

From: [Wes Saver](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Yu, Avery \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: File #200738—Urging the City to Expand the Vulnerable Population Definition—SUPPORT
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020 1:11:18 PM
Attachments: [2020.09.17 - File #200738 - Urging the City to Expand the Vulnerable Population Definition - SUPPORT - GLIDE.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Carroll,

Please find the attached copy of my earlier public comment.

Sincerely,

Wes

--

Wesley Saver, MPP

Policy Manager

Center for Social Justice

GLIDE 330 Ellis Street, Room 506, San Francisco, CA 94102

OFFICE (415) 674-5536 | **MOBILE** (847) 682-8639 | **PRONOUNS** He/Him

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September 17, 2020

Government Audit and Oversight Committee
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Public comment submitted via electronic mail

Re: File #200738—Urging the City to Expand the Vulnerable Population Definition—SUPPORT

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of GLIDE, I write in strong support of Supervisor Preston's resolution to expand the vulnerable population definition.

As a leading service provider in the Tenderloin, each day at GLIDE we see the physical effects of living on the street and the toll it takes on our clients, well over half of whom are currently homeless and disproportionately Black and Brown.

On April 1, the City announced that vulnerable populations on the street would be prioritized for hotel rooms; however, to date, it has not moved all vulnerable people into safe isolation, and has instead been selectively triaging individuals for care using an inadequate model.

The definition that the City has been using for vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis is one that relies on an age limit that fails to distinguish between people who are housed and unhoused.

We who work with people experiencing homelessness know firsthand how rapidly that condition ages a body. Unsheltered individuals experience medical ages, unique health concerns, and higher rates of comorbidities that far exceed their biological ages on an equivalent scale with housed individuals who are 20 years their senior. They are also at higher risk for exposure to COVID-19.

Adequate housing could help ameliorate these effects and lead to decreased rates of costly and burdensome acute medical care.

With the COVID-19 pandemic an ongoing threat, recent dangerous air generated by wildfires, and with colder and rainier months approaching, living outdoors will prove no kinder to our unhoused neighbors and loved ones.

And we should not forget that by not providing safe sheltering options for the unhoused, frontline workers, too, are placed at an unnecessary greater risk.

GLIDE
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As such, we urge you to strongly recommend that the City expand its definition of “vulnerable person” for the purposes of hotel eligibility and any other COVID-19 related services currently limited to vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley Saver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wesley Saver
Policy Manager, GLIDE

Cc: John Carroll, GAO Committee via john.carroll@sfgov.org
Avery Yu, District Liaison, Office of Supervisor Dean Preston via avery.yu@sfgov.org