

City and County of
San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
President

AARON PESKIN
佩斯金市參事

*** MEMORANDUM ***

DATE: September 12, 2023
TO: Mayor London N. Breed
CC: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Tom Paulino, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
FROM: Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin *AP*
SUBJECT: Special 2:00pm Order for 9/12/2023 Board Meeting – Question Time

Madam Mayor,

On April 13th earlier this year, I publicly suggested the City stand up a Joint Federal, State, Regional and Local Emergency Command Center to shut down the fentanyl supermarkets and brazen drug dealing that has been plaguing Mid-Market. On May 23, 2023 I again publicly pressed for a coordinated emergency response, and, as you know, we spent our last Question Time together discussing this matter and what you felt you were able to publicly disclose. I indicated that I would continue to request updates on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and our constituents.

I want to acknowledge and commend your decision to ultimately stand up an Emergency Operations Center in June and direct the Department of Emergency Management to coordinate San Francisco Police Department, Sheriffs, Department of Public Health, and other agencies with the California Highway Patrol and other outside resources. I have toured the site and met with participatory Departments, and am encouraged by the steps being taken, albeit I continue to be concerned about the focus on arresting drug users who we are unable to treat, and I worry this may contribute to a lack of focus on violent crime and continued drug dealing. I would like to identify how we can continue to work together to improve this process, and believe that having a consistent dashboard with uniform and clear metrics shared by all Departments collocating at the Command Center can be helpful.

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My question to you today is a request: please update the Board of Supervisors on your direction to the Command Center, what federal and state resources are confirmed, how the leadership structure has recently changed at the Command Center, whether you are willing to regularly update a Data Dashboard as we did at the COVID-19 EOC (which would include how many residents the City is placing in treatment), how we are measuring progress with specific public health and safety data sets, in addition to amounts of fentanyl and drugs seized.

I have received reports that SFPD has now assumed full control of the Emergency Command Center and that the Department of Emergency Management is being transitioned out of its leadership role. We would appreciate an updated organizational chart to understand who the leads are from each of the agencies and what metrics they are using to obtain a shared understanding of progress – and what is working and what is not.

I have also received reports that the BART police and SF Police Department still are not fully cooperating on enforcement in the BART plazas, although I have seen news reports that federal police have some presence around the Nancy Pelosi Federal Building in the wake of the federal government's memo to employees not to come in to work due to safety concerns. It would be good to have reports on the status of these collaborations with outside agencies.

We have also heard varying numbers from city agencies regarding the number of residents arrested for drug use who were placed into treatment, ranging from 2, as reported in the SF Chronicle, to 9 people to 12 people.

I continue to believe that consistency, data-driven metrics and transparency about the resources needed from our state and federal governments is key to the success of the Emergency Command Center's work. I know that you care deeply about these issues, and look forward to our continued collaboration and your updates at today's Question Time.