



March 2024 News

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Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 PM General Assembly - on [ZOOM](#)

Program: RescueSF Updates with Mark Engel of Rescue SF and and Supervisor Mandelman

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclceGsrTorGtGQ2Qk3Szrz52hdOkMXQeWX>

Where is all the Money going?



Hearing Calling on the City to Add More Shelter Beds to End Street Sleeping
On Tuesday, March 12 Supervisor Mandelman is requesting a hearing on the status of "[A Place for All.](#)" He'll call on the Department of the Homelessness and Supportive Housing to provide a status of A Place for All implementation. This ordinance which CSFN strongly supported was signed into law nearly two years ago. It sets a policy that San Francisco will provide sufficient shelter and housing to end street sleeping.

While conditions in some areas of San Francisco have improved, far too many unhoused people are still sleeping on our streets. Despite the passage of A Place for All, the City has not provisioned the shelter beds needed to enable exits from the street. The hearing will ask: "how many more shelter beds does San Francisco need to provide a path out of homelessness for those on our streets? And what is the plan to provide enough beds?"

At CSFN's March 19 General Assembly, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman will discuss the current state of shelter and his proposals to add more capacity. Right now, the Prop C "Our City, Our Home" initiative has roughly \$300 million in uncommitted/unspent funds. And revenue from Prop C over the past six years totals approximately \$1.5 billion dollars. With those funds (plus significant state funding), the City could have addressed our most fundamental need: a place for all. By 2024 our City could have added enough beds to end dangerous and unhealthy street sleeping. Our City could have provided shelter for the chronically homeless who suffer from multiple serious health conditions and who have significantly lower life expectancy. [Read the Mandelman legislation here.](#) We'll update CSFN delegates once the hearing date is set.

From the Desk of the President: **WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH THESE SF NONPROFITS?!**



As I write this, the headline in the morning paper screams "Body Decays in SF-Run Hotel for Days Before Being Found".(Kevin Fagan, SF Chronicle, March 3, 2024). The man had been missing since Jan. 16, On Jan. 27, odors of decomposition were evident coming from a locked shared bathroom, and red and yellow liquid liquids were seen seeping under the door. Finally, on Jan. 31 Episcopal Community Services, one of the largest supportive housing operators in the city, had caseworkers ask property managers to investigate. Inside they found a man slumped over a toilet, apparently dead from an overdose!

Earlier, we learned that Tenderloin Housing Clinic will pay \$330,00 to settle claims by employees of alleged wage theft going back to 2020. The class action lawsuit alleged about 100 employees were underpaid and overworked by another one of the city's largest supportive housing operators. Larkin Street Youth Services is being sued by workers alleging unpaid sick time and unprovided meal and rest breaks. The Providence Foundation of SF is under investigation for allegedly depriving workers of holiday pay and inaccurate timekeeping. It operates city shelters and does other homeless services. Investigations into Kyra Worthy, Executive Director of SF SAFE lead to her dismissal. Even the Coalition on Homelessness has been hit with a lawsuit over alleged labor law violations.

More recently, United Council of Human Services is reported to have improperly collected rents from tenants and giving housing to its own employees, resulting in the city referring the case to the FBI! \$100 million! J&J Community Resource Center forged invoices and double billed the city for \$1 million! SF Safe: check forgery, false invoices and charging the SF Police Department for money without documentation! Over \$ 1 million! PRC/ Baker Places charged \$186,058, 451 for substance abuse and mental health treatment programs and then asked the city for a cash bailout when it can out of money!(St. John BARNED -Smith, SF Chronicle, March 5, 2024)

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH CITY HALL? Supervisor Preston has been trying to get elevators fixed in S.R.O.s in District 5 which he represents. The money was allocated years ago; the fixes were promised months ago. At a recent BOS meeting, the mayor refused to promise to release the money by a date certain. After a SF Chronicle investigation, the money was promised this Spring, but now seems unavailable until next Fall. Elevators will not be in operation before 2025.

AND WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM? We need better oversight by the City, and more transparency and accountability by the nonprofits and the government entities that contract with them.

