

The
Word
on the
Street

for **35**
Years
Strong!

STREET SHEET

Celebrates 35 Years of...

Seeing Through City Hall,

Changing the Narrative on
Homelessness,

And Creating Income
for Low-Income Vendors
and Writers



COALITION ON
HOMELESSNESS
SAN FRANCISCO



CULTIVATING POWER ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Word On The Street

STREET SHEET 35th ANNIVERSARY PARTY



THE LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED STREET PAPER IN THE NATION!

DOORS OPEN: 6:00PM
PROGRAM: 6:30 - 8:00pm

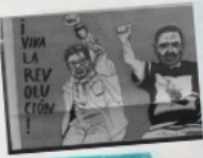
Suggested Donation
at Door: \$35

Pay what you can,
no one will be turned
away for lack of funds

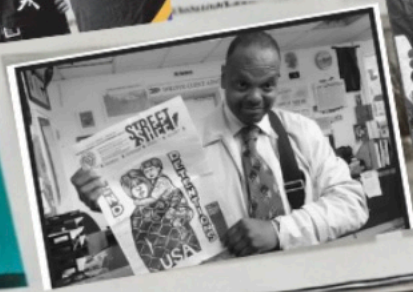
When? December
11, 2024

PERFORMERS &
SPEAKERS
Food and Drinks!
Dancing!
Street Sheet Merch!
CoH Merch!

- DJ maDRE
- Street Sheet Alumni
- Veteran Street Sheet Vendors
- Community Leaders



Where is the Party Located?
ELRIO
3158 Mission St, San Francisco,
CA 94110



PROPOSITION Q CONTAINS
NO NEW HOUSING

DISPLACEMENT
IS NOT A SOLUTION



VOTE NO ON PROPOSITIONS Q & R

STREET SHEET

STREET SHEET

STREET SHEET

ABOUT THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The Coalition on Homelessness was formed in 1987 by homeless leaders and front-line service providers to address the crisis of homelessness with permanent solutions. Just two years later, Street Sheet was born. For over three decades, our organization has continued to center the voices of currently and formerly unhoused San Franciscans. By cultivating power with strong organizing roots, we have had many successes. Street Sheet has been a big part of that, putting the word on the street directly from the source: folks who are living and surviving homelessness. The paper incorporates original artwork, poetry, and storytelling, and it directly contrasts with the misinformation and scapegoating that are so common in the broader debate around the issue of homelessness.

From the beginning, our direction has been guided by the needs and input of homeless people themselves. We conduct weekly outreach to unhoused adults, youth, and families across the many streets, shelters, and SROs of San Francisco to identify not only the most critical problems facing them but also solutions to these roadblocks. From there, our organizers and members collaborate to build people-powered campaigns to achieve those solutions while empowering homeless leaders to advocate for solution-based policies and programs in San Francisco. Each of these campaigns builds on the preceding efforts to get us one step closer to a world where every San Franciscan has a safe place to call home, and we won't stop moving forward until we get there.

In this year's report, we share with you our latest strides towards that goal. From our lawsuit against the City's cruel and illegal encampment sweeps to organizing with families in RVs to demand access to decent housing. Our work has led to thousands getting housed.

2024 has been a challenging year, with homeless San Franciscans coming under attack and disinformation being spread in an attempt to discredit our organization. In times like this, it's more important than ever that we come together as a community, keep moving forward, and celebrate every step in the right direction. Through toil and hard work, we can cultivate power beneath and grow strong organizing roots.





2024 VICTORIES AT A GLANCE

Together with our allies, we pushed the City to respond to the doubling of families experiencing homelessness by adding these initiatives paid for by November 2018 Prop. C:

- 130 five-year rental subsidies for families
- 35 five-year shallow subsidies for homeless working families
- 115 emergency hotel rooms, families can use as shelter
- 50 slots of five-year rapid rehousing for youth-headed families.
- Passing trailing legislation for these expenditures that requires the families in short-term subsidies to be informed that they can apply for extensions.

