



## RAFAEL MANDELMAN

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### **Supervisor Rafael Mandelman to introduce expanded “A Place for All” ordinance to provide shelter for everyone willing to accept it**

*Supervisor Rafael Mandelman to introduce an expanded version of “A Place for All” ordinance, making it City policy to provide shelter for everyone willing to accept it*

SAN FRANCISCO — Today District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman will introduce an expanded version of “A Place for All”, an ordinance to make it the policy of the City and County of San Francisco to offer all people experiencing homelessness in the City a safe place to sleep.

“San Franciscans are frustrated, and rightly so, that after multiple decades and many billions of dollars spent to ‘solve homelessness’, thousands of unhoused people continue to sleep on the streets night after night,” said Mandelman, lead author of the ordinance. “For all the money we spend and have spent, it’s reasonable to expect clear improvement in the situation on the streets, and frankly people are not seeing that.”

"Street sleeping doesn't make someone safe, sane, or sober," said Mark Nagel, co-founder of RescueSF, a grassroots coalition of residents and small business owners seeking more effective and compassionate solutions to homelessness. "Conditions in our neighborhoods are significantly worse today than ever before. Our City leaders need to commit to shelter all who want a roof over their heads as a first step on the path out of homelessness."

The ordinance would require the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to prepare an implementation plan within three months, including an estimate of how many people would be expected to accept shelter in the City, the cost of providing shelter for all people willing to accept it, and the annual cost of the program once fully operational.

“I believe in supportive affordable housing and there is no question that we have a huge deficit of shelter beds which are low barrier and welcoming,” said District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar, a co-sponsor of the ordinance. “This legislation is a good first step to help connect people in need to City resources.”

The ordinance would also require the Director of Real Estate to conduct a survey of real property to identify lots or facilities appropriate for use as shelters, tiny home communities, or safe sleeping sites, and to submit the findings of the survey concurrently with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's implementation plan.

The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and Director of Real Estate would then submit the completed implementation plan and real property survey to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of how to fund the City's shelter needs.

"As the city begins to recover from the pandemic, we cannot ignore the fact that we are still in the thick of a homelessness crisis. The pandemic proved that we are capable of doing amazing things - coming up with creative solutions and implementing them successfully," said District 6 Supervisor Matt Haney, a co-sponsor of the ordinance.

"We need to approach homelessness with the same urgency and focus and come up with a plan to get people off the streets and into care. While we continue to build more affordable housing and more permanent supportive housing in the city, we also need to provide more non-congregate shelter options for people who are unhoused and need help now, and that's why I am a lead co-sponsor of the new 'A Place for All' ordinance."

"Thousands of human beings are slowly dying on our streets and it cannot continue any longer," said District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani, a co-sponsor of the ordinance. "We need to do everything we can to expand shelter options and get people inside and out of danger. This legislation is an important step in addressing homelessness and restoring the public realm."

The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing would be required to update the estimated number of unsheltered people who may be expected to accept a shelter bed every year, and the Controller would be required to submit reports evaluating implementation of the program every two years.

"San Francisco small business owners are often on the front lines of our homelessness crisis. We support permanent solutions, and we recognize the need for interim shelter now," said Ben Bleiman, founder of the SF Bar Owner Alliance. "We applaud Supervisor Mandelman and his cosponsors for their pragmatic, progressive approach to finding transitional options for our unhoused community members while they await more permanent options."

To increase transparency about shelter availability, the ordinance would require the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to maintain a dashboard on its website displaying the total number of shelters citywide, broken down by shelter type, number of shelter units, and occupancy rate.

San Francisco has never established a comprehensive citywide strategy for meeting the shelter needs of the unhoused, and a February 21 report by All Home entitled "A Call to Action from the Regional Impact Council" called for Bay Area Governments to balance homelessness spending using a 1-2-4

framework, under which every \$1 invested in shelter or interim housing should be matched with \$2 invested in permanent housing and \$4 invested into homelessness prevention.

As of January 2022, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing estimates that to align with the 1-2-4 framework, San Francisco would need at least 2,000 additional shelter beds. This is both an urgent humanitarian need for unhoused residents sleeping on our streets and in our public spaces every night, and an urgent quality of life need for housed residents who endure the daily disruptions that result from open-air drug use, psychosis, and other behavioral health issues exacerbated by unsheltered homelessness.

“Research shows that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness suffer significantly higher mortality than those in shelter,” said Mandelman. “The people living on our streets are getting sicker every day, preparing to die while one of the wealthiest cities in the country watches and tells them to wait for housing. As a result, we have an ever growing population of people who are living in completely unsafe conditions, and will require intensive supportive services for the rest of their lives. The waiting line for permanent housing cannot be the streets, sidewalks, and other outdoor spaces of our neighborhoods. This is inhumane, irrational, and it must end.”

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