

September 20th, 2024

To: Supervisor Connie Chan, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, and Supervisor Myrna Melgar
Cc: Supervisor Matt Dorsey

Dear Supervisors and Members of the Budget & Finance Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge you to approve the permanent supportive housing project at **1174 Folsom**, the nation's first queer and trans* Transitional Age Youth (TAY) housing site, as well as the essential services provided at **42 Otis**. Both projects represent a crucial step in addressing the homelessness crisis that disproportionately impacts vulnerable LGBTQ+ youth in our city.

As an administrator in the Student & Family Services Division, supervising LGBTQ+ Student Services and McKinney-Vento/Homeless Education services for the San Francisco Unified School District, I witness daily the overwhelming needs of our youth and families experiencing homelessness—especially those whose families and traditional safety nets have abandoned them. Without stable housing and supportive services, these youth will fall further into cycles of poverty, poor health, and disconnection from educational opportunities. The 1174 Folsom site is more than just housing; it's a lifeline that provides security, stability, and a real chance for these young adults to build better futures.

The urgency for this project cannot be overstated. Your approval will directly contribute to reducing the staggering rates of youth homelessness in our city—**1,193 unoused young adults aged 18-24, 38% of whom identify as LGBTQ+**—and provide these young people with the foundation they need to thrive. The opposition these projects are facing, while disheartening, should not hinder progress. These projects are a proven solution: **42 studio units with comprehensive services** including case management, mental health support, job training, and 24/7 security that will stabilize residents' lives and contribute to a healthier and safer community.

Please take action. Your approval is not just a step toward opening a building—it's a critical move toward addressing the homelessness crisis for some of our city's most vulnerable residents. This decision will set a precedent for how we support marginalized young people and demonstrate that San Francisco continues to be committed to real, impactful solutions.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Together, we can ensure that every young person, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, has access to safe, stable housing and the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,



Erik Martinez, MA
Senior Manager, Student & Family Services Division
San Francisco Unified School District
martineze1@sfusd.edu

From: [Calder Lorenz](#)
To: [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Budget and Finance Committee: Support: Agenda Item #7. 42 Otis Street
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 11:28:14 AM
Attachments: [Artboard 1.png](#)

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Dear Supervisors at the Budget and Finance Committee,

My name is Calder Lorenz, I am the Director of Operations at the Gubbio Project and a resident of District 9.

The Gubbio Project **supports** HSH opening two new permanent supportive housing buildings for transitional age youth. Both **42 Otis Street** and **1174 Folsom Street**. These are essential projects that can open much needed housing for young adults coming out of homelessness in our community.

We know that San Francisco and the Bay Area are in the middle of a housing affordability crisis. We know that in San Francisco, there are approximately 1,193 young adults (18–24-year-olds) experiencing homelessness. We know that the recent expansion of youth housing projects like the ones before the Board Wednesday have helped reduce unsheltered youth homelessness by 9% between 2022 and 2024. But more support is needed!

Housing solves homelessness and that there is no medicine more powerful than housing.

We encourage the City and HSH and the full Board of Supervisors to continue to acquire units and buildings, opening units throughout the entire City to support the needs of our unhoused community so that we can continue to build equitable access to housing for all.

In Community, Calder

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Calder Lorenz (he/him), *Harm Reduction Saves Lives, I carry naloxone!*
Director of Operations at the Gubbio Project
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Providing Sacred Sleep at St. John's in the Mission, San Francisco



From: [Tracy Everwine](#)
To: [Cohen, Emily \(HOM\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 42 Otis | BOS Budget and Finance Committee Item 240882 for 9.25.24
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 3:54:23 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
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Dear Emily and Honorable Supervisors,

We respectfully recommend that all social service providers, including the City and County of San Francisco, find safer locations for facilities serving at-risk individuals and that such facilities have adequate security staffing to protect clients, staff, and the surrounding community.

As our monthly public realm maintenance and safety reports explicitly indicate, the downtown core is still severely impacted by illegal, anti-social, and predatory behavior. Currently, one of the most active and dangerous day and nighttime drug markets exists at the intersection of Market and Van Ness which is within a block of the proposed homeless youth facility at 42 Otis. This area is often too dangerous for our trained field crews and first responders.

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What's more, predators of all kinds seek out facilities such as 42 Otis and prey upon the inhabitants, yet there is no plan for security personnel, inside or outside of the building to keep clients, staff, and the surrounding community safe. Not providing trained security personnel sets clients up for failure, puts staff in danger and erodes the neighborhood for everyone. City-funded facilities should be the gold standard, setting the example for all others to follow and requiring the same of its contractors.

Despite additional City, State and Federal agencies working in tandem with private-sector organizations such as ours, we still do not have a handle on rampant drug dealing, open air drug use, stolen goods markets, the injured and ill roaming uncared for, and the resulting negative effects these problems have on people and the public realm.

While we applaud our partners' attempts to identify facilities for treatment and housing that will remove at-risk individuals, especially youth, from the street, we are obliged to stress to you the importance of locating such facilities as far away from these dangerous conditions as possible, and to always have 24/7 on-site security both indoors and out to ensure safety and positive outcomes for all.

Please find a safer location than 42 Otis for housing homeless youth and ensure it has the security services necessary to protect clients, staff and the surrounding community.



Tracy Everwine

Executive Director

Civic Center Community Benefit District

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