleansing, the longstanding efforts of Palestinians to nonviolently resist, and the role of allies.



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