We led a budget campaign that resulted in the following:

- Funding emergency rental assistance at \$5 million
- Adding \$1 million for 27 permanent housing subsidies for homeless youth to use in the private rental market.
- Staving off the closure of a 24-hour pit stop bathroom.
- Staving off \$400k in cuts to an earn-and-learn training for unhoused people
- Saving the \$5m for safe parking

We introduced legislation to ensure that families on short-term rental subsidies do not return to homelessness by extending their subsidies to five years.

Our Housing Justice Organizers facilitated weekly meetings with families living in RVs along Winston Drive and, together, advocated for secure housing and a safe parking site, resulting in 14 families receiving housing.

Our Human Rights Organizing team continued to monitor and publicize human rights abuses unhoused community members faced as the city increased sweeps in the aftermath of the Grants Pass Supreme Court Case.

We successfully beat back \$3 million in cuts to Behavioral Health services in Prop. C



FIGHT HOUSING

HALTING T

For most homeless families, the only thing available is short-term emergency rental assistance for 180 days. While these are successful programs, success rates with longer-term assistance are lower. Legislation introduced this year aims to get legislation introduced that would allow for more if the family is at risk of losing their home.



KEEPING SAN FRANCISCANS HOUSED

We are also fighting hard to expand back rent and legal assistance to keep folks housed. In the last point in time count, for every one household that was housed, three more became homeless. Unfortunately, SF does not have enough funding for back rent and legal defense, even though tenants have a right to counsel. We not only fought for additional emergency rental assistance funds in the city budget but also Prop C Our City Our Home funded \$12.6 million. All together Prop C has resulted in almost 23,000 households receiving homelessness prevention services over the first three years, including eviction prevention, rental assistance, and housing stabilization.

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HOUSING SAN FRANCISCO

We wrote and passed November 2018 Prop C Our City Our Home. With the help of our partners and the funding was released in 2020. In the last year, 565 permanent housing have been added, housing over 5,000 people. Over the next year, we will see another 565 households housed through acquisitions, newly built units, and rental assistance.

TING FOR NG JUSTICE

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS

THE REVOLVING DOOR

s, when they go to the city for help, the t-term rental subsidies. These programs -3 years, coupled with support services. for some, the data shows much higher bsidies, and a portion of families return rental assistance runs out. We worked to at would extend the subsidy to five years sk of returning to homelessness.

FIXING COORDINATED ENTRY

2022, we released “A New Coordinated try,” a research report based on the input hundreds of homeless San Franciscans, o developed a list of reforms for San ncisco’s housing allotment system. All our recommendations were adopted, d one of our organizers is serving on the y’s Coordinated Entry Implementation ersight Committee to implement the anges that our community has asked for. e system currently has a host of issues luding the failure to match people with the vices they need, and a heart-wrenching h number of vacant supportive housing its. We will not give up until this broken system is fixed.

ISCANS

City Our Home with our community n the first three years, 2,955 units of ,160 people including 1,700 children. ls housed. These are a combination of istance in the private market.

ORGANIZING VEHICULARLY HOUSED SAN FRANCISCANS

This past year has been a roller coaster for households living in RVs who have been consistently harassed, displaced, and told to move on without a safe place to park. We fought against the eviction of those in RV’s living up in Bernal Heights, and while we lost, we gained strong leaders in our fight. We also worked to organize families living in RVs near Stonestown on Winston Drive. We filed petitions, helped build up a coalition, got the city to sponsor service fairs, conducted direct actions and press conferences and all along elevated the voices of those living in RV’s. Unfortunately, the Winston families got evicted, relocated to Zoo Road, and got evicted again without safe parking being provided. 16 of the families did get housing and over the course of the campaign about half the families were housed. However, the SFMTA then passed a city-wide RV ban. We have filed an appeal and the RV ban is now on hold.

STOPPING THE SWEEPS

The city of San Francisco has regularly engaged in destroying homeless people’s property, displacing them with nowhere to go and citing and arresting them for being homeless. These operations hurt unhoused people and exacerbate homelessness itself. The COH filed a lawsuit against the city to simply get them to follow their own policy. This lawsuit comes after decades of pushing the City to implement common-sense, evidence-based policies grounded in permanent solutions. So far, this lawsuit has led to an injunction against the City, the creation of a shelter waitlist for single adults, decreasing the number of vacant permanent supportive housing units, and noticing encampments 72 hours in advance of sweep operations. In June, the Supreme Court ruled that municipalities don’t have to offer shelter first, before citing and arresting, so while that portion of our suit had to be vacated, we are still moving forward with the rest of our claims including halting the destruction of homeless people’s property. We are fighting instead for a humane response that truly leads people off the streets and into housing instead of the current response which leads to further despair and an early grave.

