

From: [Rafi Bortnick](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment - Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Item 2: Support CART - BOS File No. 210459
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 1:27:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks John! I also wanted to share my comment on the 24-Hour Public Bathroom Access item:

I'm a board member of the Lower Haight Merchant and Neighbors Association. I also do community work supporting my unhoused neighbors.

We clearly need much, much better access to restrooms in San Francisco. Lower Haight neighbors have been trying to get a pitstop installed near Duboce Park for over a year and continue to see feces on the streets and sidewalks around that part of the neighborhood. While this is unpleasant for everyone, it is an unacceptable health risk for our unhoused neighbors who don't have access to adequate hygiene facilities.

I'm also a member of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee (PROSAC) representing District 5 and wanted to suggest opening 24 hour access to park restrooms, in addition to the pitstop program. Park Stops are mostly inaccessible at night, partly because in 2014 the board of supervisors passed ORDINANCE 265-13 limiting all park hours with the intention of curbing vandalism and reducing repair costs. That hasn't happened—we spend roughly as much repairing vandalized park facilities now as we did before, while issuing hundreds of citations a year to people who've committed no other offenses than being in public space at night. This also means we are barring access to existing public restrooms. Opening and staffing these facilities and keeping them clean, safe, and accessible 24 hours a day would help, but that should be in addition to the pitstop program bringing restrooms to where the need exists most.

I want to urge you all to support extending and expanding the pitstop program because there is clearly still an urgent need.

Thank you for your time.

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 1:21 PM Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org> wrote:

Thanks for your comments. By copy of this message to the board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org email address, your letter is forwarded to the full Board for their consideration. I will add your letter to the file for this matter.

John Carroll

Assistant Clerk

Board of Supervisors

San Francisco City Hall, Room 244

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 554-4445

(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a virtual meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

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From: Rafi Bortnick <rafi.bortnick@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 11:27 AM

To: Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>

Subject: Public Comment - Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Item 2: Support CART

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Hi John,

I wanted to share my public comment supporting CART:

Good Afternoon. My name is Rafi. I live in Lower Haight.

I wanted to speak in support of CART and specifically reallocating 4.8 million dollars in the SFPD budget to fund the program. I believe there are a lot of good reasons to support CART but I want to focus my comments on resource management.

In this discussion, I heard concern about government efficiency so I wanted to speak about the status quo. Yesterday outside my apartment 5 police cars and 2 fire trucks showed up to respond to 1 person who was quietly sitting on the sidewalk. I don't know all the details of the situation, but I can't imagine this response was a good use of public resources, nor was it the best way to help this individual. This type of response seems to be a regular occurrence in our city.

CART is a practical solution to moving away from police responses, centering care on unhoused community members. A police response exacerbates homelessness by wasting resources, displacing unhoused community members away from their support system and issuing citations which destroy individuals' credit when those tickets go unpaid.

I believe this proposal will improve outcomes for folks on the streets and hope you all will support it.

Thank you for your time.

Thanks!

- Rafi

From: [John Stiefel](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment to support CART & 24-Hour Public Bathroom Access
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 11:13:45 AM

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Dear John Carroll and San Francisco's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee,

Good morning! My name is John Stiefel. I am a SF resident in the Mission District, as well as a Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH) Consultant, a member of the San Francisco Outer Circle (a community-based response to our unhoused neighbors), and a member of the Human Rights Work Group at the Coalition on Homelessness.

I am writing today to ask San Francisco's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee to SUPPORT funding of the Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART) and 24-hr Public Bathroom Access.

Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART)

I am asking for you to support prioritizing the funding of the Compassionate Alternative Response Team. There needs to be a reallocation in the SFPD budget, and 4.8 million dollars of the reduction should go to funding CART - in addition to the 2 million dollars that are already on reserve for an alternative response to policing.

In January, 2020, the SFPD unanimously passed a resolution to move away from a police response to homelessness with support from Chief Scott and asked for a stakeholders group to design that alternative. One year later, that alternative has been developed and it is called CART. We should halt the practice of relying on police to respond to things that they should not respond to, and are not trained to respond to. Currently SFPD responds to over 65,000 calls directly related to housing status and homelessness each year. The result is usually that the person has already moved on, or after police are there, move less than a block away.

