



COMPASSIONATE
ALTERNATIVE
RESPONSE
TEAM

A FUTURE OF CARE NOT CRIMINALIZATION FOR THE UNHOUSED
IN SAN FRANCISCO



The problem - police as a response to homelessness

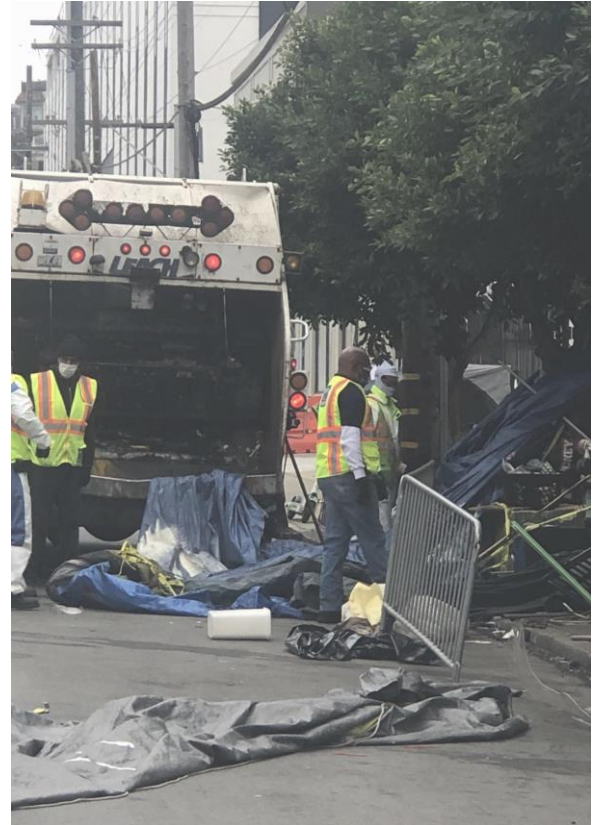
- SFPD was dispatched to over 65,000 homeless related calls in 2019
- Policing is a costly, ineffective and punitive response to homelessness
- Unhoused individuals have repeatedly fallen victim to police violence

"You're being intimidated and interrogated."

SF resident, survey participant

"They don't respect us and make our situation worse often times."

SF resident, survey participant



The solution - a compassionate street response



- The Compassionate Alternative Response Team, or CART program seeks to end San Francisco's current police response to homelessness
- CART will create a future of care not criminalization for the unhoused residents of San Francisco



CART - Goals & Outcomes



- ❑ Eliminating the police as first and primary responders to unhoused people
- ❑ Increasing safety for unhoused people and reducing the harm and trauma inflicted
- ❑ Building community resilience by empowering housed San Franciscans to more compassionately respond to their unhoused neighbors



CART - The community-led coalition



- More than 30 organizations have contributed to or endorsed the CART Plan



CART - The program design



- A community-based street response working in teams of two and responding to situations involving unhoused individuals throughout the city of San Francisco
- CART will respond to calls received through a direct CART hotline and to transferred calls going into 911 that involve an unhoused individual
- CART's estimated annual budget of \$6.825 million has been funded in part at \$3m



CART - A two-prong approach

CART would provide both *"Persons-in-crisis" response services* and *"Community-strengthening" services*.

"Persons-in-crisis" response services:

- De-escalation intervention, interpersonal conflict resolution
- Street counseling and mental wellness referrals/resources
- First aid and street medicine services
- Substance use/addiction referrals/resources
- Acute/subacute transportation services
- Suicide prevention



"Community-strengthening" services:

- Identify, network, and support neighborhood-based "compassionate responders"
- Offer trainings to these "compassionate responders" to further educate them on the systemic causes of homelessness





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Where CART Stands:

- Unanimous support from the Board of Supervisors last years budget cycle
- Only received partial funding, about 3.3 million in unallocated reserve
- CART is in the hands of the mayor to decide which city department is most appropriate
- No response from the mayor on why cart hasn't been implemented
- Petition to apply pressure to the mayor to show people want and need cart especially after the criminalization of people who use drugs in the TL and the emergency declaration



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How to get involved

Sign the Petition to stand with CART:

- bit.ly/CARTSF

CART General Campaign Meeting:

- 1st + 3rd Tuesday of every month @1:30-3pm
- Join the CART Campaign listserv to be updated about events & calls to action email cart@cohsf.org

Endorse and support

- Fill out the endorsement form on the CART website (cartsf.org) to support CART and its implementation
- Follow CART on twitter and facebook

END