

SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING BOARD



Tuesday, January 24, 2023

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San Francisco's Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB) stands together with our community--the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), nonprofit service providers, and the advocates, organizers, and caregivers working to end homelessness in San Francisco--to condemn violence in all forms against our unhoused neighbors. We urge compassion in every interaction and a shared understanding that homelessness is rooted in structural racism and political and economic systems that have for centuries valued power more than people. Nowhere is this more evident than in the stark racial and other disparities we see in who experiences homelessness.

Homelessness is not an individual choice but a collective policy choice our nation has made gradually over decades. And every day unhoused people struggle with the consequences of our collective policy failures. It is an uncomfortable reality, and discomfort is a natural response to seeing our neighbors suffer indignities in our streets. Anger is an understandable reaction to feeling like some of our city's biggest problems are only getting worse. Violence is never an acceptable response: it diminishes our shared humanity and often replicates the racial and other hierarchies at the root of the problem.

We need our fellow San Franciscans to see the bigger picture and come together on solutions, with compassion for our unhoused neighbors and acceptance of the reality that lasting change takes time. We have a lot of work to do to begin to heal the damage that history has done, and we as San Franciscans will not always agree about the right way to get there. But together we will get there, and we are moving in the right direction every day: investing in permanent housing and other solutions that work; building stronger, safer communities and neighborhoods; and creating opportunities for people to come inside and heal.

The Members of the San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board