I have spoken with a number of police officers as they have responded to my unhoused neighbors. They have told me that this shouldn't be their job. They have told me that they are on the scene because a housed neighbor wouldn't directly speak to their unhoused neighbor, so they outsource it to the city, which can't do anything effective about the situation. The CART program is specifically designed to address this. CART will mediate conversations and conflict between housed and unhoused neighbors. CART will build Community Resilience to mitigate these conflicts, so that eventually many of the current calls will not have to be sent to the city in the first place.

24-hr Public Bathroom Access

The thousands of San Franciscans who are forced to sleep on the streets every day are subject to many human rights abuses, which include a severe lack of access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. Specifically, this city has an extreme deficit in accessible bathrooms, an internationally-recognized human right that allows people the ability to maintain personal

hygiene and dignity. Both the United Nations Human Rights Council and California State law acknowledge that access to safe drinking water and sanitation are a human right. This includes adequate access to bathrooms.

A community free of "open defecation" is one of the lowest-level indicators used by the international community to measure its progress toward the goal of universal access to sanitation facilities. The city of San Francisco has not only failed to invest in its sanitation system sufficiently to hit this basic target, it has repeatedly blamed unhoused people for its own failure to provide access to sanitation facilities. The city's failure to provide adequate sanitation has put unhoused community members at greater risk of many health hazards. Failure to apply the International Minimum Standards within the US has led to the further marginalization of historically marginalized communities.

I'm asking for this committee to approve the extension and expansion of the 24-hour Pit Stop Program. This is a basic human right that cannot continue to be neglected. This program is just a start, and we need to push for even bigger changes until all San Franciscans have adequate access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene facilities.

Thank you!

Warm regards,

John

John Stiefel

Email: stiefel.john@gmail.com

Mobile: +1-206-550-9495

San Francisco Outer Circle

Web: www.sfoutercircle.org

Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH) Consultant

LinkedIn: [John M. Stiefel](#)

From: [Christine Wei](#)
To: [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public comment on Items #1, #2, and #4 for 6/10 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 10:14:57 PM

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Dear Supervisors Mar, Stefani, and Haney,

I'm a resident of District 3 and a member of the No New SF Jail Coalition as well as Showing Up for Racial Justice SF (SURJ SF). I'm writing to express my support for the Compassionate Alternative Response Team and the expansion of 24-hour public bathroom access; and to urge an investment in long-term, community-centered solutions to fight violence targeting Asian Americans.

Support for Item #1 -- re: Compassionate Alternative Response Team

Removing police response from addressing homelessness is a matter of public safety and racial justice that everyone supports, from the community to the mayor to SFPD itself. CART is a practical and effective program that would connect people to services, focus on moving them off the streets permanently, and create infrastructure for addressing calls from both housed and unhoused San Franciscans in order to meet everyone's needs -- not just shuffle people around or exacerbate problems by criminalizing poverty.

It's important that we fully fund the program and set it up for success, and I support the community's ask to reallocate \$4.8 million from the SFPD budget for CART (in addition to giving it the \$2 million that are already on reserve for an alternative response to policing).

Priorities for item #2 -- re: 24-Hour Public Bathroom Access

I was glad to see the addition of extra Pit Stop facilities last year in response to COVID, and I support the expansion of permanent 24-hour public bathroom access throughout the city. The past year has shown us how important resources for good hygiene are to public health, and bathroom access helps keep city streets cleaner too. Rather than pour tons of money into sanitation, why not provide facilities that prevent the need for clean-up in the first place?

While 24-hour bathroom access will clearly improve the health and safety of unhoused San Franciscans, it also has a big impact on housed San Franciscans -- whether gig workers making deliveries all day or families enjoying a weekend out and about. As the city continues to open up, these facilities will make this place more accessible to visitors and tourists, too.

Priorities for item #4 -- Re: Violence Targeting Asian American Seniors

As an Asian American who lives right next to Chinatown, I share the concerns and fears of my API brothers, sisters, and elders. Like others, I want all of us to be able to live our lives, go to work and school, run errands, and enjoy being in the city free from racism. In addressing the increasing attacks on Asian Americans, particularly Asian American seniors, I strongly support the city providing financial assistance and mental health services for survivors and families.

Just as importantly, we must prioritize long-term and community-centered solutions that address inequities and prevention, because policing does not prevent violence and incarceration is not an effective tool for change -- both often exacerbate tensions and disparities. What we need instead are resources for anti-racism education and other efforts that fight stereotypes, scapegoating, and othering *before* things escalate to physical violence. This and transformative justice models are what will actually change perspectives and actions for a truly safe community.

Thank you,
Christine Wei

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Christine Wei

Pronouns: she/her ([Why this matters](#))