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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

Safeway Shuts Down: Fillmore Left Without a Grocery Lifeline

By Evan Ward

Safeway's Webster Street store in the Fillmore District is shutting down by Feb. 7, marking the end of a 40-year presence.

Despite community outcry, the grocery chain cited ongoing safety concerns and theft as reasons for the closure. Employees are set to be reassigned to other San Francisco locations.

Originally scheduled to close last March, Safeway delayed the move by 11 months, offering what it called a transition period for the neighborhood. The property is now under contract to Align Real Estate, which plans to develop mixed-use housing and retail



Originally scheduled to close last March, Safeway delayed the move by 11 months, offering what it called a transition period for the neighborhood.

The closure leaves the Fillmore and Japantown communities without a full-service grocery store, a loss that city officials warn will impact food access and quality of life. Supervisor Dean Preston has pushed for the city to seize the property through eminent domain, aiming to secure

affordable housing and a replacement grocery store.

A report from the city's Human Rights Committee highlights the critical role the store played in serving these neighborhoods. Meanwhile, a community protest and boycott are set to kick off Dec. 23, led by Rev. Erris Edgerly of the Fillmore United Alliance.

California Legislative Black Caucus Celebrates Historic Milestone With Record Number of Women Members

By Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

For the first time, women make up the majority of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC). Nine of its 12 members are Black women, a historic milestone for the 57-year-old organization.

State Senators Laura Richardson (D-Inglewood) and Akilah Weber (D-La Mesa) were sworn in Dec. 2 by Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero. Weber, the new CLBC Chair, introduced her first bill on day one to address maternity ward closures.

Joining them is Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Ladera Heights), who noted the expanded caucus is just the start of ensuring California's legislature reflects its diversity.

The Assembly welcomed new members Sade Elhawary (D-South Los Angeles), Rhodesia Ransom



Incoming members of the CLBC are: (From left to right) Sen. Laura Richardson (D-Inglewood); Asm. Rhodesia Ransom (D-Stockton); Asm. LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego); and Asm. Sade Elhawary (D-South Los Angeles).

(D-Stockton), and LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego). Richardson, a returning legislator, honored trailblazers like Congresswoman Maxine Waters, adding, "We don't need to agonize—we need to organize."

This session also sets a record with 58 women in the state legislature, nearly half its 120 members.

The CLBC was founded

in 1967 to address issues affecting African Americans and other communities of color. New members say they are ready to lead, with Elhawary introducing a bill to improve mental health services for unhoused families and Ransom pledging to fight for economic opportunity and safer neighborhoods.

"There's work to do," said Sharp-Collins. "Let's get started."

SF Homicides Drop to 60-Year Low, Mayor Breed and SFPD Chief Scott Announce

San Francisco, CA – Mayor London N. Breed and San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) Chief Bill Scott today joined public safety leaders, violence reduction advocates, and members of the community to announce San Francisco's historic decline in homicides and gun violence in 2024, the result of SFPD's new violence prevention efforts, effective law enforcement work, and access to new technology.

So far in 2024, there have been 33 homicides, a rate not seen in the City since the early 1960s -- before the proliferation of guns, street violence and narcotics, which caused increases in violence in cities across the nation throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

The number of homicides in San Francisco is down 34% year to date from 2023. While one homicide is one too many, the significant decline shows the City's commitment to working aggressively to solve every case and bring justice to the victims.



To date this year, SFPD reports 33 homicides, a 34% decrease year to date compared to 2023 – a rate not seen in the City since the early 1960s

"Our law enforcement agencies are working together every day to make our City safer and I'm grateful for the hard work of our officers, our investigative teams, and our prosecutors that are delivering justice for victims," said Mayor London Breed. "But here in San Francisco, it's not just about accountability. It's also about the proactive work we are doing to invest in community and to prevent these kinds of crimes from happening in the first place.

This takes partnerships with community and the commitment to safety and justice for everyone."

"The SFPD has made tremendous progress in reducing violent crime in our City, making San Francisco one of the safest big cities in the country," said Chief Bill Scott. "I want to thank all our City and community partners who were vital in this effort. I also want to

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Building Bridges: An Interview with Sarah Wan of the Community Youth Center of San Francisco

By Evan Ward

Sarah Wan has dedicated her career to empowering at-risk youth in San Francisco. As a key official at the Community Youth Center (CYC), she works tirelessly to help young people develop life skills and build brighter futures. I had the opportunity to sit down with Sarah to learn more about her role, her motivations, and the impact of CYC's programs on the community.

Evan Ward: Can you tell me about the mission of the Community Youth Center?

Sarah Wan: The mission of CYC is to empower and support youth, especially those from underserved communities, by providing resources, mentorship, and opportunities to thrive. We focus on education, workforce development, and leadership skills.

EW: What inspired you to get

Community Youth Center of San Francisco
CYC社區青年中心



Motivating Youth to Succeed
啟導青年 邁步向前

CYC serves more than 8,000 youth each year and is one of only a few agencies in the city addressing the needs of a diverse population of low-income, high-need, and at-risk Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), Latinx, and African American youth.

involved in this line of work?

SW: Growing up, I saw firsthand how challenging life could be for young people in underserved communities. I wanted to make a difference and provide the kind of support and resources that I wished had been available when I was younger.

EW: What challenges

do at-risk youth in San Francisco face today?

SW: Many face economic hardship, unstable housing, and limited access to quality education and job opportunities. On top of that, they often deal with systemic inequities and community

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