

December 4, 2020

Del Seymour
Chair, Local Homeless Coordinating Board
270 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chair Seymour,

Attached you will find the presentation from the Latino Task Force Streets Needs Assessment Committee conducted in the Mission District along with other issues we have identified with the way DPW and HSOC operates and impacts our unhoused neighbors. We are hoping this is the start of an ongoing productive relationship between this LTF committee and the Local Homeless Coordinating Board.

The recommendations we are presenting to you include the following changes regarding the Department of Public Works bag and tag and safe sleeping policies:

- 1) Ensuring that personal property of unhoused residents is handled appropriately and named personal property.
- 2) Ensure there is accountability to prevent the illegal destruction of unhoused people's property, this includes:
 - having DPW photograph items they are throwing away when responding to 311 encampment complaints,
 - or other cleaning that occurs in encampments,
 - clarifying what can be thrown away,
 - ensuring there is regularly scheduled cleaning so that unhoused individuals are prepared to respond.
- 3) Fund an independent community liaison position that is hired by a committee recommended CBO with experience working with unhoused and oversees any DPW and HSOC operations that impact unhoused neighbors. The community liaison would be notified at least 48 hours before DPW and HSOC are responding to an encampment. This liaison will document what is occurring, report staff when they violate policy, and represent aggrieved unhoused residents in a grievance procedure when their property is wrongly confiscated.

4) Extensive training for DPW & HSOC workers that includes a curriculum that is approved by organizations and community members.

5) Clarify the Safe Sleeping Policy to ensure that during the pandemic that those who are following the guidelines, do not have their tent removed and revisit punitive language and to provide positive alternatives

Thank you for taking the time and the consideration of our work.

Sincerely,

Francisco Herrera

Chair, Latino Task Force Mission District Street Needs Assessment Committee

Attachments:

-Mission District Neighborhood Safety Assessment and Action Plan in Response to COVID-19

-Bag and Tag Policy with Committee recommended edits