Remember to cast your vote in San Francisco November 5, 2024

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR CSFN GA ON ZOOM MARCH 20, 2004

1. Call to order, approval of agenda
2. Spotlight: TBD
3. Program: RescueSF Updates with Mark Engel of Rescue SF
4. Officers Reports
5. Committee Reports
6. Approval of Draft Minutes for February 2024 General Assembly
7. Unfinished Business: Support Neighbors United SF
Nominations and timeline of CSFN election calendar
8. New Business: Resolutions - SB 951 and AB 2560 - Developing the California Coastline
9. For the Good of the Order: Discussion of Possible Benefit Auction
10. Adjournment

RescueSF Summary for CSFN

San Francisco spends hundreds of millions of dollars on homelessness and helps thousands of people leave the streets each year, yet the homelessness crisis continues. Why? San Francisco has a strategy for managing and reducing homelessness, but not for ending it. Some City strategies are only partly effective, and the City underinvests in other strategies that could make a difference, such as providing more rapid assistance to the newly homeless and more extensive services to the longtime homeless.

The City helps many people leave homelessness for permanent housing, but the City's approach to creating shelter and housing leaves too many people unsheltered. Instead of spending scarce resources on building or operating expensive shelter models, the City could bring more people inside by using hotel conversions to create non-congregate shelter. Instead of squandering enormous amounts of capital on owned buildings, the City could house many more people in leased apartments.

San Francisco's homeless shelters should offer a path for unhoused people to permanently end their homelessness, but, for most guests, homeless shelters are a revolving door leading back to the streets. After reviewing City data that RescueSF obtained through a Sunshine request, we found that San Francisco's homeless shelters are failing in their primary mission of helping people permanently leave homelessness. A large and growing majority of people exiting San Francisco's homeless shelters leave those shelters to return to unsheltered homelessness or an unknown destination, which is likely to be the streets. In 2023, 80% of shelter exits were back to unsheltered homelessness or to an unknown destination.

While San Francisco is simultaneously confronting multiple urgent challenges – such as homelessness, fentanyl, and downtown collapse – there is an even bigger crisis. Why is it so hard for City Hall to solve hard problems? RescueSF led the work on a proposal for San Francisco to launch a performance management pilot to make city government more effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable.

Mark Nagel
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Think twice about supporting Senator Wiener and His Supply and Demand claims.

If density reduced the cost of housing New York and San Francisco would have the cheapest housing in the country. They are the most expensive and the most dense.

Our politicians ignore the inconvenient truth.

Thanks to Senator Wiener and his associates in Sacramento, California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) control the local zoning in all the communities. They set the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers that force cities to approve entitlements and up-zoning in all communities, overriding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews. CEQA standards were put into place by Ronald Regan to protect the environment and the health and safety of residents. HCD approves the Housing Elements for all the communities and all the amendments to the Housing Elements once they are accepted.

It appears that developers may now apply for both city and state density bonuses meaning they may add twice as many additional stories to any project, including 100 market rate projects. The infamous 55 story tower on Sloat that Wiener told us would not be possible under any of his bills is now possible.

What to do?

Spread the Word. The public is in the dark.

Tell the members of your groups what is going on and stay tuned as we prepare opposition letters re: [SB 951](#) and [AB 2560](#), (sponsored by SPUR) to be sent to the state representatives. These two bills will allow developers to build along the entire California Coastline with no Due Process, no notice, and no appeals to the California Coastal Commission.

More State Bills will be listed here: <https://www.livablecalifornia.org> under 2024 bills.

Consider going to meetings to become more familiar with the bills. And consider joining <https://ourneighborhoodvoices.com/> to overturn the state zoning bills that override local zoning jurisdictions.



Zoning map under CCC now

Government and Elections Meeting - with George Wooding

City Propositions - CSFN positions

Prop A: Bonds for Affordable Housing - SPLIT

Prop B: Staffing Funds for SFPD - NO

Prop C: Transfer Tax Breaks for Downtown Developers - NO

Prop D: Tighten City Ethics Rules - YES

Prop E: More Police Surveillance and Pursuit, with Less Oversight - SPLIT

Prop F: Forced Drug Screening for Welfare recipients - NO

Prop G: Teach Algebra in Grade 8 Declaration - YES

City Propositions - Voter positions

Prop A: Bonds for Affordable Housing - YES

Prop B: Staffing Funds for SFPD - NO

Prop C: Transfer Tax Breaks for Downtown Developers - YES

Prop D: Tighten City Ethics Rules - YES

Prop E: More Police Surveillance and Pursuit, with Less Oversight - YES

Prop F: Forced Drug Screening for Welfare recipients - YES

Prop G: Teach Algebra in Grade 8 Declaration - YES

Election results map on Mission Local: <https://missionlocal.org/2024/03/election-results-march-2024-dccc-assembly-pros-court-maps-live-updates/>

Adding the waters off SF's Ocean Beach to the National Marine Sanctuary *By Eileen Boeken*

"For the past ten years, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods has been advocating for the waters off San



Photo of Sutro Baths Ruins photo by Zrants

Francisco's Ocean Beach to become part of a National Marine Sanctuary. This may come to fruition this year with the beginning of the *Management Plan Review for the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary*. I would encourage the State Lands Commission and staff to express their support for the waters off Ocean Beach to become a non-contiguous area.

The sand mining leases in San Francisco Bay will be coming up for renewal this year. As the world is rapidly changing, I would urge a renewal for 5 years instead of 10 years. I would also urge a reduction of 35% rather than 15% for allowable extraction amounts. A US Geological Survey study has determined that sand mining in San Francisco Bay is increasing erosion and accretion on San Francisco's Ocean Beach. In view of climate change and sea level rise, this becomes more critical on Oceanside San Francisco as well as Bayside San Francisco. *This is reflected in today's SLC agenda item #86; the Port of San Francisco's Waterfront Flood Study. And, agenda item #85; the OPC Draft Sea Level Rise Guidance.*"

Followup on Sideshows from the February GA meeting: *By Dave Osgood*

At the February GA meeting Police Commissioner Kevin Benedicto explained the role of the Commissioners. Dave Osgood asked what the SFPD's might do about the motorcycle sideshows. Commissioner Benedicto said he would raise the issue at today's police commission meeting. He said CSFN was requesting information about the sideshows and motorcycle gangs disrupting the neighborhoods. The chief's response was disappointing. He doesn't seem to have a clue how to handle them, even though some cities make more of an effort. NYPD not only catches the perpetrator, but crushes their motorcycles as seen in the photo below.



NYPD not only catches the perpetrators, but crushes their motorcycles.

Is Historic Preservation Dead In San Francisco? *By Marc Norton*

On February 22, the Planning Commission rejected **Save the Shack's** proposal (supported by CSFN) to preserve the two conjoined Valley Street earthquake cottages by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Instead, they approved the real estate speculator's plan for the property -- a plan that will, in the words of **SF Heritage** President **Woody LaBounty**, "destroy their visual integrity and recognition as 1906 earthquake relief cottages." We are of course working on an appeal of this flawed and ill-considered decision.

The hearing that preceded this vote was somewhat surreal. It began with a Planning Department staff report rejecting our Discretionary Review application. This staff report double-downed on their previous written assertion that the Valley Street Earthquake Shack Cottage was "built in 1890," sixteen years before the 1906 earthquake. That incomprehensible anomaly did not even produce a question or comment from the commissioners.



We had support from numerous civic organizations and knowledgeable individuals.* The only person who testified in support of the real estate speculator's plan was the project architect. The Planning Commission received no letters or emails of support for the project sponsor...[\(more\)](#)

DRAFT MINUTES FOR CSFN GA FEBRUARY 20, 2024 MEETING

1. Call to order at 6:440
2. Spotlight: SF Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin
3. Program: Presentation of SF Ballot Measures for the March 5, 2024 Election. George Wooding (MTHA), Chair, Government and Elections Committee. Speakers were Supervisors Peskin and Dorsey, Lovett, Canning, Benedicto. Also updates on Neighbors United and Stop Crime SF
4. Officers Reports: Treasurer only
5. Committee Reports: None
6. Minutes from Jan. 22 2024 were approved as corrected
7. Unfinished Business: Earthquake Shack Resolution was approved unanimously. Nominations Committee was appointed (Al Fontes, George Wooding)
8. New Business: Resolution approving BOS anti SB951 ordinance was approved. SF Ballot Measures were voted on as follows: Prop A No (5,6), Prop B No (1,12), Prop C No (3,11), Prop D Yes (13), Prop E Yes (7,4), Prop F No (3,10)
9. Adjournment occurred at 9:45

Once again. Here is our process for nominating and electing officers:

1. The Executive Committee shall recommend candidates for the Nomination Committee at its January meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the **February general meeting**, at which time three representatives shall be elected by those representatives present by plurality vote.
2. The Executive Committee shall receive and consider nominations from member organizations. The report... shall be published in the **April Newsletter**. Additional nominations may be made from the floor... and a list of all nominees shall be published in the **May newsletter**.
3. Voting shall be by ballot at the **May meeting**. A majority vote shall elect. The ballot may be dispensed with if there is only one candidate for an office.

CSFN Meetings: The public is always invited to our General Assemblies on the third Tuesday of each month, and to attend committee meetings and town halls. In addition to the members of our

organizations we have many Friends of CSFN that contribute! We are transparent and cast a wide

net to attract all those interested in improving San Francisco and all of its neighborhoods.

Send articles and other materials you want to share to: csfninfo@gmail.com

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