2024 TEAM!



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RENTAL SUBSIDY
ORGANIZER



RIVER BECK
HUMAN RIGHTS
ORGANIZER



LUKAS ILLIA
HUMAN RIGHTS
ORGANIZER



THE ST CONTI

The recent election had... While much of the rhetoric... to implement real solutions... priorities for 2025:

A HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE
We'll continue advocating... in the courtroom and City... sweeps practices, we will... informed and data-driven... needs and leave homeless

COORDINATED ENTRY P
While the City's moves to... promising, we still have... continue pressuring the... demanded. These include... pathway for all unhoused... that allows unhoused pe

HOUSING, HOUSING, HO
As with every year, our p... to expand the City's hou... housing, long-term hous... to advocate for the expa... at-risk households in the... without housing. San Fr... in these desperately nee... fighting for budget prior... home.

MEETING BEHAVIORAL
While Prop C has led to... served, we have a long y... system that is truly resp... continue our work to im... and ensure folks with be... where they are much be

STRUGGLE MOVING IN 2025

a big focus on homelessness locally and nationally. If the current approach was counterproductive, it does create an opening for new solutions to homelessness. Here's a look at some of our key

ALTERNATIVE STREET RESPONSE

Working for the human rights of unhoused San Franciscans at City Hall. Moving beyond just stopping the city's illegal evictions will work for a transformed response that is trauma-informed, working with each individual with a plan to meet their needs and homelessness behind.

HOUSING REFORM

Efforts towards reforming Coordinated Entry have been limited. We haven't seen any major reforms take place. In 2025, we will work with the City to make the changes that homeless people have asked for: a system that matches people with needs, creates a safe environment for people to leave the streets, and a transparent system for people to check their status.

HOUSING

The primary goal for San Francisco's 2025-26 budget will be increasing the housing portfolio with new units of permanent supportive housing, rental subsidies, and rapid rehousing. We will also continue the expansion of homelessness prevention programs to keep people in their homes, and shelter beds to provide respite for those who are unhoused. San Francisco is still a long way from adequately investing in housing, but every year we make progress by allocating resources that help more unhoused San Franciscans find

HEALTH NEEDS

Over 4,200 new treatment beds and almost 16,000 people being treated for substance use. We need a way to go to address the overdose epidemic and build a comprehensive system to the diverse needs of treatment seekers. We will implement system changes, build capacity in the system, address behavioral health issues are able to stabilize in housing, and help people be better able to care for themselves.



JOIN THE STRUGGLE

None of the work we do is possible without the support of all of our incredible volunteers, allies, and supporters. To keep advancing justice next year, we need your help! Here's how you can stay involved:

READ STREET SHEET

Street Sheet is the only newspaper in San Francisco made by and for people impacted by homelessness! Buying and reading Street Sheet is the best way for you to stay up to date on what's new with San Francisco homelessness, and the money from your purchase goes directly to one of our vendors. Reach out to our editor at tjohnston@cohfsf.org to become a vendor, or to submit writing, poetry, or artwork, or volunteer skills such as graphic design or teaching a workshop.

JOIN A WORKGROUP

Our weekly workgroups are where all the magic happens! Our staff and members work together to coordinate outreach, develop campaigns, and carry out the actions that advance our cause week by week. Find out more about our workgroups at www.cohfsf.org/who-we-are to get information on how to join a meeting or contact jhighsmith@cohfsf.org!

BECOME A SUSTAINER

As a grassroots organization, we pride ourselves in receiving most of our funding from individual donors like you! We don't take government funding of any kind, nor any other funding sources that would compromise our fight for justice. The easiest way for you to give us a boost is by visiting our website at cohfsf.org and becoming a one-time donor or a monthly sustainer. Otherwise, reach out to our Development Director Arron Ritschell at aritschell@cohfsf.org to discuss all things fundraising.

COVER ART: SF Poster Syndicate/Jojo Ruckman

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