

Via Email

June 6, 2020

Mayor London Breed
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

Supervisor Dean Preston
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Statement in Support of Hayes Valley Safe Sleeping Site and Hotel Rooms for Homeless People

Dear Mayor Breed, Supervisor Preston, and other concerned citizens,

The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA) wishes to express strong support for the opening of a Safe Sleeping Site at a location in or near Hayes Valley, as well as urging the City to place people experiencing homelessness into vacant hotel rooms, and pursue every humane way to address the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness..

It is imperative that immediate measures be taken to alleviate the unsafe and unacceptable conditions that have steadily worsened over the course of the COVID-19 state of emergency. While we continue to believe that the best and safest option for those experiencing homelessness is to transition them into vacant hotel rooms where they can safely social distance, more immediately, Safe Sleeping Sites represent a measure that can be more quickly implemented and has proven success. The area at Haight and Masonic has been transformed from an encampment without services to a clean corner with a nearby, discreet Safe Sleeping Village at 730 Stanyan.

While this has had a strong impact on the crisis in the Haight, it has not brought relief to the situation on Octavia Boulevard and the adjacent streets and alleyways in Hayes Valley. For that reason, we demand that the City explore every available option to bring a site to our neighborhood without delay. We believe there are a number of surface level parking lots, particularly at areas near the Eastern edge of District 5, that would be suitable locations for a Safe Sleeping Site.

We are committed to working with Mayor London Breed, Supervisor Dean Preston, and nonprofit service providers to bring this pilot to Hayes Valley or a location nearby, and to facilitate neighborhood outreach to make the project happen as quickly as possible.

If helpful, we are open to creating a neighborhood advisory committee. HVNA recognizes that communication with neighbors is key, which includes developing structures to facilitate dialogue for these kinds of initiatives.

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We want a Safe Sleeping Site that lasts for the duration of this crisis. To be successful, we request a site that has the following:

- Meals
- Bathrooms
- Showers
- Hand Washing Stations
- 24 hour supervision
- Shade/Rain Canopies
- Health Services and Health Screenings upon Entry
- On site security
- This site to pull from encampments on Octavia Boulevard and adjacent alleyways

We look forward to working with you on this innovative solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig N. Hamburg', with a stylized, cursive script.

Craig N. Hamburg, President
The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association
400 Grove Street, Suite #3
San Francisco, CA 94102

cc: Jennifer Laska, HVNA Vice President
Barbara Early, HVNA Corresponding Secretary
Brian Goldstein, HVNA Homeless Committee Co-Chair
Jason Henderson, HVNA Transportation and Planning Committee Co-Chair