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To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Budget and Finance Committee - Public Comment - File #211204
Date: Monday, December 13, 2021 9:48:01 AM

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Dear Chair Haney and Supervisors,

My name is Sasha Sommer, I live in Dean Preston's District (5) and I am with GLIDE. I urge you to support the acquisition of the property located at 822 Geary Street and 629 Hyde Street and use it to open an overdose prevention site. The property was determined to be an ideal space for establishing behavioral health programs that will serve our most vulnerable community members. This should be the first of many overdose prevention sites in San Francisco. Having multiple locations will allow more people to access associated services, save more lives, and make a more noticeable impact on public drug consumption.

We are in the midst of a dramatic and historic rise in drug overdose deaths. Last year, more than 700 people died of an overdose in San Francisco – more than twice the number of people who died of COVID-19. As of October, 545 San Franciscans have died of an overdose in 2021. The persistence and severity of the drug overdose crisis requires innovative and user-centered strategies to prevent deaths and reduce additional attendant harms, while expanding access to evidence-based treatment.

Overdose prevention sites allow people who use drugs to do so in a safe and clean environment, be treated with dignity and respect, and access supportive services, while reducing the traumas associated with public drug use. There has never been a single overdose fatality at any overdose prevention site worldwide.

The overdose crisis is a clear threat to the lives and welfare of the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco, causing the deaths of two San Franciscans a day, on average. Please, support the property acquisition at Geary and Hyde and immediately implement overdose prevention sites.

Sincerely,
Sasha Sommer