San Francisco is a city known for its innovation, resilience, and compassion. Today, we stand united in our resolve to address the greatest humanitarian crisis and social challenge facing society today – homelessness. This is an American crisis that is playing out in cities across the country, and most significantly all along the West Coast. Homelessness in San Francisco is unacceptable. It requires a citywide effort spanning the public, nonprofit, and private sectors and partnerships at all levels of government.

We must act swiftly and decisively together to help the thousands of adults, families, and youth who are struggling without housing. We need to build on what works and hold ourselves accountable to ensure our efforts are making a difference and that our investments are making an impact. We need to do everything we can to support those who are struggling with homelessness. And we need to be responsive to those in our city who see the impacts in our neighborhoods every day and are calling for action.

Today, our collective efforts keep 15,000 people sheltered and housed every night. We are proud that our homelessness response system provides shelter and supports to thousands of people experiencing homelessness each year and keeps countless others from entering the system through prevention measures and safety net programs. We are grateful to our nonprofit partners who work tirelessly to help people still living on our streets and for the state and federal resources that we do receive.

But our job is not done. We must do more. While tens of thousands of people are no longer unhoused due to their determination and our collective efforts, thousands more continue to suffer. This need requires more from the City, more from our non-profit partners, and more from the state and federal government.

Today, we launch Home by the Bay, our citywide five-year Strategic Plan. The Plan is founded on a commitment to work towards achieving racial equity and housing justice and ending homelessness so that everyone in our community has the housing, support, and opportunities they need to thrive.

The Strategic Plan’s vision is built upon the three core values of equity, quality, and innovation. This plan outlines mission-critical goals for the next five years, driving towards bold accomplishments and a transformational and cultural shift in how we work collectively. Building on measurable achievements of the last five years, including a recent 15% reduction in unsheltered homelessness, the plan affirms our commitment to prevention, shelter, affordable housing, and services that end homelessness and treat people with the dignity they deserve. Because racism is woven into the structure of the systems that have produced housing instability and homelessness, racial equity is the common thread in every solution. The Strategic Plan sets the foundation for us to hold ourselves accountable for impact.

As a city, we are ending homelessness for people every day. We know what works. Success is within reach, but it will require that multiple city departments align their efforts, embrace accountability, empower our community partners, and work in partnership with people experiencing homelessness. It will require partnership from public and private funders, non-profit providers, advocates, community groups, volunteers, the business community, and elected officials at all levels of government.

Every San Franciscan has a role to play. Now is the time to act. Please join us in reaching the bold goals of this plan over the next five years.

Mayor London Breed
Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco

Shireen McSpadden
Executive Director of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing