

# Sun-Reporter



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## SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE: JANUARY 2024 CRIME NUMBERS SHOW CONTINUED PROGRESS AFTER 2023 IMPROVEMENTS

**S**an Francisco, CA – Overall crime numbers remain down in San Francisco in the first month of 2024, building on major improvements seen in 2023. These efforts are the result of increased and coordinated enforcement efforts by local, state, and federal agencies that are partnering to make San Francisco a safer place for residents, workers, businesses, and visitors.

In 2023, overall crime was at its lowest point in the last ten years, other than in 2020 when San Francisco and the region was mostly shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In January 2024, San Francisco crime trends continued this positive momentum. Compared to January 2023:

Property crime is down 32%

Violent crime is down 11%

The January 2024 reductions in crime are broad-based,

with declines in robbery, motor vehicle theft, larceny theft (including car-break-ins), assaults and more. Examples include:

39% reduction in larceny theft (includes car break-ins and retail theft)

11% reduction in robberies

20% reduction in burglaries

When compared to pre-pandemic levels, the trends for this January are even stronger. Compared to the three-year average across January 2018-2020:

Property crime is down 40%

Violent crime is down 24%

These efforts reflect the work of local law enforcement, including the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), the San Francisco Sheriff's Office, alongside their state and federal partners at the California Highway Patrol, California National Guard, and the Drug Enforcement Agency. The San Francisco

District Attorney and US Attorney's Office continue to aggressively prosecute cases, including drug crimes.

This data is publicly available on SFPD's Crime Data Dashboard.

"San Francisco is leading with effective efforts to make this city safer for everyone," said Mayor London Breed. "We are committed to continuing to be aggressive in enforcing our laws while also offering people alternatives when they do cross the line. We are a city of compassion and second chances, but we also are a city that will continue to hold those who break the law accountable. I'm grateful for all of our police officers, sheriff's deputies, assistant district attorneys, as well as our state and federal partners who are doing this work every day. Working together, we can continue to make a difference."

Recent examples of  
**Continued on page 8**

## Questions Surround Former Supervisor Mark Farrell and His Politics

By Lee Hubbard

**M**ark Farrell, the former San Francisco Supervisor from the Marina and a current venture capitalist, wants to take Mayor London Breed's job. Farrell, an attorney and former mayor of San Francisco for 6 months, announced his run for the mayor's spot, taking on Breed, who is finishing her first term as the Mayor of San Francisco.

Breed has been under a lot of pressure from voters to fix some of the issues that have voters in San Francisco frustrated. These issues include rampant homelessness, the decline of San Francisco's downtown area, and the rise in criminal theft at stores and car break-ins.

"It is really painful to watch the city you love and you grew up in maligned across the globe," said Farrell in an interview with the Associated Press.

Farrell announced his run for

mayor last week on the steps of the San Francisco Baseball Academy on Geary Blvd. He believes his politics or his goals are the right ones to help turn the city around. He joins a San Francisco mayor's race that includes Mayor Breed, District 11 supervisor Ahsha Safai, and philanthropist and Levi Strauss heir Daniel Lurie.

"Mark Farrell is in cahoots with the white majority of this city to move on this mayor," said San Francisco NAACP leader, the Reverend Amos Brown. "He came up with a blatant statement to fire the black police Chief William Scott, for no reason."

Farrell, in one of his first pronouncements as a candidate for Mayor, said if elected, he would fire the current San Francisco police chief Bill Scott, a highly decorated police chief and one of the few Black city officials in San Francisco. Farrell said he will be tough on crime, and San Francisco "needs a leader of our police department that fights for the budget necessary to grow our police force once again and protect residents in



Mark Farrell

every neighborhood."

Farrell's opinion runs contrary to the accolades that Police Chief Scott has received over his leadership. The SFPD has recorded the lowest murder rate in 60 years, and investigators have cleared 85 percent of those cases.

"Chief Scott has proved that public safety can never be diminished as a price for reform," said Evan Sernoffsky, the SFPD police spokesperson, in a statement. "The reforms he (Police Scott) has instituted

**Continued on page 3**

## MAYOR LONDON BREED WITH BLACK LEADERS



Mayor London Breed posed with her African American commissioners during black history month.

## Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$1.2 Billion in Student Debt Forgiveness for 153,000 Borrowers

By Stacy M. Brown

**I**n a significant step towards alleviating student debt, the Biden administration announced its decision to automatically forgive \$1.2 billion in loans for 153,000 borrowers enrolled in the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) repayment plan.

This move, six months ahead of schedule, represents the administration's commitment to addressing the nation's \$1.77 trillion student debt crisis. U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona emphasized that borrowers who have faithfully made payments for at least ten years deserve relief, bringing the total approved loan relief to nearly 3.9 million borrowers and a cumulative debt cancellation

of almost \$138 billion through executive actions.

Under the SAVE plan, borrowers with loans of \$12,000 or less who have been in repayment for a decade will receive immediate debt relief. This accelerated timeline aims to benefit community college students and others with smaller loans, with 85 percent of future community college borrowers expected to be debt-free within a decade. Introduced last year, the SAVE plan offers an affordable repayment option based on income and family size, with undergraduate loan payments halved starting in July. The administration encourages eligible borrowers to enroll in SAVE and continues to pursue comprehensive solutions to address student loan debt challenges.

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Carlton B. Goodlett, PH.D., MD., Editor/Publisher 1945-1997

**Amelia Ashley-Ward**  
Editor/Publisher

# Breaking News: Trump and Associates Ordered to Pay \$354 Million in Damages in Fraud Trial

By Stacy M. Brown

**W**hen she assumed the role of New York Attorney General, Letitia James made little bones about her desire to take down Donald Trump for what she said was the massive business fraud his organization had committed in the Empire State. She also took aim at his politics, filing numerous lawsuits related to immigration and environmental policies during Trump’s White House tenure. James also inherited an ongoing state lawsuit against Trump’s charitable foundation, initiated before her term, successfully steering it towards a settlement that included a substantial \$2 million fine.

Demonstrating her commitment, she filed another civil lawsuit against Trump the following year, accusing his company of deceiving banks, insurers, and others by artificially inflating the value of assets and his net worth on financial documents. In a clever twist, when announcing the case against Trump, James quipped, “It’s the art of the steal,” playing on the title of Trump’s book, “The Art of the Deal.”

On Friday, Feb. 16, James nailed the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president as Judge Arthur Engoron ruled in a civil business fraud trial against the MAGA leader, his sons, business associates, and the Trump Organization, ordering him to pay over \$354 million in damages. Engoron also slapped Trump and his company with temporary restrictions on conducting business in New York.

The verdict comes after a prolonged trial where James sought \$370 million, alleging “repeated and persistent fraud,” including the falsification of business records and financial statements. And, in a clear-cut victory for James, Engoron dismissed attempts by Trump to shift blame to accountants. “The buck for being truthful in the supporting data valuations stopped with the Trump Organization, not the accountants,” the judge determined.

The judgment imposes a three-year ban on Trump from serving as an officer or director of any New York corporation, along with the appointment of an independent monitor and a directive to install an independent director of compliance for the Trump Organization.

The judge highlighted

Trump’s lack of remorse, stating it “borders on pathological” and necessitates external oversight. This marks the second financial setback for Trump this year, following an \$83.3 million defamation verdict he was ordered to pay for sexually assaulting a journalist. He also faces four criminal trials later this year, with the first scheduled for March 25 in New York State Court. By the time the November election arrives, Trump could also be a convicted felon.

During the New York civil trial, Trump and his executives, including his sons attempted to downplay the significance of exaggerated financial statements. Examples of fraud included inflating property values, such as at Trump Tower and Mar-a-Lago, by significant amounts. Trump, who claimed his innocence, asserted that the case was politically motivated.

The judgment cancels Trump’s business certificates in New York, a decision he is appealing. Trump’s attorney, Alina Habba, naturally denounced the ruling as a “manifest injustice” and expressed confidence in overturning the verdict through the Appellate Division.

“Judge Engoron levied the financial death penalty on Trump,” Trial lawyer Neama



On Friday, Feb. 16, James nailed the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president as Judge Arthur Engoron ruled in a civil business fraud trial against the MAGA leader, his sons, business associates, and the Trump Organization, ordering him to pay over \$354 million in damages. Engoron also slapped Trump and his company with temporary restrictions on conducting business in New York.

Rahmani, a former federal prosecutor and president of West Coast Trial Lawyers, said in an email. “Even for someone with Trump’s net worth, this decision inflicts a serious blow to Trump’s financial health, especially when he has to spend more and more money on legal fees in his many criminal cases.”

Rahmani said Engoron tipped his hand when he granted partial summary judgment before trial. The attorney noted that the judge’s distaste for Trump and his antics was apparent during trial, and the allegations of perjury against defense witness and former Trump Organization CFO Allen Weisselberg made the Attorney General’s case

even stronger. “This decision is unprecedented, but I don’t think we’ll necessarily see similar cases against other individuals,” Rahmani stated. “Trump is unique in that he stubbornly thumbs his nose at our justice system and finds himself in legal turmoil. Sometimes it’s better to cooperate with authorities or to settle a civil lawsuit rather than fight a losing battle. The E. Jean Carroll defamation judgments and his handling of the classified documents requests and subpoena are previous instances where Trump unnecessarily litigated a losing case, and the New York civil fraud case is yet another example.”



**We’re committed to driving and achieving real change — creating a tomorrow we can all be proud of, standing together as one.**

Jacobs’ Action Plan for Advancing Justice and Equality is about achieving true equality for all our employees, current and future. With a focus on empowering our Black employees to advance and achieve at Jacobs, it’s about doing our part as a global leader.

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# Foundation Announces Microgrant Funding for Leaders Making a Difference in Their Neighborhoods

By Tanu Henry and Joe W. Bowers Jr.

**S**an Francisco-based Nextdoor Kind Foundation has announced that it is awarding \$500 hyper-local grants to leaders making a positive difference

in the lives of people in their communities.

Focusing on Los Angeles for this particular round of funding, the foundation will provide 100 individuals with \$500 microgrants.

According to Nextdoor

Kind, “applications are open to individuals in Los Angeles County who have creative ideas, projects, or initiatives that contribute to their neighborhoods.”

The application period ends on March 29.

“Local leaders understand

their neighborhoods best, and the actions that will have the greatest impact for their communities,” said Shireen Santosham, Executive Director, Nextdoor Kind Foundation. “These microgrants will provide civically engaged Angelenos the opportunity to advance

their work and ideas and build connection and kindness in their neighborhoods.”

Grant recipients will be selected based on the creativity of their ideas, projects, or initiatives and other criteria, including community impact and how much their

proposal fosters community collaboration. Other factors that will inform selection are measurable outcomes and how much submitted plans uplift under-resourced communities.

Visit Nextdoor Kind Foundation’s website for more information or to apply.

# Calif. Black Caucus, Attorney Gen. Rob Bonta Back Bill to Address Maternal Mortality

By Tanu Henry and Joe W. Bowers Jr.

**O**n Feb. 12, Attorney Gen. Rob Bonta joined members of the California Legislative Black Caucus in Sacramento to announce they are backing a bill written to address the high maternal mortality rate among Black women.

The legislation, Assembly Bill (AB) 2319 – aims to ensure the successful implementation of SB 464, or the California Dignity in Pregnancy and

Childbirth Act of 2019 (Act).

This act which took effect in 2020, mandates that all physicians in the state undergo implicit bias training every two years and requires hospitals to inform patients about their rights.

If the Legislature votes to approve it and Gov. Newsom signs it into law, AB 2319 will “provide clarity” on who qualifies to offer anti-bias trainings; designate state authorities to implement and enforce accountability measure;

improve equity and inclusion; increase transparency around implementation; establish penalties for violators; among other provisions.

“It is a tragic reality that race continues to be a factor in maternal health and infant mortality rates not just in California, but across this country,” said Bonta.

“Together, we have made so much progress, and we must continue to address healthcare bias head-on. Today’s legislation does just that; it is designed to make

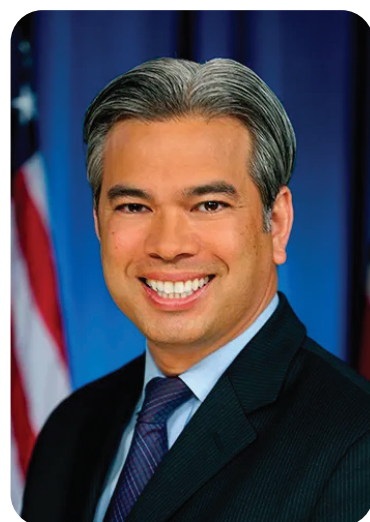
transformational change in a system that has historically failed our mothers and babies, especially those of color,” Bonta added.

In California, every year, Black women account for about 5% of pregnant women but make up an estimated 21% of pregnancy-related deaths, according to California Department of Justice.

Assemblymembers Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) Chair of the CLBC; Mia Bonta (D-Oakland), chair of the Assembly Health Committee;

Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley); and Mike Gipson (D-Carson) attended the news briefing at the State Capitol about AB 2319.

“As a Black Mother and as Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, the fight to improve these outcomes is personal to me “I look forward to collaborating with our Attorney General Rob Bonta, Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber and other stakeholders to push this accountability measure across the finish line as



Attorney Gen. Rob Bonta we seek to make strides in improving Black maternal health outcomes throughout California,” said Wilson.

**Mark Farrell**  
Continued from page 1

have made the city safer.” Farrell has been out of the political scene since his interim 6-month mayoral term,

so he, for all purposes, has been out of the political loop. For black voters, Farrell hasn’t made any proposals or done anything politically to really garner any support in his time

as a city Supervisor or after.

“Mark Farrell is just another rich white man entering the mayor’s race,” said Attorney Geofrea Simpson-Morris. There is no difference

between him and Daniel Lurie. No difference.”

District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton said he will not comment on the mayor’s race as of now, but he said

“this mayor’s race is going to be very interesting.”

“I don’t know if this guy is a limousine liberal or a MAGA guy, but Farrell has not shown or demonstrated

any leadership in this city,” continued Brown. “He doesn’t know his history and we are still dealing with the remnants of the pandemic in what is going on in the city.”



“A narrow Board of Supervisors majority is using our police understaffing crisis as an excuse for a tax hike. Don’t buy the “Cop Tax” lie — vote No on Prop B.”

— SUPERVISOR MATT DORSEY



“San Francisco is facing a serious police officer shortage. Prop B will make it even worse.”

— LT. TRACY MCCRAY, SF POLICE OFFICERS ASSN.

**ON MARCH 5 VOTE**  
**BAD FOR PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**NO ON B**  
StopTheCopTax.com

## THE FACTS ABOUT PROP B

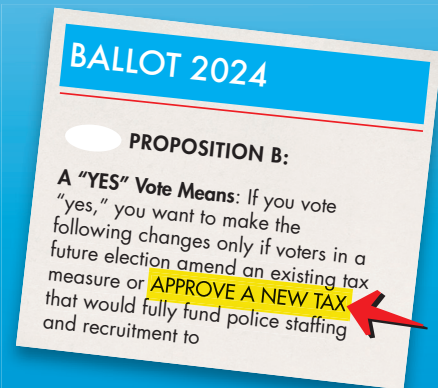
### PROP B OBSTRUCTS PROGRESS ON SAFETY

PROP B blocks progress on police recruiting, delaying increased police staffing for years.



### PROP B SETS SAN FRANCISCANS UP FOR A TAX INCREASE

Meeting even minimum police staffing levels in San Francisco would require a future tax increase measure passed by the voters.



**Tell The Cop Tax Supervisors To Stop Playing Games With Public Safety!**  
**VOTE NO ON PROP B.**

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# The Sun-Reporter

## EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.  
Too long have others spoken for us.

*Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.*

# Vice President Harris's Fight for Reproductive Freedom

By Ben Jealous

It matters deeply that America has a woman as our vice president. That has never been truer than at this moment.

Nothing makes this more clear than Vice President Kamala Harris's courageous decision to champion reproductive freedom in the midst of a full-on assault on the right to choose.

Right now, Vice President Harris is traveling the country on an extensive Reproductive Freedom Tour.

As noted by the New York Times, "The vice president has been the administration's most forceful voice for abortion

rights in the year and a half since *Roe v. Wade* fell."

Even among those of us without a uterus, the impact of the vice president's courage affects many of us personally in our lives.

It affects me as a girl dad, as a member of this country, and because the person who shaped me most as an organizer is my grandmother, Mamie Todd, who started her career in social change at Planned Parenthood in Baltimore. Even though abortion was illegal then, the basic mission was the same: reproductive health and freedom. And while the work mainly focused on birth control, education, and some routine healthcare, it

was not without its challenges – especially in a Catholic city in a Catholic state.

By the early 1940s when my grandmother was doing this work, things had come a long way since 1916 when Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger was arrested for opening the nation's first birth control clinic in Brooklyn. But the Comstock Act was still on the books and enforced. That law defined contraceptives as obscene and made it a federal crime to send them through the mail or transport them across state lines.

In the pre-*Roe v. Wade* era, when abortions were illegal in most parts of this country, many still depended on them.

Some required them in order to extricate themselves from abusive relationships or avoid other dire consequences. Being illegal, the procedure was risky. Abortions, forced to be conducted in secret, frequently resulted in death or injuries that would leave women unable to bear children.

Adding to the risk back then was that many of the people who performed these abortions were terrible doctors ... or not even doctors at all. Yes, there were abortion providers who displayed their own courage, taking great personal risks to ensure that women would not have to stay in dangerous situations. But the reality was the patients were desperate. And there was no system for review of, or accountability for, this type of medical care.

From 1973 until 2022, when the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, abortions were safe and legal. Now, the Supreme Court's decision in the *Dobbs* case has created a flood of laws threatening to send us back to the dark ages. This goes for women who are attempting to sever ties with dangerous men and those in other horrific situations many of us can only imagine. And it is not stopping. Just this month, the Missouri state Senate voted down two amendments to the state's medieval abortion laws that would have allowed exceptions for rape and incest.



Ben Jealous

That's why Vice President Harris's leadership is so important. It is easy to imagine that whoever was vice president in these times would be fighting these attacks ... that a male with a similarly impressive resume as a litigator and advocate could too be a stalwart for this fundamental right. But the difference is evident when you watch Vice President Harris on the stump, speaking against these laws that would deny freedom to women who find themselves in the situation my mother was in back then. You cannot help but sense that she feels the urgency to help those women in her bones in a way that no man could.

Let me clear, however, about the responsibility that men have at this moment to be good allies. The matriarch of my family, my grandmother, set a powerful example with her fierce advocacy for equality and reproductive freedom. But my parents taught me an

important lesson as well. Part of my parents' bond has always been that my father understood men have a role to play in the fight against gender inequality and sexism. President Biden and Vice President Harris's teamwork in pushing back against state-level assaults on the right to choose, to me, echoes that lesson.

**It is time for all of us, regardless of our sex or gender, to stand together and push back against the callous disregard for the lives, health, and social equality of those of us for whom abortion must remain a fundamental right. The legions of lawmakers who received, and are now acting upon, the Supreme Court's signal to eviscerate reproductive freedom will not stop unless we stop them. Thank God we have a courageous woman in the vice presidency fighting to do just that.**

# Prop 1: A Mix of Skepticism and Hope Is Shaping Opinions About Calif's Upcoming Mental Health Ballot Proposal

Edward Henderson | California Black Media

San Francisco resident Anthony Hardnett works at Hospitality House, a community-based organization that offers recovery, reintegration and personal growth resources to people struggling with addiction and homelessness in and around the city's downtown area.

Growing up in the 1980s, Hardnett was a multi-sport star athlete. His speed on the track coupled with his exceptional skills as a running back in football earned him the respect and admiration of his community.

"Everyone," he says, saw his potential and predicted he would be one of the few to "make it out."

Unfortunately, Hardnett was drawn to the temptations of street life, leading him into substance abuse and crime – and, eventually, to a 29-year prison sentence, when he was just 21 years old.

"I saw people with the perms and slick dudes and girls. I saw that as being cool. I graduated from weed to cocaine and that's what took it to another level," he remembers.

After getting clean during his time in prison and earning a degree in counseling, Hardnett told California Black Media that he is motivated

to transform as many lives as possible. In his role, Hardnett says he knows

how the lack of resources for treating and preventing mental health and addiction are both complicating and contributing to California's homelessness crisis, which is having an outsized impact on African Americans.

Last year, Newsom announced Proposition (Prop) 1, an expansive ballot measure that he said would enhance access to treatment and housing for the chronically homeless population that Hardnett, his organization and some other mental health advocates are most concerned about. Many advocates believe that this segment of the homeless population is the hardest to transition from the streets to permanent housing.

"We see the signs of our broken mental health system every day -- too many Californians suffering from mental health needs or substance use disorders are unable to get the support or care they need," said Gov. Newsom in a statement at the time. "This will prioritize getting people off the streets, out of tents and into treatment."

On March 5, the date of the presidential primary election, California voters will have the final word on whether the state will overhaul and expand access to mental health services treatment in two important ways.

Senate Bill (SB) 326 and Assembly Bill (AB) 531 are the foundation of Prop 1.

SB 326 modernizes the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed in 2004 by reallocating funds. These reforms aim to expand services,

including treatment for individuals with substance use disorders (SUD), prioritizing care for those with serious mental illnesses, ensuring sustained resources for housing and workforce, and maintaining investments in early intervention efforts.

AB 531 includes the \$6.4 billion general obligation bond to build 11,150 new treatment beds and supportive housing units as well as outpatient capacity to help serve tens of thousands of people annually. Included in the bond is \$1 billion set aside specifically for veterans' housing.

If passed, Prop 1 would direct counties, which are responsible for more than 90% of spending addressing homelessness and addiction, to prioritize housing over other treatment and prevention programs.

Since Newsom announced Prop 1, the state has invested more than \$14 million on a public awareness campaign about the initiative.

Although Blacks in California comprise 6.5% of the state's population, they make up more than 40% of unhoused people across

California. The drug-induced death rates among Blacks in California is also relatively high at 28.3% as compared to 23.2% among Whites and 11.1% among Latinos. A 2023, University of California San Francisco study also found that an estimated 83% of people of unhoused people in the state had experienced a mental health condition.

"Modernizing the 20-year-old MHSA as the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) responds to the critical need to address the tragic reality of unhoused people we see on our streets and the mental health and substance use issues that many experience, but also pays heed to the housing and critical wraparound support services that people struggling with homelessness need," said SB 326 Co-Author and Assembly Health Committee Chair Assemblymember Jim Wood.

Opponents of the proposition are concerned about the damage it could cause to existing mental healthcare programs. They fear that the heavy focus on housing will give counties no choice but to slash jobs and cut essential programs.

Karen Vicari, Director of Public Policy for Mental Health America spoke with California Black Media about why she is urging a "no" vote on Prop 1.

"Prop 1 will divert 30% of



San Francisco resident Anthony Hardnett receives a certificate with a smile, showcasing his achievement upon successful completion of his program.

MHSA money that's currently going towards services that will divert that money towards other things like housing navigation," she said. "Not creating housing but services to help people find housing where there isn't any to be found. That's our biggest concern."

Vicari is also concerned about the types of programs that are bound to be cut.

"There are a lot of services for African American people that are going to be on the chopping block, she said. Those community centers do amazing work," added Vicari.

"Most of the bond money will go towards building inpatient treatment facilities for the highest-need people. Two billion goes to permanent supportive housing, but half of that is going towards

veterans," she said. "So, only \$922 million that will go towards actual housing. It is a drop in the bucket considering the state has already put \$25 billion into homelessness efforts and it continues to rise."

Hardnett says he sees the solution to the addiction and homelessness problems is a combination of personal willpower, culturally competent treatment programs, more funding for addiction and more availability and access to care and stable housing.

**"Some people say I only got clean because I was in prison. No, you can do it out here too," said Hardnett. You can get off the drugs, or any other habit you're on. Some people just need more help than others. By the grace of God, I made it out."**

# Rep. James Clyburn Steps Down from House Leadership

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

**L**ongtime South Carolina Democratic Rep. James Clyburn has announced his resignation from his House leadership position, effective immediately, while simultaneously committing to run for reelection.

Clyburn, a staunch supporter of President Joe Biden, said he aims to focus on conveying the message of inclusivity and unity that defines the greatness of the United States.

During an interview on

Sunday, Feb. 18, Clyburn, 83, expressed his continued disdain for former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" mantra, asserting that the country is already great but needs to ensure accessibility and affordability for all citizens. He encouraged Biden to emphasize his experience, wisdom, and commitment to maintaining connections with the American people during the upcoming presidential campaign.

"I am fond of saying, this is a great country in no need of being made great. We just got to figure out ways to make this country's greatness accessible and affordable for all of our citizens. And Joe Biden is

doing that. And we have got to stay focused on that," Clyburn stated emphatically.

Clyburn, who had previously announced his intention to seek reelection, also reiterated that he's only stepping aside as assistant Democratic leader, which marks the end of his influential tenure in House leadership. The move comes amid years of speculation about Clyburn's retirement and the subsequent race to fill the void in the majority Black 6th Congressional District, covering substantial parts of the Interstate 95 corridor, Northeast Columbia, and North Charleston.

Expressing gratitude for the trust placed in him by

colleagues throughout his career, Clyburn acknowledged the changing political landscape and his role in shaping it. Last year, he played a pivotal role in moving the South Carolina Democratic presidential primary to a leading position. He collaborated with Republican Governor Henry McMaster to expand broadband access to rural South Carolina.

The departure of Clyburn from his assistant Democratic leader role represents a broader shift in leadership dynamics, completing the transition from the era of former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, to a younger generation led by Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York.



During an interview on Sunday, Feb. 18, Clyburn, 83, expressed his continued disdain for former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" mantra, asserting that the country is already great but needs to ensure accessibility and affordability for all citizens.

"I am deeply grateful for the confidence my colleagues have placed in me throughout my career," Clyburn stated.

## Black History Month: Calif. Legislative Black Caucus and Black Chamber Join Hands to Honor Businesses Owners

Antonio Ray Harvey |  
California Black Media

**T**he California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) and the California Black Chamber of Commerce (CALBCC) celebrated Black-owned businesses from across the state at its 2024 Legislative Business Brunch, held at the Citizen Hotel in Sacramento on Feb. 12.

The event, part of the CLBC's Black History Month celebrations, honored the business owners for their outstanding achievements, impact on communities, enduring legacy, and high level of professionalism.

Jay King, CALBCC President and CEO, and CLBC Chair, Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), and CLBC Vice Chair, Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood),

hosted the event.

"I thank each and every one of you for being here for this grand occasion organized to celebrate and honor Black business owners from around the state of California for their hard work, dedication, perseverance, and tenacity," King said. "These are but a few of the attributes that must be on display at all times for Black business to survive."

This year's Black History Month business awardees are: Flawless Cutz and Stylez (Bakersfield); Imperial Electric Service (Fresno); OC Podiatry (Orange); Seashells Realty Group

(San Jose); SER Transportation Services (Sacramento); Chez Soul (Fairfield); Beauchamp Distributing Company (Compton); BLK Girl Greenhouse (Oakland); South LA Café (Los Angeles); D.R.

Roberts Event Management (Oakland); Sal's Gumbo Shack (Long Beach); Leading Edge Learning Center (Moreno Valley); Woody's Bar-B-Que (Los Angeles); Urban Roots Brewery and Smokehouses (Sacramento); Detour Hair Studios and Earle's Restaurant (Inglewood); and Spacebar Café (La Mesa).

All of the awards were presented by King and members of the CLBC.

"As we gather here today, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to fostering an environment where Black businesses can thrive and continue to be meaningful to the economic landscape of California," said Wilson, the chairperson of CLBC. "We continue to look forward to continuing our collaboration with the California Black Chamber of Commerce and stakeholders dedicated to empowering and uplifting

Black-owned businesses."

One of the oldest Black businesses in the state, Woods-Valentine Mortuary of Pasadena, received a special recognition for its longevity and contributions to its community. The mortuary was established by James and Annie Mae Woods in 1928 in the area now known as Old Pasadena.

Fred Valentine and his brothers were employed by the mortuary. Then, in 1958, Valentine and his wife, Arzella J. Valentine, purchased the business and renamed it Woods-Valentine.

Mr. Valentine passed away at the age of 98 in 2017. Their daughters Janyce Valentine and Gail Valentine-Taylor now operate the business with their 97-year-old mother, who was present at the brunch.

"I've known this family for about 40 years. I am so

proud of this family," said Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena), who represents Assembly District (AD) 41 where the Woods-Valentine business is located.

Holden presented the award to the Valentine family.

While growing up, Holden said he learned about the 96-year-old mortuary business through one of the most effective forms of advertising in the Black community: church hand-held cooling fans.

Holden reflected on how the fans, for decades, were an important medium for information and advertising in Black communities across the United States for businesses like insurance companies, funeral homes, law firms, car dealerships and more.

State Controller Malia M. Cohen was the keynote speaker, and she was presented with the CLBC's

Chair Award. Tara Lynn

Gray, the Director of California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), also delivered remarks.

Toks Omishakin, California Secretary of Transportation, was a guest.

King urged the business owners to continue to be exemplars and beacons of hope for other Black entrepreneurs and companies in the state.

"The business owners you see here have survived many obstacles and barriers, have been denied access to capital and other necessary resources to succeed, and have been told 'no,'" King said. "But we say today, 'thank you' and 'we appreciate you,' with the hopes that they must carry the message: don't quit and keep pushing."

## KAMALA HARRIS HOSTS EXCLUSIVE IN-PERSON INTERVIEW WITH THE COURIER

Rob Taylor Jr. – Courier Staff  
Writer

**V**ice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, spent about 10 minutes on Tuesday, Feb. 20, speaking to a crowd of supporters at the Kingsley Association in East Liberty, adamant about replacing lead pipes in Pittsburgh, the state of Pennsylvania, and all around the country, in the fight for clean water, free of toxins.

To a hail of applause, Harris announced that \$5.8 billion in funding, including more than \$200 million specifically for Pennsylvania, was being allotted for clean water infrastructure from President Joe Biden's Investing in America agenda. The announcement brought the total amount of clean water funding announced by the Environmental Protection Agency from President Biden's Infrastructure Law to

\$22 billion. Overall, the Infrastructure Law will invest over \$50 billion in total to upgrade No questions were out-of-bounds. No questions were shared with Harris beforehand. Courier managing editor Rob Taylor Jr., who was also part of the exclusive interview, told Harris she seemed passionate and driven to tackle the lead pipes and clean water issue head-on, particularly in Black communities.

"As I said earlier, lead pipes were standard for construction across the country, but then it became increasingly obvious that the water coming out of those lead pipes was toxic which results in health impacts, in terms of health well-being, but also learning impacts for children," Harris told the Courier. "In communities where the resources were there, in homes where there was a homeownership or people (had) the resources, they can remove the lead pipes. But not in communities that

didn't have the extra, or didn't have savings, or didn't own their home and rented. What you ended up seeing is that while the lead pipes affected everyone, not so equally."

Speaking specifically to the Infrastructure Law, officially signed into law by President Biden in November 2021, Harris said that the funding to fix sidewalks or replace lead pipes not only creates jobs, or in her words, "an economy around the upgrades," but the "other piece of the lead pipes issue is absolutely about public health. It's about the physical well-being, about the well-being of families and we have to take that seriously. And as I said earlier, government has a few specific responsibilities and one of them is to address the public health needs of the community. That's how I think about the lead pipe issue; what do we need to do to get the resources into the community to take those lead pipes out, knowing it will benefit our children, it will benefit

families and it will uplift communities." America's water infrastructure, the largest investment in clean water in American history.

But then, the U.S.' first woman vice president, and first Black woman vice president, made her way to the second floor of the Kingsley Association building to speak exclusively with the New Pittsburgh Courier.

"Hello Mr. Doss, how are you?" Harris said. "It's good to be with you."

Rod Doss, the longtime editor and publisher of the Courier, greeted Harris and told her, "I'm staring at history. This is truly a moment for me."

Harris told Doss that she was glad to have some time to talk, "because your paper, and what you do in terms of the voice that it represents, and a trusted voice, is so important."

For more than 100 years, Pittsburgh's African American community has counted on the Courier to cover the most

important stories that affect the Black community, and it was obvious that fact wasn't lost on the vice president.

Doss then addressed the issue that has been permeating throughout the nation, brought more to light by a popular Black radio personality, Charlamagne Tha God. The radio personality said on Feb. 18 on ABC News' "This Week" that he felt there was a general apathy from younger voters about either of the presidential candidates, Donald Trump or President Biden. Moreover, Charlamagne Tha God called President Biden "an uninspiring candidate."

Doss pressed Harris on that perceived growing lack of enthusiasm from young voters as it relates to supporting the Democratic Party and the Biden/Harris ticket.

Harris prefaced her response by saying she hadn't seen the Charlamagne Tha God interview on ABC News. But in general terms, "we are up for re-

election, and any candidate up for election or re-election has to earn the votes, and I'm very, very clear about that. Which is why I'm here in Pittsburgh, which is why I'm traveling around the country to make sure that people know what we have accomplished in response to what they asked us to do in 2020, because people turned out in record numbers, young voters turned out in record numbers...and they said, 'fix the lead pipes.' They said in the Black community, 'we are 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes, bring down the cost of insulin for our seniors,' and we've now capped the cost of insulin at \$35 dollars a month. Folks said deal with the fact that HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) are centers of academic excellence, but don't necessarily have the kind of endowments that other universities do...we have now dedicated over \$7 billion to HBCUs."

THE SUN-REPORTER

# RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



## Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

# A Plea for Christlike Forgiveness

**Lesson Text: Philemon 1:4-21**

**Place: from Rome**

**Time: A.D. 60**

**Golden Text – “Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32)**

Philemon was a Christian who lived in the city of Colossae and owned the house where the Onesimus, who had stolen some of

Philemon's goods and escaped to Rome in search of a new life of freedom. At that time, Paul had just arrived in Rome for the first time and was being held prisoner while he awaited the Emperor's decision on his case (Acts 28:16, 30). In Rome, Onesimus happens to meet Paul and is converted. Onesimus knew that since he was now a Christian, he should correct his wrong and return to his

master, but he was understandably fearful. Paul, however, knew Philemon well, for Philemon also had been converted through the apostle's work. Paul, therefore, wrote this letter to Philemon, asking him to forgive the runaway slave and receive him back as a brother in Christ. Not only was Philemon to welcome Onesimus back personally, but the church was to welcome him as a new and useful addition to its fellowship (Philemon 1:17; Colossians 4:9). It seems that the letters to Philemon and the Colossian church were sent simultaneously (see Colossians 3:10, 12, 14; With them, Paul also sent his letter to the Ephesians (see Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:7-9). Paul greets Philemon, his wife Apphia, and the other believers who meet in their home. He also greets Archippus, who was possibly their son and who was serving God in that region. (see Colossians 4:17). Paul rejoices because of what he has heard (probably from Epaphras and Onesimus; see Co-

lossians 1:7 of Philemon's strong faith in God and sincere love for God's people. This faith and love have been a source of strength and encouragement to the church in Colossae. Paul prays that Philemon will continue to share these blessings with others and so further build up the church. Knowing Philemon's caring nature, Paul does not have to use his apostolic authority to command Philemon in any way. He knows he can depend on Philemon's generous spirit to forgive Onesimus and receive him back. Onesimus had once been a useless slave, but now his whole life has been changed. He has so lovingly helped Paul in prison that he has become like a son to Paul. Although Paul would like to keep Onesimus with him, he feels that the right thing to do is to send him back to his original master, Philemon. No doubt Philemon would be happy to allow Onesimus to stay in Rome where he could continue to look after Paul, but that is a matter for Philemon to decide, not Paul. What-

ever Philemon does, Paul wants him to do it willingly, not because Paul has forced him (12-14). Perhaps it was God's will that Onesimus left Philemon briefly so that he might be saved eternally. No longer will he be a lazy and uncooperative slave, but a willing and helpful brother in Christ. Philemon should therefore treat him as a brother (15-16). If Onesimus stole or damaged anything in making his escape, Paul will gladly pay the cost on Onesimus' behalf. However, Philemon should not forget the debt that he himself owes Paul, even his eternal salvation. But Paul's gladness will be much greater if Philemon freely forgives everything (17-20). Paul is confident that Philemon will act with generosity- maybe do even more than Paul suggests and give complete freedom to the slave (21). Paul hopes to be released soon and pay a visit to Colossae. In the meantime, he and those with him personally send greetings to Philemon, in addition to the greetings they had sent to the

whole church in the Colossian letter (22-25) Colossians 4:10-14). (Concise Bible Commentary) Lastly, in his letters, Paul usually thanks God for the faith and love of his readers and mentions his prayers for them Ancient Greek letters occasionally included a section of thanksgiving following the greeting. It is by faith in Christ that we are saved, and by love for fellow Christians, we live out our salvation. This verse can be translated in different ways. Paul is hinting that Philemon should be gracious toward Onesimus in light of God's goodness to Philemon. (NLT Study Bible). We can show no greater appreciation for a person than to pray for him (Philemon 1:4-5); When love marks our lives, we will be a great encouragement to our fellow Christians. A new Christian is as much a part of God's family as a mature saint and should be accepted as such (Philemon 1:17-19). Be Blessed Saints!!!

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Little Zion Baptist Church**  
1245 Divisadero Street  
San Francisco, CA

Sunday School 9:00am  
Morning Worship 11:am  
Evening Worship 6:pm

**El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**

Rev. Keva L. McNeill,  
Pastor

1320 Golden Gate  
San Francisco, CA.  
921-4850, 921-0878

Church School 9: am  
Children's Church 10:am  
Morning Worship 10:45  
qm  
Bible Study 1-2pm & 6:30-  
7:30pm  
Prayer meeting  
Wednesday 12:00 Noon

**St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church**

1601 Newcomb Avenue  
San Francisco, CA.  
94124  
Rev. Dr. J.P. Alexander

Church School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 11: am  
Tuesday Usher meeting 7:pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm  
Tuesday Choir Rehearsal 7: pm  
Prayer and Teacher meeting  
Wednesday 7:30PM

**Neighborhood Baptist Church**

608 Hayes Street  
San Francisco, CA  
Rev. Lane Hawkins

Sunday School 9:30  
am  
Morning Worship 11: am  
Evening Worship 6: pm  
Bible Class Monday 5: pm

**Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church**

6190 3rd Street  
San Francisco, CA.  
94124  
Phone: (415) 822-4071  
Fax: (415) 822-0156

Rev. Kenneth R. Reece  
Pastor

Sunday School 9:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:25: am  
Communion Every 1st Sunday  
Baptism Every 2nd Sunday  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study  
6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday  
Abundant Life Recovery Ministry  
6:30 pm Mondays

**Evergreen Baptist Church**

6270 3rd Street  
San Francisco, CA.

Rev. Jackey Wilson  
Pastor

Sunday School 9:15  
am  
Morning Worship 10:40:  
qm  
Wendnesday  
Teacher's Meeting 6: pm  
Sr. Mission 5: pm  
Children's Bible Study 5: pm  
Bible Study 6:45 pm  
Saturday  
Food Pantry 10-11 am

**Ascension Baptist Church**

1311 Quesada ave.  
San Francisco, CA.  
94124  
(415) 822-9488

Rev. Anthony  
Anderson

Morning Worship 10:15:  
qm  
Bible Study  
Tuesday 6:30 PM  
Church School  
Wednesday 7: pm  
Communion every 1st Sunday

**Shekinah Christian Fellowship**

790 Tennessee St.  
San Francisco, CA.  
94107  
(415) 646-0747

Ella Henderson, Bishop  
& Founder of SCF

Tyrone and Demetra Hillman  
Pastor  
Sunday School - 9:am  
Morning worship - 10:15 am  
Radio: Sunday 9:30 am KQYA  
TV: Tuesday and Friday 8:30am  
KTLN Total Living Network

**Ebenezer Baptist Church**

275 Divisadero Street  
San Francisco, CA.

Sunday School 9:15 am  
Morning Worship 10:45: am  
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

**Mount Calvary Baptist Church**

4000 Middlefield Rd.  
(Cubberly Community  
CTR)  
Palo Alto, CA. 94306  
(650) 569-6944  
Rev Roy Northington  
Pastor

Sunday School - 10:am  
Morning worship - 11:00 am  
Wednesday  
Bible Discussion 7: pm  
Come and Listen to Rev. Roy  
Northington, a gifted speaker,  
as he delivers the most pow-  
erful and timely message of  
our day and age. Prepare to  
be changed. Expect to be  
changed

**Living Word Church of God In Christ**

12 Westlake Ave  
Daly City CA. 94014

Rev. Derrick Lomax  
Pastor

Sunday School - 10:00: am  
Morning worship - 11:30 am  
Wed Bible Class 8:00 pm  
Friday Prayer Service 8:00 pm

# Sun Reporter

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**NOTICE TO PROPOSERS : SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT ("BART" or "DISTRICT"), REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ("RFP") FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED SERVICES, RFP NO. 6M4858, ISSUED FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

BART is now accepting proposals from Workers' Compensation Third Party Administration firms, Medical Case Management firms, and Utilization and Bill Review firms. The awarded Consultant(s) will provide Workers' Compensation Third Party Administration and Related Services to assist BART's Human Resources Department. Interested firms must register on BART's Procurement Portal at: <https://suppliers.bart.gov> All solicitation documents, including the RFP, must be downloaded directly from the Portal. A Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. local time via Zoom - instructions on registering are included within the RFP. The District's Equity Program(s) will be explained, and participants can share contact details to network with other firms.

**The due date for submission of proposals for this RFP is 2:00 P.M. local time Tuesday, March 5, 2024. 2/22/24**  
**CNS-3782283#**  
**THE SUN REPORTER**



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Wednesday  
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Midday 11:30 AM  
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# BLACK HISTORY

# ★ HISTORY ★

## Parade & Community Party

### FEBRUARY 24TH 2024

PARADE STARTS AT THE BAYVIEW OPERA HOUSE AT 11AM  
 PARADE ENDS AT SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER  
 COMMUNITY PARTY STARTS AT 12:30PM  
 AT SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER: 1550 EVANS AVE. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94124  
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**Public Safety**  
Continued from page 1

Brooke Jenkins. "Although we are starting to see some positive indicators, now is the time to



**With continued focus on enforcement, property crime is down 31% and violent crime is down 11% from January last year, and both remain far below pre-pandemic numbers**

enforcement activities include:

SFDA secured conviction for drug dealing in the Tenderloin (2/9/14)

SFPD Plainclothes operations lead to robbery arrests (2/10/14)

SFPD Night operations lead to 23 arrests at drug markets (2/12/14)

SFDA Secures conviction for commercial burglary, vandalism, attempted theft (2/14/14)

"The SFPD is continuing to build on the progress we made fighting crime last year," said Chief Bill Scott. "The hard work of our officers is paying off and we're not going to let up. We're adding additional tools and increasing our staffing to continue to hold criminals accountable and protect our City."

"My office is committed to continue working with all local law enforcement as well as federal and state partners to make San Francisco safer for all residents," said District Attorney

double down and invest more resources strategically so that our residents, workers and visitors feel safer in our City."

"This decrease in overall crime rates underscores the dedication and commitment from the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department whose work has been supported by the Mayor's Office and District Attorney's Office," said Sheriff Paul Miyamoto. "Despite severe staffing shortages faced by both the Sheriff and SFPD, current enforcement efforts have made a difference. Imagine the potential for even greater success in crime prevention if our City remains steadfast in bringing our ranks to full staff. We remain committed to addressing our staffing needs and to the safety of our residents."

A key priority for building on these efforts include:

**Deploying new technologies to address crime, including installing 400 new automated license plate readers citywide to address retail theft and other crimes**



**PATRICK THOMPSON**  
FOR JUDGE

**Vote Judge Patrick Thompson**  
*He's Working for Safety and Justice by Running His Court "By the Book"*

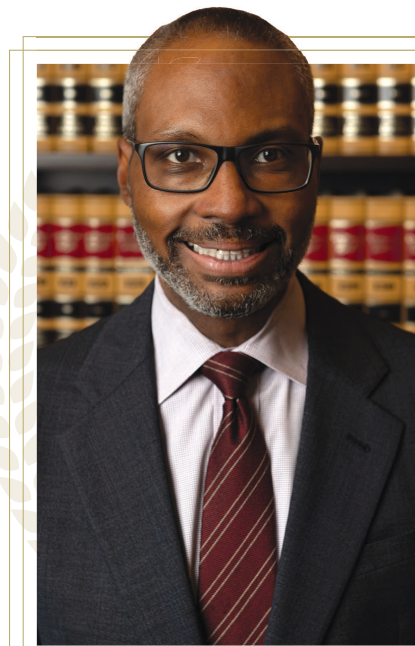


Judge Patrick Thompson was appointed to the Superior Court by Governor Gavin Newsom because of his outstanding qualifications. Judge Thompson graduated from Harvard Law School and went on to a distinguished legal career. He has also served our community working to expand access to health care in San Francisco and to promote programs that support the youth.

The judge has earned the endorsement of Rev. Amos Brown, former Mayor Willie L. Brown, over 50 judges and justices, and many other important community leaders.

Judge Thompson is one of just a handful of African American judges, but he is now the subject of unfair attacks from a group funded by conservative mega-donors.

**Help keep this outstanding judge on the bench!**



**Vote Judge Patrick Thompson on or Before March 5th**

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Paid for by Retain Judge Patrick Thompson 2024



# SENATOR SCOTT WIENER

## LEADING SAN FRANCISCO AND CALIFORNIA FORWARD

In the State Senate, Senator Wiener works day and night to:

- ✓ Make housing more affordable
- ✓ Strengthen and expand our public transportation systems
- ✓ Increase access to health care, including mental health and addiction treatment
- ✓ Ensure families have access to food, child care, paid family leave, and other critical supports
- ✓ Reform our broken criminal justice system



On March 5<sup>TH</sup> *Re-elect*  
**SCOTT WIENER** *for* STATE SENATE

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*Re-elect*  
Senator  
**Scott Wiener** 威善高

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

These empty offices could turn into  
new homes for San Franciscans.



"Downtown revitalization is beginning to take off and Prop C is a critical next step. By removing barriers to converting office to housing, we can take vacant spaces, turn them into homes, and bring more people Downtown, creating a thriving, diverse 24-hour neighborhood."  
— MAYOR LONDON BREED

VOTE *Yes on* **C** *for* **MORE HOMES + A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN**

LEARN MORE: [Vibrant-SF.com](#) | [f](#) [t](#) [d](#) [@vibrantdowntownsf](#) | [x](#) [@yeson\\_c](#)

Ad paid for by Yes on C, for More Housing & Revitalized Downtown.  
Committee major funding from:  
1. Jeremy Stoppelman (\$75,000)  
2. San Francisco Apartment Association PAC (\$25,000)  
3. Silvanus Osborn Erickson (\$24,900)  
Financial disclosures are available at [sfethics.org](#).

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



# California is home to nearly 1.8 million veterans — more than any other state.

**One-third of all homeless veterans in the US live in California.**

In all, more than 10,000 veterans are experiencing homelessness in California.

**Proposition 1 — Treatment not Tents** — will help California veterans get the housing and health care they need. The measure provides new money to build mental health housing and train behavioral health care workers, and expand access to care for hundreds of thousands of Californians.

**Proposition 1 includes \$1 billion specifically set aside for veterans housing, funds which will be distributed in the form of loans and grants by the Department of Housing and Community Development.**

**“Voting YES on Proposition 1 will ensure we honor our veterans everyday, not just on this important occasion ... Proposition 1 will prioritize getting people – including those that have served our nation – off of the streets, out of tents and into the treatment they deserve...”**

**– Governor Gavin Newsom**



**Proposition 1** reduces regulations and permits required for veterans housing, allowing the state to build more housing for veterans, faster.



**Proposition 1** prioritizes getting people – including those that have served our nation – off of the streets, out of tents and into the treatment they deserve.

## ENDORSED BY:

California Professional Firefighters  
California Hospital Association  
California Medical Association  
California Labor Federation  
California Teachers Association  
California Democratic Party  
SEIU California  
National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW)  
Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD)  
Steinberg Institute

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California  
California Veterans Assistance Foundation  
Nation's Finest  
New Directions for Veterans  
Swords to Plowshares  
U.S. Vets  
Veterans Village of San Diego  
The Veteran Mentor Project, Inc.  
Veterans Alliance of Orange County California  
Association of Veteran Service Agencies California  
The State Building & Construction Trades Council of California  
(Partial List)

### Vote on or before March 5<sup>th</sup>

# Yes on 1

Ad paid for by Yes on Prop 1 - Governor Newsom's Ballot Measure Committee. Ad Committee's Top Funders:  
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria  
Sutter Health  
State Building & Construction Trades Council of California.  
Funding Details at [fppc.ca.gov](http://fppc.ca.gov).